

## News

- [Innovative researcher honoured as Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors](#)  
May 2, 2017



Dr. Terrance (Terry) Snutch was recently inducted as a Fellow in the National Academy of Inventors, receiving the highest professional distinction accorded to academic inventors in recognition of his work as a “luminary of innovation and invention.” Dr. Snutch, Director of Translational Neuroscience at the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health and Canada Research Chair in Biotechnology and Genomics – Neurobiology, holds 28 US patents and 87 foreign patents licensed to biotech and pharma companies and has made pioneering contributions to molecular neurobiology.”In addition to Dr. Snutch’s...

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- [Dr. Harry Brumer receives prestigious UBC Killam Research Prize](#)  
April 17, 2017

Prof Harry Brumer, Department of Chemistry and Michael Smith Laboratories, was recently awarded a prestigious UBC Killam Research Prize for his outstanding work on carbohydrate enzymology. Prof. Brumer was recruited to UBC in 2011 from the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden. Since then his lab has grown to a team of 20, with significant funding support from CIHR, NSERC, Engage/Engage Plus, Strategic Network, NCE and Genome Canada. Throughout his career, Prof. Brumer has maintained an interest in the intersection of synthetic chemistry and biological problems. Currently, the...

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- [Leonard Foster awarded the 2017 Genome BC Award for Scientific Excellence](#)  
April 28, 2017



Dr. Leonard Foster, Professor in the Michael Smith Laboratories and Interim Head of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, has been named the recipient of the 2017 Genome BC Award for Scientific Excellence. The formal presentation of this award took place during the Annual LifeSciences BC Awards ceremony. This award honours an individual, group or company in B.C. whose work has had a significant impact on advancing the fields of genomics, proteomics, bioinformatics or systems biology. Dr. Foster’s research is focused on quantitative proteomics using LC-ESI-MS to study...

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- [Screening of the Pathogen Box reveals promising antifungal compound against Cryptococcus and Candida species](#)  
April 24, 2017



Dr. Francois Mayer, a Postdoctoral Fellow in Dr. Jim Kronstad’s research lab, is the lead author on a recent publication in mSphere: “Discovery of a Novel Antifungal Agent in the Pathogen Box”. The study identifies a promising compound from a chemical library with strong antifungal activity against *Cryptococcus neoformans* and *Candida albicans* under nutrient-limited conditions. Read the full article here. Human fungal pathogens cause over 2 million infections per year and are major drivers of morbidity and mortality, especially in immuno-compromised patients. Currently only a limited number of...

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- [Dr. Leonard Foster receives the 2017 Ken Standing Award](#)  
April 4, 2017

Congratulations to Dr. Leonard Foster on receiving the 2017 Ken Standing Award presented at the Enabling Technologies (ETP) Symposium in Ottawa. The award honors the career of Ken Standing who was a major figure in the development of time-of-flight mass spectrometry for bioanalytical applications. The award is presented biennially to honour a young scientist who has made a significant contribution to technology development in support of research in the life sciences. Dr. Foster’s is being recognized for his work on the development and application of protein correlation profiling...

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- [Researchers identify genes that give cannabis its flavour](#)  
March 29, 2017



UBC scientists have scanned the genome of cannabis plants to find the genes responsible for giving various strains their lemony, skunky or earthy flavours, an important step for the budding legal cannabis industry. “The goal is to develop well-defined and highly-reproducible cannabis varieties. This is similar to the wine industry, which depends on defined varieties such as chardonnay or merlot for high value products,” said Jörg Bohlmann, a professor in the Michael Smith Laboratories and faculty of forestry at UBC. “Our genomics work can inform breeders of commercial varieties which genes to...

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- [Dr. Brett Finlay makes the cover of Allergic Living magazine](#)  
March 14, 2017



Yeast Found in Babies' Guts Linked to Childhood Asthma Researchers at the University of British Columbia have identified a yeast in the guts of children in Ecuador that they say contributed to the likelihood of the children having asthma. Dr. Brett Finlay, a world-leading microbiologist at UBC and author of the book *Let Them Eat Dirt*, says he and his colleagues performed the research after data from a large study group of Canadian children identified four gut bacteria that seemed to have a protective effect against asthma. The question was: Is this protective effect universal? “We found in...

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- [MSL Recipients Pal Bains And Natalie Marshall Recognized With A Dean Of Science Excellence In Service Award](#)  
March 1, 2017

Left to right: Jim Kronstad, Director of the Michael Smith Laboratories; Pal Bains (recipient), Finance Manager in the Michael Smith Laboratories; Simon Peacock, Dean of Science; Natalie Marshall (recipient), Graduate student in Microbiology & Immunology and the Michael Smith Laboratories; and Mike Gold, Head of Microbiology & Immunology. Each year the Faculty of Science recognizes staff, students and faculty whose service contributions have had a significant positive impact in achieving UBC Science's mission. This year the Michael Smith Laboratories is thrilled to have two of our...

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- [Certain bacteria protect against a disease that is a growing threat](#)  
February 23, 2017

CAN you be too clean? That is the question posed by the hygiene hypothesis, which seeks to explain why, as many illnesses have become rarer in rich countries, some have become more common. The hygiene hypothesis posits that the rise of several of these diseases, including asthma, eczema and type-1 diabetes (all of which seem associated with malfunctions of the immune system), has been caused by improvements in hygiene of the sort that have helped get rid of other illnesses. Exactly how that might happen is unclear. But at the AAAS meeting Brett Finlay of the University of British Columbia, in...

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- [Recent publication in PNAS proposes the use of a pain drug to suppress migraine symptoms](#)  
February 22, 2017



Dr Stuart Cain, a Research Associate in Terry Snutch's research lab is the lead author on a recent publication in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS)*: *In vivo* imaging reveals that pregabalin inhibits cortical spreading depression and propagation to subcortical brain structures. Full article here. The study in mice suggests a potential treatment for some forms of migraine with aura. The phenomenon that underlies migraine aura is called spreading depression or SD. This is a wave of neuronal activation followed by inactivity that travels...

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