News

- **What's a Party Without Cake? Congratulations to Dr. Dave Ng for His Promotion to Professor of Teaching!**
  June 5, 2018

  One look at his Twitter account (@Ng_Dave) and you know Dave's a cool guy. With photos of science experiments, student outreach field trips, and Star Wars GIFs, Dave knows how to make science fun and accessible! A self-proclaimed “science geek” and UBC academic, Dave Ng is the Director of the Advanced Molecular Biology Laboratory (AMBL) the education and outreach facilities at Michael Smith Laboratories (MSL). He runs molecular biology workshops for professionals and science outreach programs for elementary and high-school students, so he definitely knows how to communicate science to the...

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- **Microbiome Insights, Global Leader in Microbiome Testing, Expands to New Lab Facilities on UBC Campus**
  May 30, 2018

  VANCOUVER, British Columbia--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Microbiome Insights, Inc. has announced the opening of its new laboratory on the campus of the University of British Columbia (UBC). The company, a leading end-to-end service provider for microbiome DNA sequencing and bioinformatic analysis, has expanded into its new state-of-the-art lab in order to meet the needs of over 100 clients. "We have experienced rapid growth in our business and across the microbiome testing industry," says CEO Malcolm Kendall. “This move is a major milestone for our company and helps us meet the needs of our growing...

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- **Dr. Peter Agre Receives UBC's 2018 Honorary Degree and Visits Michael Smith Laboratories**
  May 28, 2018

  During this year's spring graduation, UBC awarded ten honorary degrees for deserving individuals in various fields. Nobel Prize winner, Dr. Peter Agre, was one of the ten individuals to receive UBC's prestigious honorary degree. Since the first degrees were awarded in 1925, recipients have included Louise Arbour, Emily Carr, His Holiness The Dalai Lama, Julie Payette, Bill Reid, David Suzuki, and many others.Dr. Agre is a physician and molecular biologist at Johns Hopkins University, a Bloomberg Distinguished Professor, and the Director of Johns Hopkins Malaria Research Institute. In 2003, he...

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- **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...

- **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...

- **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...

- **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...

- **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...

- **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...