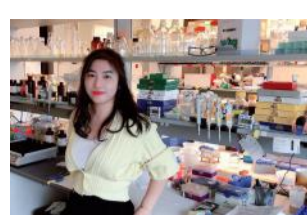


Publications of the Week

Endogenous Insulin Contributes to Pancreatic Cancer Development

First Author: Ammi Zhang (pictured) | Senior Author: James Johnson
bioRxiv | UBC



The mechanisms linking obesity and type 2 diabetes to cancer have not been established, preventing targeted interventions. Using mice with reduced insulin gene dosage, the authors show that a modest reduction in endogenous insulin production leads to a ~50% reduction in pancreatic intraepithelial neoplasia pre-cancerous lesions in high fat diet-fed mice expressing the *Kras*^{G12D} oncogene.

[Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

ONECUT2 Is a Driver of Neuroendocrine Prostate Cancer

First Author: Haiyang Guo | Senior Author: Yuzhuo Wang (pictured, second from right)
Nature Communications | BC Cancer Research Centre and UBC



Clinically, genomically and epigenetically, neuroendocrine prostate cancer (NEPC) resembles other types of poorly differentiated neuroendocrine tumours (NETs). Through pan-NET analyses, the authors identified ONECUT2 as a candidate master transcriptional regulator of poorly differentiated NETs. ONECUT2 drives tumour aggressiveness in NEPC, partially through regulating hypoxia signalling and tumor hypoxia.

[Abstract](#)

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Awards

Dr. Julio Montaner Receives Senate 150th Anniversary Medal

BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS



World renowned HIV/AIDS researcher and advocate for Treatment as Prevention®, BC-CIE Executive Director and Physician-in-Chief, UBC University Killam Professor in Medicine, Dr. Julio Montaner (pictured) will receive the Senate 150th Anniversary Medal. He is being recognized for his exemplary leadership and lifelong contribution to improving the health and lives of British Columbians.

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Dr. Martin Hirst Awarded a 2018 UBC Killam Research Prize

Michael Smith Laboratories



Dr. Martin Hirst (pictured) has been awarded a 2018 UBC Killam Research Prize, recognizing his exceptional scholarly contributions to science. Dr. Hirst's research aims to further the understanding of the role of epigenetic dysfunction in cancer initiation and progression. He hopes to translate this knowledge into improved health outcomes for Canadians and their healthcare system.

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Health Funding to Support Decision-Making Research at UBC

UBC Department of Psychology



Drs. Stan Floresco (pictured) and Catharine Winstanley, Professors in UBC's Department of Psychology, have received funding for their research—thanks to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and their Project Grant: Fall 2018 competition. Dr. Floresco is researching prefrontal-subcortical network mechanisms underlying risky decision making, while Dr. Winstanley is investigating how risky choice drives addiction.

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Local News

Chemistry Team 'Fixes' Cancer-Suppressing p53 Protein

SFU News



Of the 10,000 or so proteins in the human body, p53 is called "the guardian of the human genome" due to its critical function as a tumour suppressor. An international team of chemists, led by SFU's Jessica Miller from Dr. Tim Storrs (pictured) lab, has made progress in restoring functionality to this critical protein whose breakdown is responsible for more than 50 percent of cancers.

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BC at the Forefront of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Research

Genome BC



With a limited number of tools available, Canada's genomics research community is faced with a major bottleneck in the analysis of data, amplifying the need for new computational tools to support modern biological research. Thankfully, British Columbian researchers are recognized as leaders in this area as evidenced by a funding announcement by the federal government.

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Fish Chemical Cocktail Reveals How a Single Gene May Alter an Aquatic Ecosystem

UBC News



Seth Rudman (pictured) from UBC has found that variations in a single gene in tiny stickleback fish alter how they interact with their environment and potentially trigger changes across an ecosystem. Fish with more plating released more phosphorus, and because phosphorus is a key element in aquatic ecosystems, such a difference may have trickle-down effects on microbes, plants, and algae in freshwater or marine areas.

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Thrombomodulin: Old Protein with New Functions and Hope

The Centre for Blood Research (CBR)



The traditional role of thrombomodulin (TM) is to vastly accelerate production of activated protein C from its zymogen by thrombin. Wayne Zhao, a PhD student at the CBR, summarized a review by Drs. Ed Conway (pictured) and Houra Loghmani, where they discuss the known functions of TM and introduce new pathways and mechanisms that TM has recently found to be involved in.

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HIV Cure Research: Are We There Yet?

BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS



In her talk at the SFU President's Dream Colloquium, Dr. Zabrina Brumme (pictured) provided a clear look into why we need a cure for HIV and how it may be achieved. "A cure for HIV is not in sight, but many believe it is feasible," she said. "It's important to realize that if we're going to get there we'll get there together—scientists, clinicians and community."

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Interesting Articles

Defining Science and Scientific Researchers: It's a Whole New World

University Affairs



Science has evolved over the past decades with the advent of new technologies, the different ways they can be developed, and new societal needs. The role of researchers has also changed. A new UNESCO recommendation sets guidelines regarding the working conditions of researchers and the environment required for science to be conducted in an ethical manner.

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- February 12 6:00 PM **Mix & Mingle for Vancouver's Women in STEM**
The Post at 750
- February 12 6:00 PM **Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology Pub Night**
The Railway Club
- February 13 6:00 PM **Biotech Networking Night**
BCIT Downtown Campus
- February 20 7:00 PM **Are Bees Really Dying? Are We the Cause or the Solution?**
John M.S. Lecky UBC Boathouse
- February 21 7:00 PM **Builds 'N' Bytes Night – Simple Machines**
Storm Crow Alehouse

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STEMCELL Jobs in Vancouver

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STEMCELL Technologies
- Scientist, Stem Cell Metabolism**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Associate Product Manager, Cell Separation**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Scientific Sales Representative**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Scientific Recruiter**
STEMCELL Technologies

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Other Science Jobs in Vancouver

- Lead Pharmacologist**
Inception Sciences Canada
- Molecular Biologist**
NovoBind Livestock Therapeutics Inc.
- Postdoctoral Fellow or Research Associate, Biofluid Diagnostics for Neurodegenerative Disorders**
UBC Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
- Senior Research Associate**
Evonik
- Research Associate, Formulation Solutions**
Precision Nanosystems

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