

News

- [Renaissance BioScience Corp. partners with Mitacs for \\$1.44-million project to advance its next-generation yeast development platform, tools and methods](#)

April 17, 2018



VANCOUVER, British Columbia, April 17, 2018 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Renaissance BioScience Corp. (RBSC), a leading global yeast technology company, is pleased to announce a new partnership with Mitacs for a multi-year, \$1.44-million research and development project. Mitacs, a national not-for-profit research and training organization, will provide matching funding to the RBSC project to support the development of next-generation, systematic tools and methods for expanding, screening and selecting biodiversity in non-GMO industrial yeast strains. In addition to the work done directly by RBSC, the...

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- [Six Health Care Pioneers Inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame](#)

April 12, 2018



LONDON, ON, April 12, 2018 /CNW/ - On Thursday, April 12th, six renowned medical pioneers will be recognized as the 2018 Canadian Medical Hall of Fame Inductees at a special ceremony, hosted in partnership with the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University, including London's own Dr. Vladimir Hachinski, one of the world's leading neurologists who has changed survival odds for stroke sufferers everywhere. Canadian Medical Hall of Fame (CMHF) Inductees are individuals whose contributions have led to extraordinary improvements in human health. Their work may be a single...

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- [Look! Down in the petri dish! It's a Superplatelet!](#)

April 11, 2018



Blood platelets have one main job: Stop bleeding by forming clots. Sometimes, however, these tiny cell fragments fail when they are needed most – when a person is experiencing massive bleeding, usually due to trauma. A University of British Columbia bioengineer has developed a potential strategy for endowing platelets with extra powers so they can rise to the occasion and continue coagulation. If it's proven to work in clinical situations, such “superplatelets” might become a standard part of emergency department supplies, along with bandages, oxygen and saline. “Coagulation, which depends on a...

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- [New pheromone insight may help predict mountain pine beetle outbreaks](#)

March 19, 2018



Researchers at the University of British Columbia have shed new light on how mountain pine beetles produce an important pheromone called trans-verbenol, which could aid in efforts to better predict outbreaks. In recent years, mountain pine beetles have destroyed more than 25 million hectares of pine forests in western North America. In a study published today in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, scientists have uncovered previously unknown reservoirs of trans-verbenol in the bodies of juvenile mountain pine beetles. “Trans-verbenol is a pheromone that female mountain pine beetles...

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- [Naturejobs podcast - Family life, career life: making it work](#)

March 15, 2018



One year ago, Paula Littlejohn, made a difficult decision to transition from a decade long career in the pharmaceutical industry, to a full time PhD student under Dr. Brett Finlay. As hard as career path decisions are to make for most people, Paula has done so with the consideration that she and her husband have five children. Prepare to be impressed and empowered as Paula eloquently dances through the realities of being a working mother with young children. She gives examples of her husband nearly running out of frozen breast milk while her flight is delayed in transit when returning...
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- [AbCellera Awarded Multi-Year Contract to Lead the Development of a Rapid Response Platform Against Pandemic Viral Threats](#)

March 13, 2018



Under DARPA's Pandemic Prevention Platform (P3) program, AbCellera will apply its state-of-the-art capabilities in human antibody discovery and immune profiling to establish rapid countermeasures for viral pandemics. Vancouver, Canada (March 13, 2018) - AbCellera Biologics Inc. announced today that it was awarded a contract from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to develop rapid countermeasures against viral outbreaks. Over the four-year contract, AbCellera will receive up to USD \$30 million in funding to establish an end-to-end platform for rapid pandemic response, and will...

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- [The deck stacked against women in science](#)

March 8, 2018



The player on my left has the biochemist Maud Menten's career well on track. Suddenly another player slaps a "stupid patriarchy" card on Menten's head, and she has to earn her doctorate all over again. So goes a novel card game devoted to women in science and engineering, designed to highlight these unsung researchers and the barriers and boons that women in these fields experience. Menten (1879-1960) was one of the first women in Canada to earn a medical degree atop her PhD. But at the time women weren't allowed to do research at Canadian universities; she had to conduct her famous ...

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- [Brett Finlay to serve as Chair of the Expert Panel on the Potential Socio-economic Impacts of Antimicrobial Resistance in Canada](#)

March 1, 2018



The Council of Canadian Academies (CCA) is pleased to announce Dr. B. Brett Finlay, O.C., O.B.C., FRSC, FCAHS, Peter Wall Distinguished Professor at the University of British Columbia, as Chair of the newly appointed Expert Panel on the Potential Socio-economic Impacts of Antimicrobial Resistance in Canada. "Dr. Finlay is one of world's foremost experts in the field of microbiology," said Eric M. Meslin, PhD, FCAHS, President and CEO of the CCA. "We are delighted he has agreed to Chair this panel and look forward to his leadership in tackling this important topic for Canada." As Chair, Dr...

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- [An under-the-radar immune cell shows potential in fight against cancer](#)

February 22, 2018

One of the rarest of immune cells, unknown to scientists a decade ago, might prove to be a potent weapon in stopping cancer from spreading in the body, according to new research from the University of British Columbia. Cancer immunotherapy – harnessing a person's own immune system to destroy cancerous cells — has taken off in the past few years, as clinical trials have shown that it can be effective for some patients with blood-borne cancers, such as lymphoma. But it can also have severe side effects, and has been less successful in treating solid tumours. Wilf Jefferies, a Professor in...

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- [Pascal Biosciences Identifies Molecules in Cannabis That Stimulate the Immune System to Destroy Tumor Cells](#)

February 21, 2018



VANCOUVER, British Columbia and SEATTLE, Feb. 21, 2018 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Pascal Biosciences Inc. (TSX.V:PAS) ("Pascal" or the "Company") today announced the Company has discovered certain cannabinoids that enhance the immunogenicity of tumor cells, rendering them more susceptible to recognition by the immune system. This discovery is important because the leading class of new cancer fighting agents, termed "checkpoint inhibitors", activates the immune system to destroy cancer cells. Enhancing recognition of cancer cells with cannabinoids may greatly improve the efficacy of this drug class....

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