

Student Research News e-bulletin

May 10, 2013

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[BC Clinical Genomics Travel Awards](#) – ongoing

For additional funding opportunities visit: http://med.ubc.ca/research/md_undergrad/

Upcoming Events

[Bugs 'R Us: The Role of Microbes in Health, Disease and Society](#)

Date: May 21, 2013; 7:30 pm (doors at 6:30 pm)

Location: Vogue Theatre, Vancouver

The microbiota (also known as normal flora) of the human body) is comprised of thousands of species of microbes. In fact, the number of microbes in and on our body outnumbers human cells by a factor of

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10, and one gram of human feces contains more bacteria than all humans in the world. Only recently have we begun to appreciate the role of these organisms in health, impacting on diarrhea, obesity, various bowel diseases, type I diabetes, asthma, and even brain development. In developed countries, we have gone to great lengths to minimize our exposure to microbes, both pathogenic and harmless. The Hygiene Hypothesis suggests that perhaps we have gone too far, as hominids have evolved in a sea of microbes, and actually need exposure to microbes early in life to develop normally. This talk will explore new research on the role of the microbiota in health, mechanisms used by microbes to cause disease, and new approaches to counter infections, including potentially using the microbiota to prevent other diseases. Tickets are free but availability is limited and tickets must be reserved in advance. Please see the website for additional information.

3 Minute Postdoc Slam!

Date: May 23, 2013; 4:00 pm

Location: UBC Life Sciences Centre, LSC 3 (2350 Health Sciences Mall)

Please come to a new event, the 3 Minute Postdoc Slam! This will be a friendly competition and a super fun event where Postdocs will have just 3 minutes to present the breadth and significance of their work to a non-specialist audience (remember that postdocs come from various departments across UBC). Our event will be modeled after the UBC Grad Studies 3 Minute Thesis event, with a few adjustments. Please see their [website](#) for information about the event and examples.

BCCGN Personalized Medicine Conference

Date: May 31, 2013

Location: Sheraton Vancouver Wall Center

The BC Clinical Genomics Network is holding its Fifth Annual Conference this month, entitled *Personalized Medicine – Can Everyone Benefit?* This conference aims to educate clinicians about the impact of genomics on clinical practice. Conference highlights include presentations on personalized medicine in primary and acute care, the clinical implementation of pharmacogenomics, genomics of psychiatric disorders and in a biomarker test for rapid triage of stroke patients; as well as the ethical and legal issues of genomic medicine. Speakers include Dr. Bill Gibson and Dr. Wyeth Wasserman.

Please register for the conference on the [BCCGN website](#). For more information, please see the [Event Poster](#).

UBC Animal Care Committee Drop-in Session Office Hours

Date: various, see below

Location: Office of Research Services, 102-6190 Agronomy Road

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The Animal Care Committee has implemented pre-scheduled drop-in hours for those wishing to meet with a member of the Animal Care Committee. The scheduled times are designed to facilitate dialogue on matters animal-related. For example, the time could be used to discuss provisos related to a protocol, provide assistance and advice on submitting a new protocol, or provide information on animal procedures.

Upcoming Dates:

Wednesday, May 15th, 2013; 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Thursday, May 23rd, 2013; 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Thursday, July 18th, 2013; 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

For a more current list of dates, please go to: <http://www.ors.ubc.ca/contents/animal-care>

Event Reminders

[Clinical Research Ethics Board Office Drop-In Sessions](#) – Every 2nd & 4th Monday of the month

[Faculty of Science Nobel Talks: From stem cells to maturity and back](#) – May 16, 2013

[2013 Wall Exchange – Bugs 'R Us: The Role of Microbes in Health, Disease and Society](#) – May 21, 2013

For additional event listing visit: http://med.ubc.ca/research/md_undergrad/events/

Ongoing Seminar Series

Please follow this [link](#) for a list of ongoing events and seminar series that may be of interest to MD undergraduate students.

[MD/PhD Building Bridges Seminar Series](#)

Additional Research and Scholarship Opportunities & Resources

[MD Student Summer Research Opportunity at BC Cancer Agency- Centre for the Southern Interior \(Kelowna\)](#)

PREDICT (Personal REsponse Determinants In Cancer Therapy) is a biobank that houses patient information, blood and tissue samples to be accessed by BCCA and other researchers. PREDICT-CSI has recently opened at the BC Cancer Agency (BCCA)'s Sindi Ahluwalia Hawkins Centre for the Southern Interior (SAHCSI) in Kelowna, and currently consists of patient information and blood samples. The goal is to expand the PREDICT-CSI biobank such that the storage of tumour samples is possible. The addition of the tumour samples will provide researchers, with approved research projects, the opportunity to answer questions pertinent to the advancement of cancer care.

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As a summer student, the successful applicant will develop the processes to facilitate storage of tumour tissue, liaise between the oncology and pathology departments, develop an understanding about laboratory and research processes and patient confidentiality, and shadow in the consent process for PREDICT-CSI and in a clinic setting. This is an excellent opportunity for an MD student who is interested in combining clinical and research aspects in their career. The MD summer student will work with the PREDICT-CSI team and liaise with the PREDICT team at the BC Cancer Agency Vancouver Island Centre (VIC). Students at BCCA-CSI participate in weekly medical seminars and lectures, present at “Work-in-Progress” summer student seminars, learn about cancer diagnosis, and understand the value of research in the care of cancer patients. Time commitment is for at least 8 weeks and up to 12 weeks. Funding will be comparable to the SSRP stipend.

If you are an MD student and are interested, please e-mail your resume and a cover letter outlining your interest to **Dr. Janine Davies**, (janine.davies@bccancer.bc.ca) **by May 24, 2013**.

Childhood Cancer and Blood Research BioBank

The Childhood Cancer and Blood Research (CCBR) BioBank at the Child & Family Research Institute (CFRI) is now accepting applications from researchers with ethics approval for biospecimens and clinical data studies.

Since September 2011, the CCBR BioBank has been accepting donated biospecimens (such as blood or bone marrow) and health information (such as type of disease) from children and youth who are being treated at BC Children's Hospital. To date, specimens received have been primarily bone marrow samples from patients with leukemia or other blood disorders.

Patients and families who have donated to the biobank have consented to have their biospecimens used for research. All studies must be approved by a Research Ethics Board prior to the release of specimens.

For more information about biospecimens offered, the processing procedures, and how to apply for access to the BioBank, please visit the CCBR BioBank website at www.cfri.ca/biobank.

Dr. Suzanne Vercauteren is the Chair of the CCBR BioBank. She is a Hematopathologist with the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at BC Children’s Hospital and BC Women’s Hospital & Health Centre; and a Clinical Assistant Professor with UBC’s Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

The CCBR BioBank was established by the Childhood Cancer and Blood Research cluster at CFRI under the leadership of Dr. Kirk Schultz and with the support of the Michael Cuccione Childhood Cancer Research Program.

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For more information, please contact Tamsin Tarling, the BioBank Coordinator, at tamsin.tarling@cw.bc.ca.

Reminders

[Volunteer Research Assistant – CIPHER study \(Dr. Peter von Dadelszen\)](#) (see April 5th edition for details)

Remember additional research and scholarship information and resources are available on the FoM Research Office Website: http://med.ubc.ca/research/md_undergrad/
