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...

**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..."

**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)..."

**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..."

**A pretty plant of summer produces a promising anti-diabetes compound**

**July 2, 2018**

Discovery of the biosynthetic pathway of a plant metabolite lays the groundwork for its use as an anti-diabetes drug. Date: July 2, 2018 Source: American Society of Plant Biologists Summary: Montbretin A (MbA), a natural compound with great potential for the treatment of type-2 diabetes, was discovered in the ornamental plant montbretia ten years ago, but it can't be produced on a large scale until its biosynthesis is understood. Scientists have now discovered genes and enzymes responsible for MbA biosynthesis and demonstrated the potential for metabolic engineering of wild tobacco to produce..."

**Student Spotlight: James Baylis, PhD ’18**

**June 26, 2018**

JAMES BAYLIS, PHD’18, BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING "Engineering at UBC has taught me how vast and mysterious the path is for advancing medical products from proof-of-concept to the clinic." In 2012, I completed my BSc in biophysics at UBC and began graduate studies in biomedical engineering at the Faculty of Applied Science in partnership with the Michael Smith Laboratories. My thesis project, supervised by Dr. Christian Kastrup, is on developing a drug delivery platform which can increase the transport of topically applied therapeutics into wounds, which could increase patient care in trauma..."