

Publications of the Week

RNA Splicing of the *BHC80* Gene Contributes to Neuroendocrine Prostate Cancer Progression

First Author: Yinan Li | Senior Author: Xuesen Dong (pictured)
European Urology | The Vancouver Prostate Centre and UBC



Prostate adenocarcinoma (AdPC) progression to treatment-induced neuroendocrine prostate cancer (t-NEPC) is associated with poor patient survival. While AdPC and t-NEPC share similar genomes, they possess distinct transcriptomes, suggesting that RNA splicing and epigenetic mechanisms may regulate t-NEPC development.

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

HNF4A Is Essential for the Active Epigenetic State at Enhancers in Mouse Liver

First Author: Avinash Thakur (front row, right) | Senior Author: Pamela Hoodless (back row, third from left)
Hepatology | Terry Fox Laboratory, BC Cancer, Michael Smith Laboratories, and UBC



Hepatocyte nuclear factor 4 alpha (HNF4A), a liver-enriched transcription factor (TF), acts as a master controller in specification of hepatic progenitor cells by regulating a network of TFs to control the onset of hepatocyte cell fate. The authors show that HNF4A occupies active enhancers in hepatocytes and is essential for active histone and DNA signatures, especially H3K27ac and 5-hydroxymethylcytosine.

[Abstract](#)

ETS Transcription Factors as Emerging Drug Targets in Cancer

First Author: Michael Hsing | Senior Author: Artem Cherkasov (pictured)
Medicinal Research Reviews | The Vancouver Prostate Centre and UBC



The ETS family of proteins consists of 28 transcription factors, many of which have been implicated in development and progression of a variety of cancers. In recent years, numerous studies have reported initial discoveries of small molecule inhibitors of ETS proteins and opened novel avenues for ETS-directed cancer therapies. The authors summarize the state of the art data on therapeutic targeting of ETS family members and highlight the corresponding drug discovery strategies.

[Abstract](#)

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Awards

Dr. Julie Robillard Receives Leadership Award from ALS Society of BC

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



Dr. Julie Robillard (pictured), Assistant Professor in the UBC Department of Neurology and Associate Director of Neuroethics Canada, has been awarded the Dr. Andrew Eisen Leadership Development Award for outstanding leadership. The award recognizes outstanding leadership development of a new amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) program or service initiated and implemented by an individual or chapter.

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Local News

LIST, a New Tool for Assessing Mutations in Human Genes

Michael Smith Laboratories (MSL)

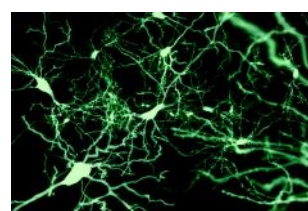


Drs. Joerg Gsponer, Steven Jones, and Nawar Malhis (pictured) at the MSL and Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre have outlined a new method to predict the deleteriousness of mutations in human cells based on the assumption that variations observed in species closely related to human are more significant when assessing conservation compared to those in distantly related species.

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Can Dysfunctional Clotting Contribute to Neurological Disorders?

The Centre for Blood Research

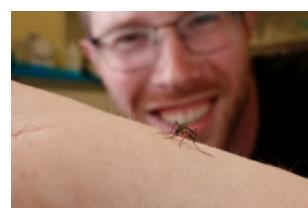


There are several links between Alzheimer's disease pathology and blood clotting, however the biochemical pathways connecting these two processes are poorly defined. In a step towards clarifying this relationship, researchers at the Centre for Blood Research have characterized the role of the essential clotting protein, coagulation factor XIII, in the development of harmful beta amyloid deposits found in Alzheimer's disease.

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Sugary Secretions of Aphids Provide Sustenance for Mosquitoes

SFU Science



Researchers at SFU have provided the first evidence that mosquitoes use smell and air currents to help them locate honeydew via odorants. The team exposed mosquitoes to traps baited with synthetic honeydew odorant blends. One blend contained the equivalent of microbe-infested honeydew, and another contained the equivalent of sterile honeydew. Odorant blends were at a dose equivalent to a plant infested with aphids.

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Scientists Discover First Organism with Chlorophyll Genes that Doesn't Photosynthesize

UBC Science



For the first time, scientists have found an organism that can produce chlorophyll, but does not engage in photosynthesis. The peculiar organism is dubbed 'corallicolid' because it is found in 70 per cent of corals around the world, and may provide clues as to how to protect coral reefs in the future. The researchers hope further research on corallicolids will provide a more sophisticated understanding of coral habitats and allow us to better preserve them.

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A Yeast for All Seasons — and Temperatures

Medium



Genomic techniques are making it easier to identify the most interesting strains of yeast for beer production. Dr. Karissa Milbury, a geneticist at UBC and Renaissance BioScience, is working to literally light the way to a more delicious brew. She and her team are developing new ways to identify which aroma and flavour compounds are produced by each yeast strain in order to make better beer.

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First-of-its-Kind Imaging Facility to Accelerate Brain Research at UBC

UBC Medicine



A new multimillion-dollar brain research facility at the UBC Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health is now a reality. The ribbon was cut on April 8th, 2019 on the Charles E. Fipke Integrated Neuroimaging Suite, a first-of-its-kind facility that will drive critical advancements in neurodegenerative diseases that include Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

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CDRD & TRIUMF Announce Collaboration to Revolutionize the Fight against Cancer with Targeted Alpha Therapy

Centre for Drug Research and Development (CDRD)

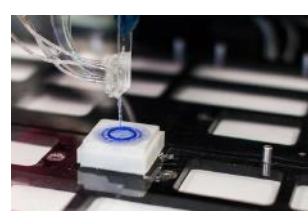


CDRD, TRIUMF, and TRIUMF Innovations have joined forces to advance and commercialize promising research in the field of novel radiopharmaceuticals. The organizations have announced a new partnership that brings together their respective R&D, manufacturing, and commercialization strengths to develop innovative, personalized cancer treatments.

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Aspect Biosystems Enters Collaboration with UCLA's C-MIT

Aspect Biosystems



Aspect Biosystems, a Vancouver biotech company pioneering microfluidic 3D bioprinting of human tissues, has announced a collaboration with the Center for Minimally Invasive Therapies (C-MIT) at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). This collaboration includes the placement of an RX1[™] Bioprinter at C-MIT to develop engineered tissues for regenerative medicine and organ-on-a-chip applications.

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- April 16 4:00 PM **D. Harold Copp Lecture**
Life Sciences Centre
- April 23 6:00 PM **STEMminist Bookclub Vancouver**
Hycroft Manor
- April 25 4:00 PM **McCarthy Spotlight Speaking Series: Global Clinical Trials – Genomics**
McCarthy Tetrault LLP
- May 3 - 4 6:00 PM **Creating Connections 6.0 Conference**
Vancouver Marriott Pinnacle Downtown
- May 7 5:00 PM **Health XChange 2019**
Federico's Supper Club

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- Associate Scientist, Protein Engineering**
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- Molecular Biologist**
NovoBind Livestock Therapeutics
- Qualitative Research Coordinator**
Centre for Health Evaluation and Outcome Sciences at the Providence Health Care Research Institute

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Live Webinar by Dr. Benjamin Kleinstiver

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