

Publications of the Week

Exome Sequencing in Multiple Sclerosis Families Identifies Twelve Candidate Genes and Nominates Biological Pathways for the Genesis of Disease

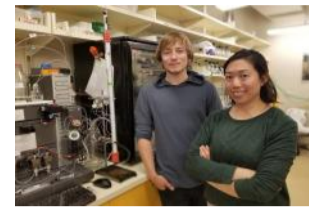
First Author: Carles Vilariño-Guèll (*pictured*) | Senior Author: Dessa Sadovnick
PLOS Genetics | UBC



The authors performed whole-exome sequencing analysis in 132 patients from 34 multi-incident families, which nominated likely pathogenic variants for multiple sclerosis (MS) in twelve genes of the innate immune system that regulate the transcription and activation of inflammatory mediators. These genes suggest a disruption of interconnected immunological and pro-inflammatory pathways as the initial event in the pathophysiology of familial MS. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

An Enzymatic Pathway in the Human Gut Microbiome that Converts A to Universal O Type Blood

First Author: Peter Rahfeld (*pictured, left*) | Senior Author: Stephen Withers
Nature Microbiology | Michael Smith Laboratories, Centre for Blood Research and UBC



The authors report a functional metagenomic screening of the human gut microbiome for enzymes that can remove the cognate A and B type sugar antigens. Among the genes encoded in their library of 19,500 expressed fosmids bearing gut bacterial DNA, they identified an enzyme pair from the obligate anaerobe *Flavonifractor plautii* that work in concert to efficiently convert the A antigen to the H antigen of O type blood, via a galactosamine intermediate. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

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Awards

STEMCELL's Mina Huang Wins the 2019 Catalyst Award for Top New Biotech Hire

BioTalent Canada



BioTalent Canada has announced that Mina Huang (*pictured*), co-op Research & Development student with the Intestinal Team at STEMCELL Technologies, is the winner of BioTalent Canada's 2019 Catalyst Award for Top New Hire. "Mina's work ethic and dedication far exceeded our expectations of a co-op student," said Helen Sheridan, Senior VP, Human Resources with STEMCELL Technologies. [Read More](#)

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Local News

New Treatment Knocks Out Cancer with a One-Two Punch

UBC Medicine



Pancreatic cancer is inherently difficult to treat. But a new treatment, now in clinical trials at BC Cancer, has the potential to be a heavy hitter when combined with existing therapies. Developed by distinguished BC Cancer scientist Dr. Shoukat Dedhar (*pictured*), this treatment method doesn't work on the tumours themselves, but rather the microenvironment that allows them to thrive. [Read More](#)

Dr. Jeannie Shoveller Becomes 1st Woman Chairperson in the History of the CIHR

UBC Medicine



Dr. Jeannie Shoveller (*pictured*) has been appointed as the new chairperson of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Governing Council. This marks the first time a woman has served as chairperson of the council. Dr. Shoveller is a Professor in the UBC Faculty of Medicine's School of Population and Public Health, and Research Director of the BC Centre on Substance Use. [Read More](#)

Q&A with Dr. Liisa Galea, Editor-in-Chief of Frontiers in Neuroendocrinology

Elsevier



Dr. Liisa Galea (*pictured*) is a Professor in the Department of Psychology, and a member of the Centre for Brain Health and Neuroscience Program at UBC. In this interview, she discusses her background, scientific career, role as the Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Frontiers in Neuroendocrinology*, and perspectives on women in science. [Read More](#)

AbCellera Announces Therapeutic Antibody Discovery Collaboration with Gilead in Infectious Disease

AbCellera



AbCellera has announced that it has entered into an agreement with Gilead Sciences to support the discovery of therapeutic antibody candidates for infectious diseases. AbCellera will apply its expertise in single-cell screening of natural immune sources to generate rich panels of antibody candidates for evaluation by Gilead. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Vancouver

- June 18
5:30 PM

SBN Networking Night: Trivia & Burgers
Suite Genius Mt. Pleasant
- June 19
6:00 PM

23rd Annual LifeSciences BC Salmon BBQ
Cecil Green Park House
- June 20
4:00 PM

Innovation @ Vancouver Coastal Health Network Event
Blussion Spinal Cord Centre
- June 25
7:30 PM

Café Scientifique Vancouver
Yaggers Downtown
- July 5
4:30

LGBTSTEM Day Career Networking
Science World at TELUS World of Science

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