

Publications of the Week

Metagenomic and Metatranscriptomic Analysis of Human Prostate Microbiota from Patients with Prostate Cancer

First Author: Ye Feng | Senior Author: Colin Collins (pictured)
BMC Genomics | Vancouver Prostate Centre and GenomeX Biosciences



Since most precancerous and cancerous tissues show signs of inflammation, chronic bacterial prostatitis has been hypothesized to be a possible etiology of prostate cancer (PCa). The authors characterized the microbiome in prostate tissue of PCa patients and investigated its association with tumour clinical characteristics as well as host expression profiles. [Abstract](#)

Association of a Placental Interleukin-6 Genetic Variant (rs1800796) with DNA Methylation, Gene Expression and Risk of Acute Chorioamnionitis

First Author: Chaini Konwar (third from right) | Senior Author: Wendy Robinson (left)
BMC Medical Genetics | BC Children's Hospital Research Institute and UBC



Acute chorioamnionitis, inflammation of the placenta and fetal membranes, is a frequently reported lesion in preterm deliveries. The authors explored the associations between genetic variants in candidate immune-system genes and susceptibility towards inflammatory responses in the placenta, which is linked to a strong inflammatory response in newborns. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

STEMCELL Technologies Wins Deloitte Best Managed Companies Award

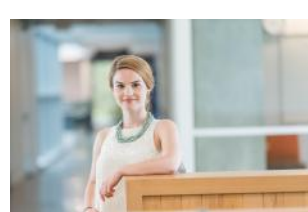
STEMCELL Technologies



STEMCELL Technologies has been selected as a winner of Canada's Best Managed Companies program for 2019. Canada's Best Managed Companies is the country's leading business awards program, recognizing excellence in the management abilities and practices of Canadian owned and managed companies with revenues over \$15 million. [Read More](#)

CBR Postdoctoral Fellow & Research Associate Travel Awards

Centre for Blood Research



Once a year, the Centre for Blood Research provides travel awards to Postdoctoral Fellows and Research Associates to aid in their travel to conferences and academic events. Each award offers up to \$1,000 to supplement other funding sources. Dr. Erika Siren (pictured), from the Kizhakkedathu Lab, used the funding to attend the Canadian Science Policy Conference in Ottawa. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Motherhood Changes the Brain, Possibly Forever

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Pregnancy and motherhood don't just lead to "mom brain," a sort of foggy brain that occurs during pregnancy and in the months post-partum; in fact, reproductive experiences may change the trajectory of women's aging across the lifespan, finds new research from PhD candidate Rand Eid and colleagues in Dr. Liisa Galea (pictured) and Dr. Joanne Weinberg's labs. [Read More](#)

Tracing the Events that Turned a Beneficial Plant-Associated Bacterium into a Pathogen

Michael Smith Laboratories



Just like the human gut and skin, plant roots and leaves are covered with microbes. New research from Dr. Ryan Melnyk, a former postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Cara Haney's (pictured) laboratory, provides evidence that bacterial strains in the plant-associated bacterial species, *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, can switch from commensal to pathogenic through gene acquisition and loss. [Read More](#)

Do Probiotics Live Up To All the Hype?

Chatelaine



As research continues to uncover the importance of gut health and its role in all aspects of wellness, probiotic health products continue to receive a huge amount of hype. Brett Finlay, a microbiologist at UBC and co-author of the recently released book *The Whole-Body Microbiome*, says there's still a lot to learn about which probiotics are effective and why. [Read More](#)

Canada's Digital Technology Supercluster Announces the First Cohort of Projects

Digital Supercluster



Canada's Digital Technology Supercluster has announced its first cohort of projects, which total \$40 million of investment over three years. The first cohort is focused on advancing Canada's development and application of digital technologies to solve some of the most pressing challenges in the natural resources, healthcare, and industrial sectors. [Read More](#)

Making O

American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Today



The drop in demand for any blood that is not O-negative has coincided with a decline in donations. One step toward addressing the shortage of O-negative blood may be to convert other types of blood to O. Recent work by researchers at UBC using enzymes from human gut bacteria to modify A and B red blood cells may bring us closer to the solution. [Read More](#)

Spotlight on Early-Career Researchers: An Interview with Alexander Wyatt

Communications Biology



Dr. Alexander Wyatt (pictured) is a Senior Research Scientist at the Vancouver Prostate Centre and Assistant Professor at UBC. In this instalment of *Communications Biology's* series highlighting early-career researchers in biology, Dr. Wyatt talks about his research interests, career and about the challenges of the demanding research faculty workload. [Read More](#)

B.C. Cancer Agency President Resigns, Cutting Short First Term in Office

Vancouver Sun



Dr. Malcolm Moore (pictured) will leave his post as president of BC Cancer next month, well before the end of his sole term in office. "We value Malcolm's leadership and all he has contributed, but also respect his decision to move on," said Carl Roy, president and CEO of the Provincial Health Services Authority. "Malcolm leaves behind a legacy of achievement." [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Why Canada Should Revive a Forgotten Cure to Combat the Global Superbug Crisis

The Globe and Mail



As far back as 1940, scientists had identified bacteria that had acquired antibiotic resistance, but the burgeoning pharmaceutical industry wasn't worried. Their solution? Keep cranking out new antibiotics. But as more antibiotics were used, resistance was spreading faster than anyone imagined. By 2050, it's estimated that 10 million people, or one person every three seconds, will die from superbug infections unless urgent action is taken. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- March 11 - 13 **BC Tech Summit**
8:00 AM Vancouver Convention Centre West
- March 13 **Let Them Eat Dirt Documentary Screening**
6:00 PM VIFF Vancity Theatre
- March 13 **Human Habitation of Space**
7:00 PM UBC Earth Science Building
- March 13 - 14 **Standardization of the Hematopoietic Progenitor Assay Training**
8:00 AM STEMCELL Technologies
- March 13 - 15 **Applications of the Hematopoietic Progenitor Assay Training**
8:00 AM STEMCELL Technologies

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UBC Faculty of Medicine
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