News

- **Gut bacteria could provide key to making ‘universal’ blood type**
  August 21, 2018

Canadian researchers say they may have identified substances from the human gut that could turn Type A and B blood into Type O blood -- a discovery that could make blood donation simpler, especially in times of emergency. People with Type O negative blood are considered universal donors, as they can donate blood to anyone. That’s why Type O negative blood is always in high demand during emergencies, when there is often little time to test a patient’s blood type to make sure it matches a donor. Dr. Stephen Withers was interviewed about his research as a part of this CTV News article. Read the... Read More

- **Kristina Kshatriya Receives Peter Rennie Memorial Award**
  August 20, 2018

Congratulations to Kristina Kshatriya of the Bohlmann lab for being awarded the Peter Rennie Memorial Award from the UBC Faculty of Forestry. The Peter Rennie Memorial Awards are awarded to graduate students researching the environmental aspects of forest soils and trees. The awards are made on the recommendation of the Faculty of Forestry in consultation with the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. Congratulations Kristina for receiving this award! Kristina’s research focuses on the identification of genes involved in the biosynthesis of α-thujone, a monoterpene that is associated...
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- **Tackling the World's Deadliest Diseases One AB at a Time: An Interview with AbCellera's CEO, Dr. Carl Hansen**
  August 17, 2018

Can one company simultaneously work on solving the problems of Ebola, influenza, neurodegeneration, cancer, tuberculosis, and enterotoxicogenic E. coli? If you are AbCellera, a Vancouver-based biotech on the hunt for novel antibodies that can be used to fight these diseases, the answer is yes. The company has built the world’s leading platform for the discovery of monoclonal antibodies and the profiling of natural immune responses. This proprietary platform, which uses a combination of microfluidics, genomics, microscopy, and machine learning, allows for screening millions of single...
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- **AbCellera is Enabling the Translation of Laboratory Research to Clinical Application for Fibrosis Associated with Congenital Degenerative Diseases**
  August 16, 2018

Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) is one of the most common congenital diseases in the world, affecting one in 3,500 Canadian males. DMD is caused by mutations in the dystrophin gene that results in progressive muscle degeneration and there are currently no effective treatments for DMD. In an effort to fulfill this unmet medical need, AbCellera Biologics Inc. has entered into a three-year partnership with Drs. Fabio Rossi and Michael Underhill of the University of British Columbia (UBC) to discover, test, and develop therapeutic antibodies for the treatment of Duchenne Muscular...
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- **Three MSL Post Docs Receive MSFHR 2018 Research Trainee Awards**
  August 15, 2018

Congratulations to three deserving postdocs, Drs. San-Soo Han, James McCoy, and Samrat Thouta of the Michael Smith Laboratories for receiving the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR) 2018 Research Trainee awards! The Research Trainee Program is one of MSFHR’s flagship funding opportunities. Since 2001, MSFHR has supported more than...
1,200 Research Trainees- health researchers in the training phase of their careers- to protect time for research and career development, ultimately supporting the long-term success of the BC health research landscape. This year, 33…

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- **Congratulations to Alvin Qiu and Mihai Cirstea for Receiving the 2018 Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship**
  - **July 23, 2018**

  Alvin Qiu and Mihai Cirstea from the Michael Smith Laboratories have been named recipients of the 2018 Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, Canada’s most prestigious scholarship for doctoral students in the social sciences and humanities, natural sciences, and/or engineering and health. The Government of Canada launched the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships program in 2008 to strengthen Canada’s ability to attract and retain world-class doctoral students and establish Canada as a global centre of excellence in research and higher learning. Valued at $50,000 per year for three years, this…
  
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- **The Canadian Institutes of Health Research Awards $5.8M Foundation Grant to Dr. Brett Finlay for His Research on Microbes in Health and Disease**
  - **July 20, 2018**

  Dr. B. Brett Finlay, the Peter Wall Distinguished Professor in the Michael Smith Laboratories, and the Departments of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and Microbiology and Immunology, received $5.8 million over seven years in grant funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) to support his research on host microbe interactions in health and disease. The work done in the Finlay Lab has significant potential to impact intestinal infections, asthma and allergies, malnutrition, and degenerative brain diseases. “We have known for a while now that a subset of microbes cause…
  
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- **The Government of Canada Invests in Dr. Thibault Mayor’s Research on the Role of Misfolded Proteins and Neurodegenerative Diseases**
  - **July 19, 2018**

  Last week, it was announced that Dr. Thibault Mayor had received a five-year Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) project grant in the amount of just over $730K. This grant will help support his research in better understanding how misfolded proteins are eliminated from the cell. Mayor, faculty member at the Michael Smith Laboratories and the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, studies how misfolded proteins are handled in the cell in order to gain fundamental knowledge of both neurodegenerative diseases and other genetic diseases. “To receive this CIHR funding is a great…
  
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- **The Government of Canada Announces Grant Funding to Dr. Xin Li and Dr. Jim Kronstad’s International Training Program, Plant Responses To Eliminate Critical Threats (PRoTECT)**
  - **July 16, 2018**

  Undergraduates, graduates, and post-doctoral fellows looking to build their knowledge and global perspective in the study of plant-microbe interaction can now do so through a new program called Plant Responses To Eliminate Critical Threats (PRoTECT), hosted by the University of British Columbia’s Michael Smith Laboratories in Canada and the Georg-August-University Göttingen in Germany. Jointly supported by a $1.65 million award (over six years) from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) through its Collaborative Research and Training Experience (CREATE)…
  
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- **Vedanta Biosciences, Receives Award from the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation to Advance a Microbiome-Derived Therapeutic Program for Interception and Treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Disease**
  - **July 10, 2018**

  CAMBRIDGE, Mass.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Vedanta Biosciences, an affiliate of PureTech Health (LSE: PRTC) developing a new category of therapies for immune-mediated and infectious diseases based on rationally defined consortia of human microbiome-derived bacteria, today announced that it has received funding from the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to finding the cures for Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis. The funds will be used to advance Vedanta Biosciences’ new microbiome-derived therapeutic program for the treatment and potential…
  
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