• UBC researchers discover how cancer's 'invisibility cloak' works
  September 26, 2016
UBC researchers have discovered how cancer cells become invisible to the body's immune system, a crucial step that allows tumours to metastasize and spread throughout the body. "The immune system is efficient at identifying and halting the emergence and spread of primary tumours but when metastatic tumours appear, the immune system is no longer able to recognize the cancer cells and stop them," said Wilfred Jefferies, senior author of the study working in the Michael Smith Laboratories and a professor of Medical Genetics and Microbiology and Immunology at UBC. "We discovered a new mechanism... Read More

• UBC President Dr. Santa Ono cites the Michael Smith Laboratories' innovative research
  September 10, 2016
At his past post as president at the University of Cincinnati, the popular school administrator was once picked up by football fans and crowd-surfed through the stands. Another time, he was the top person of a cheerleaders' pyramid at a basketball game. But underneath Santa Ono's quirks and informality lies a no-nonsense leader. Ono, 53, was born at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver while his father worked as a UBC professor. He left the city when he was about a year old and grew up in Baltimore. At the University of Cincinnati, many were dismayed to hear he planned to leave. After a career as a... Read More

• Sex problems? Researchers find 'widespread' mislabeling of the sex of human samples
  July 29, 2016
What if scientists don't really know what's in their vials and lab dishes? A research team has analyzed dozens of data sets from human genomics studies and found that nearly half of them have a sexual identity problem—they're labeled as coming from a male but the data suggest they must be from a female, or vice versa. These mix-ups, likely due to accidental mislabeling of the data at some point, but possibly also from cell contamination in the original samples, could have untold effects on the validity of comparisons in genomics experiments conducted worldwide, according to the group, which... Read More

• Brett Finlay and Postdoctoral fellow Marie-Claire Arrieta are set to release their new book
  August 3, 2016
Jacquelynn Burke, Senior Publicist with Algonquin Books writes: In some of the most exciting scientific developments of our time, researchers have recently discovered the myriad ways our tiny microbes (aka “the stuff in our gut”) have a powerful impact on our health. Among the most important but little-known revelations in this paradigm-shifting field are the ways a child's gut-health can affect their well-being for the rest of their lives. Fortunately, researchers like B. Brett Finlay, PhD and Marie-Claire Arrieta, PhD—both parents and scientists at the forefront of the field—have found... Read More

• The Plant Journal cover image: Bohlmann Lab contributes to the discovery of the fragrance-defining step in sandalwood oil biosynthesis
  July 1, 2016
Tropical sandalwood produces one of the world's most highly prized fragrances in the perfume industry. Due to over-exploitation, sandalwood populations are threatened in some of their native locations. The Bohlmann Lab applied an integrated metabolomics and transcriptomics approach to sandalwood samples collected in a remote plantation in Northern Australia, which led to the discovery of the complete metabolic pathway of sandalwood oil biosynthesis. They then showed that the sandalwood genes can be used for bioengineering in yeast, enabling the development of alternative and sustainable... Read More