

Publications of the Week
Length of Uninterrupted CAG, Independent of Polyglutamine Size, Results in Increased Somatic Instability, Hastening Onset of Huntington Disease

 First Author: Galen Wright | Senior Author: Michael Hayden *(pictured)*
 The American Journal of Human Genetics | Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics and UBC


Huntington disease (HD) is caused by a CAG repeat expansion in the huntingtin (*HTT*) gene. The authors assessed the sequence downstream of the CAG repeat in *HTT*, since variants within this region have been previously described, but no study of age of onset (AOO) has been performed. The analyses identified a variant that resulted in complete loss of interrupting adenine nucleotides in this region, and was associated with dramatically earlier AOO. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Stress-Induced Tunneling Nanotubes Support Treatment Adaptation in Prostate Cancer

 First Author: Alexander Kretschmer | Senior Author: Martin Gleave *(pictured)*
 Scientific Reports | Vancouver Prostate Centre


Tunneling nanotubes (TNTs) are actin-based membranous structures bridging distant cells for intercellular communication. The data from this study define a mechanistic network involving stress induction of chaperone and androgen receptor variants, PI3K/AKT signalling, actin remodelling and TNT-mediated intercellular communication that confer stress adaptative cell survival. [Abstract](#)

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Awards
May 2019 Award Winners


So many researchers received awards this month, including Dr. Mads Daugaard *(pictured)* from the Vancouver Prostate Centre, who has received a St. Baldrick's Robert J. Arceci Innovation Award to pursue unrestricted research in childhood cancer. Find out which other Vancouver researchers won grants, awards, fellowships and scholarships this May in our monthly awards summary! [Read More](#)

Dr. Bruce McManus Appointed to the Order of B.C.

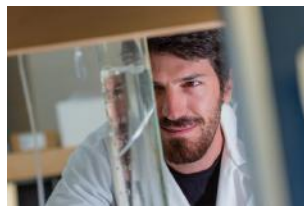
BC Government News



Dr. Bruce McManus *(pictured)* is one of fifteen exceptional people that will be appointed to the Order of British Columbia, the Province's highest form of recognition. McManus has had a major hand in building excellence in heart and lung research and care through his versatile leadership across the B.C. health sciences community. [Read More](#)

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Local News
Microglial 'Fingers' Probe Dense Brain Structures in Health and Disease

Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health



New research from Dr. Louis-Philippe Bernier *(pictured)*, a research associate in Dr. Brian MacVicar's lab at the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health, has expanded our understanding of microglia morphology. He has found that microglia have filopodia: thin structures that extend from the processes and enable microglia to sense alterations to their environment in nanoscale. [Read More](#)

Scientists Edge Closer to Root Causes of Multiple Sclerosis

UBC News



An international team of researchers led by Dr. Carles Vilariño-Güell *(pictured)* at UBC has made a scientific advance they hope will lead to the development of preventative treatments for multiple sclerosis (MS). They have found mutations in twelve genes believed to be largely responsible for the onset of MS in families with multiple members diagnosed with the disease. [Read More](#)

New Discoveries towards Understanding the Genetic Causes of the Autism Spectrum Disorder

Michael Smith Laboratories



Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) candidate variants have been found across many different genes, however, only a few dozen genes are considered to have a strong association with ASD. Researchers at UBC have identified five new *de novo* gene variants closely associated with ASD, and dozens of other potentially causative variants. [Read More](#)

Salmon Get a Major Athletic Boost via a Single Enzyme

UBC Science



Salmon species, known for undertaking arduous upstream migrations, appear to owe a good deal of their athletic ability to the presence of a single enzyme. New research from UBC indicates that plasma-accessible carbonic anhydrase — an enzyme anchored to the walls of salmon's blood vessels — helps reduce how hard their hearts have to work during exercise by up to 27 per cent. [Read More](#)

Conversations that Matter: Defeating Cancer

The Province



Defeating cancer is an audacious goal, but that's exactly what the team at Vancouver-based Zymeworks hopes to do. The biotech company, led by Ali Tehrani *(pictured)*, has developed protein therapeutics for the treatment of cancer and for autoimmune and inflammatory diseases. They're also developing a new delivery system and research process. [Read More](#)

New Research Suggests Immunotherapy Could Help Nearly 50 Per Cent of Patients with Rare Mesothelioma

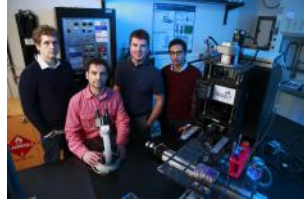
The Terry Fox Research Institute



A team of scientists led by Dr. Colin Collins *(pictured)*, and partly funded by the Terry Fox Research Institute, has shown that nearly half of all patients with peritoneal mesothelioma, an extremely rare and often fatal form of cancer that originates in the peritoneal lining of the abdomen, may benefit from immunotherapy. Their work is being heralded as a breakthrough by some of the top people in the field. [Read More](#)

Aspect Biosystems Partners with Merck, GSK, and McGill University to Enable Development of Immuno-Oncology Therapeutics

Aspect Biosystems



Aspect Biosystems has announced a collaboration with Merck, GSK, and McGill University's Goodman Cancer Research Centre. This collaboration will leverage Aspect's microfluidic 3D bioprinting platform to create physiologically-relevant 3D tissues containing patient-derived cells to assess the efficacy of anti-cancer drugs and to predict a patient's response to treatment. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles
Government of Canada Invests \$10 Million in Research to Eliminate Cervical Cancer

Canadian Institutes of Health Research



The Minister of Health has announced an investment of \$10 million over 5 years from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. This funding will support national cervical cancer research to be led by world-renowned physician and researcher, Dr. Gina Ogilvie *(pictured)* and her team at the Women's Health Research Institute at BC Women's, the BC Elimination of Cervical Cancer Task Force, and her colleagues at the Gynecological Cancer Initiative. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

June 11 9:30 AM	UBC School of Biomedical Engineering 2nd Annual Symposium UBC Life Sciences Institute
June 12 2:00 PM	Michael Smith Laboratories: Early Career Invited Lecture Award Winners Symposia Michael Smith Laboratories
June 13 5:30 PM	Career Night 2019 UBC Life Sciences Institute
June 14 3:00 PM	3 Minute Postdoc Slam 2019 Michael Smith Laboratories
June 14 1:00 PM	Science & Values Café Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health

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 BC Cancer

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