



Weekly News

UBC School of Biomedical Engineering

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Announcements



New Building Site Tour

September 2024 | Building Opening

Some of our staff recently visited the construction site for our new building. We are starting to see the vision of the building become reality as the pieces come together. There are currently about 50 workers on-site. As we get closer to completion, there will be about 200 workers.

MSL Reaches Out, novel science outreach program, set to launch

An exciting new outreach program is burgeoning at the Michael Smith Laboratories (MSL) and set to launch into the public sphere spring 2023. Spearheaded by [Dr. Anna Blakney](#), a social media outreach maven in her own right, a team of graduate students and faculty members spent several weeks in the fall of 2022 designing interactive activities based on their own scientific research. The MSL Reaches Out program aims to deliver their uniquely crafted curriculum to high schools throughout the Lower Mainland beginning early this year. During the workshop, students from five different labs across the MSL and the School for Biomedical Engineering (SBME) gathered for sequential brainstorming sessions, distilling each of their ideas

down to a science activity that translates a foundational aspect of their research to a lay audience. From neurobiology, to biophysics to stem cell engineering, the topics explored were varied and complex, ripe with inspiration for engaging learning opportunities.

[Learn More.](#)

Professional Development Sessions & Research Talks

Towards predicting gene expression from sequence

March 17 | 10:00 am - 11:00 am | MSL Lecture Theatre (Room 102)

Dr. Jussi Taipale, from department of Biochemistry at the University of Cambridge, will be speaking on his research on the application of machine-learning methods to datasets that will enable a full "predictive understanding" of gene expression: determining the rules that would be both understandable at a conceptual level by humans and sufficient for computational generation of accurate quantitative predictions.

Contact **Carl de Boer** | carl.deboer@ubc.ca if you would like to arrange for a 1:1 meeting with Dr. Taipale while he is visiting the university.

[Add the Event to Your Calendar.](#)

Total control of the human genome by reprogramming and precision editing

March 24 | 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

SBME is thrilled to host Dr. Knut Woltjen from the University of Kyoto, Japan. Dr. Woltjen will give a research seminar on the rationale and process for the development of technologies based on engineered and endogenous microhomologies, modulation of DNA repair pathways through cell cycle control, and RNA-encoded designer mutations that have helped him and his lab reveal the genetics underlying human health and disease.

Specifically, Dr. Woltjen will discuss these technologies in the context of their application to functional genomics, cell therapy, and rejuvenation, as well as their future in genome interpretation and redesign.

This seminar is a hybrid session. To attend the session in-person please join us in LSC 1003. To attend the session virtually please add this event to [your calendar](#).

Ultra-Low Temperature Freezers: Maintaining a Healthy and Efficient Ultra Low Temperature Fleet

March 14 | 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm | BRC 351

This session will provide valuable insights on ultra-low temperature (ULT) freezers, how they work, and best practices for their maintenance to ensure maximized efficiency, performance, and reliability. Whether you are a lab manager or a researcher, this session is a great opportunity to learn more about ULT freezers and how to maintain them properly to protect your valuable samples. Please mark your calendars and join us for this informative session. Light refreshment will be provided – we hope to see you there!

[CS Seminar Flyer - BRC 03-23.pdf](#)

SBME Food Drive

March 20 - 22 | 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm | KAISER Atrium (with collection boxes left in the BRC)

The cost of being a student in Vancouver has skyrocketed post-pandemic, compounded by rising inflation and the decreased availability of student housing. SBME is hosting an SBME-wide food drive to support the AMS Food Bank, which has seen a corresponding increase in demand. Come out and show support for the community by contributing to the food drive, each item donated counts as one entry to win a prize.

Note: Please, no perishable, expired or opened food items!

- Pasta and pasta sauce
- Frozen food (such as frozen ready meals)
- Canned meat (tuna, chicken, salmon)
- Canned vegetables (peas, corn, mushrooms)
- Canned soup
- Baby products (diapers, formula, baby food)

- Cereal
 - Oats/oatmeal
 - Granola bars
 - Personal hygiene products
 - Milk alternatives
-

SBME Researchers Tell All

March 23 | 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm | UBC Engineering Student Centre

An information session for undergraduate BMEG students interested in research. The event will begin with three brief talks detailing the process of becoming an undergraduate research student, becoming a graduate research student, and life as a graduate research student. Next, SBME lab representatives will give short presentations on their lab's research. Pizza and drinks will be provided (mingling is encouraged following the event)!

[Event Information.](#)

[Attendee RSVP.](#)

[Presenter Sign-Up.](#)

National Workshop (ComSciConCAN)

April 2nd | 11:59 PM | Deadline to Apply

Do you want to network with professionals to explore science communication in all its facets? This is your opportunity!

ComSciCon is a series of workshops focused on enhancing communication skills and fostering an inclusive community that can effectively communicate scientific information to academic and non-academic audiences. Created in 2013 by graduate students at Harvard University and MIT, over 2000 graduate students have now benefited from learning the skills needed to communicate complex concepts within science, engineering and other technical fields to reach broader and more diverse audiences. ComSciCon has now come to

Canada to empower the next generation of leaders in STEM fields across the country.

[Learn More.](#)

[Apply.](#)

Publishing for Impact

April 11 | 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes when you submit your manuscript? In this seminar, Barbara Cheifet, Chief Editor of Nature Biotechnology, will shed some light on the most common questions that journal editors receive. Barbara will share tips on how to submit your manuscript to the right journal, discuss how journal editors manage peer review, and share how editorial decisions are made.

[Learn More.](#)

[Calendar Hold.](#)

Day in the Life of a Journal Editor

April 12 | 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

This seminar will outline the day to day life of a journal editor. Barbara Cheifet, Chief Editor of Nature Biotechnology, will discuss how to get started in journal editing, what skills are required to work at a journal, and the ups (and downs) of the job.

[Learn More.](#)

[Calendar Hold.](#)

**Stay up to date on all SBME
community Seminars & Events**

Subscribe to import all events into your calendar so you'll never miss an event.

SBME Events Calendar

Awards and Grants

9TH Annual MDDC Awards for Excellence in Biomedical Engineering Student Design & Innovation

Application Deadline: April 2, 2023 at 11:59 pm PT

Finalists notified: April 10

Finalists will demonstrate their project/prototypes: May 6, 2023

The MDDC Medical Device Development Centre of British Columbia ('the MDDC') is pleased to announce the renewed and increased endowment of up to \$19,000 to the MDDC Student Awards to encourage and recognize student innovators in technologies relating to medicine and health care, including medical devices, systems, software, apps, and assistive technologies.

Contact | awards@mddc.org

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SEND US YOUR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Do you have news or information you want to share with the community?

Fill out our [newsletter submission form](#) to be featured in the next **SBME Newsletter** (*we will accept submissions up to two days before the release of the next edition*).

And don't forget to connect with the SBME on social media.

THE SBME COMMUNICATIONS TEAM
