Djavad Mowafaghian
CENTRE FOR BRAIN HEALTH

ADVANCING BRAIN HEALTH THROUGH RESEARCH AND CARE



2025 | 2026
Year in Review

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS

2 STATISTICS: SNAPSHOT OF 2025-2026

3 IN THE NEWS

4 RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

12 TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION

14 LOCAL AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

19 PEOPLE AND PLACES

- 19 New Faculty Profiles
- 21 Core Facility Updates
- 24 Awards

Land Acknowledgement:
The Centre is located on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Musqueam people.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS





As we reflect on another year at the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health, we are proud of the growth and impact of our community. Across research, training, patient care and engagement, our members are working together to advance brain health and improve lives.

Research remains at the heart of the Centre's mission. In 2025–2026, our researchers secured $91 million in funding and contributed to 1,478 publications, reflecting the strength and breadth of discovery taking place across the Centre. We also welcomed numerous new faculty members, strengthening our capacity to address complex challenges in brain health. Through our integrated research programs and partnerships, we are also advancing discoveries with the potential to improve diagnosis, treatment and prevention.

This translational focus extends from the lab to the clinic, where research findings can be informed by and ultimately benefit patients. Over the past year, our clinics served more than 10,000 patients across nearly 24,000 visits. The close connection between research and clinical care helps move discoveries toward practice while ensuring that the needs and experiences of patients remain central to our work.

Training the next generation of neuroscientists is also an important part of the Centre. With more than 800 trainees, our undergraduate and graduate programs continue to grow, while initiatives such as the Vancouver Brain Bee and the School of Biomedical Engineering Synergy Undergraduate Summer Research Program are providing valuable learning opportunities for students.

In addition, our outreach and engagement efforts are strengthening connections with the broader community. The BC Brain Wellness Program continues to expand its reach, while outreach events in partnership with UBC Connects at Robson Square and the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre are creating opportunities for the public to engage with neuroscience, extending the Centre's impact beyond the UBC campus.

Supporting our members with access to advanced infrastructure remains essential. Our facilities, including the Charles E. Fipke Integrated Neuroimaging Suite, the NeuroImaging and NeuroComputation Core, the Borgland Biobank and the new Core Facility for Neurology Biomarker Innovation provide the technologies and expertise needed to support groundbreaking interdisciplinary research.

Looking ahead, we are developing the next phase of our strategic plan to build on the Centre's strengths and respond to the evolving landscape of brain health research, education and care. Our continued focus on collaboration, innovation and excellence will help drive discovery, education, patient care and community engagement.

The strength of the Centre comes from its people and partnerships. We thank our members, trainees, patients, partners, donors and supporters for their continued commitment to our mission, and look forward to what we can accomplish together.

Dr. Lynn Raymond
Co-Director,
Djavad Mowafaghian
Centre for Brain Health

Dr. Shernaz Bamji
Co-Director,
Djavad Mowafaghian
Centre for Brain Health

STATISTICS:
Snapshot of 2025-2026

$91 million
in research funding

7 clinics:
23,989 clinic visits and 10,370 patients

15 Canada Research Chairs

1,478 publications
with 8,586 citations

913 international, **381** national and **161** institutional collaborations in publications

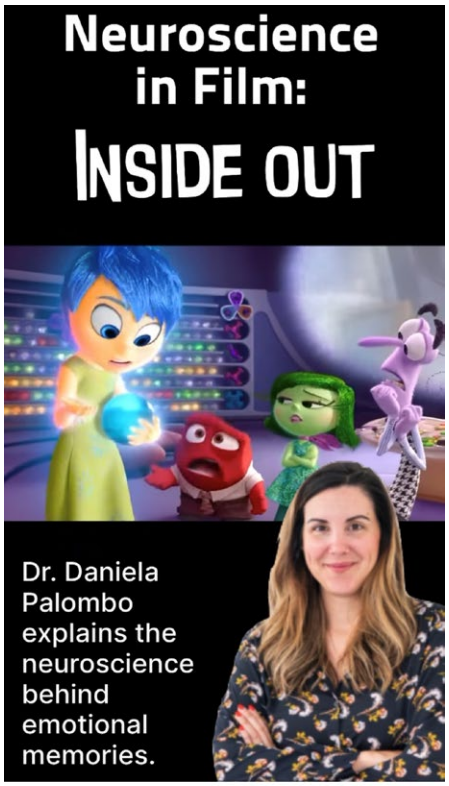
185 members:
156 full members, **29** associate members spanning UBC, Simon Fraser University, University of Victoria, University of Northern BC and University of Toronto

800+ trainees:
including **41** MSc, **77** PhD, **610** undergraduate students and **100+** postdoctoral fellows

100+ media mentions



IN THE NEWS: Our faculty, staff and trainees making headlines on social media



139 3 12

Liked by **memimaginelab** and **others**

dmcbrainhealth Welcome to episode 2 of Neuroscience in Film!

Dr. Daniela Palombo, an Associate Professor in UBC's Department of Psychology and a member of the DMCBH recently had the chance to binge the two Inside Out movies with her kids and decided to share her insights with us.

January 21

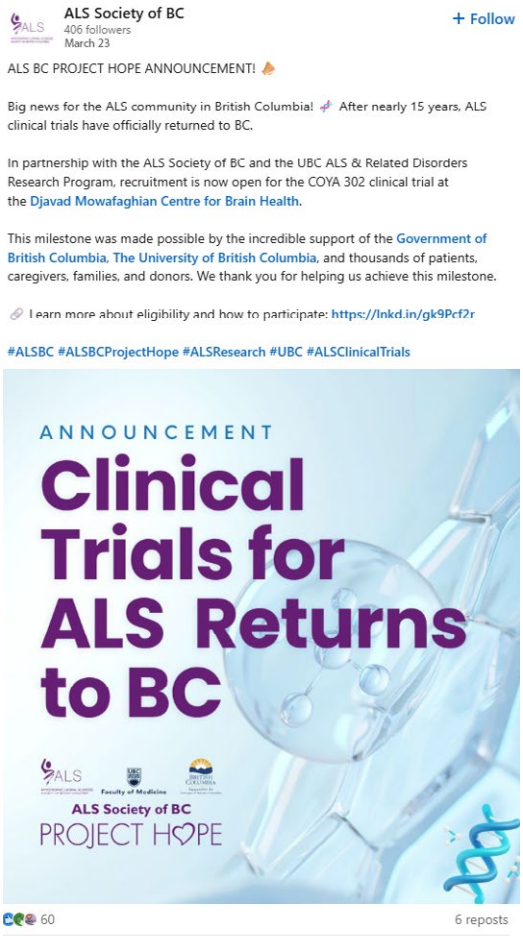


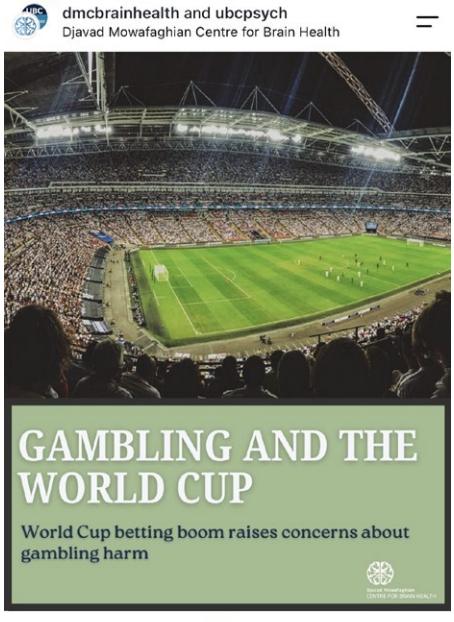
86 2 10

Liked by **vchresearch** and **others**

dmcbrainhealth Another successful DMCBH Research Retreat in the books! Last month, over 100 faculty members and trainees gathered at @ubcokanagan... more

July 3



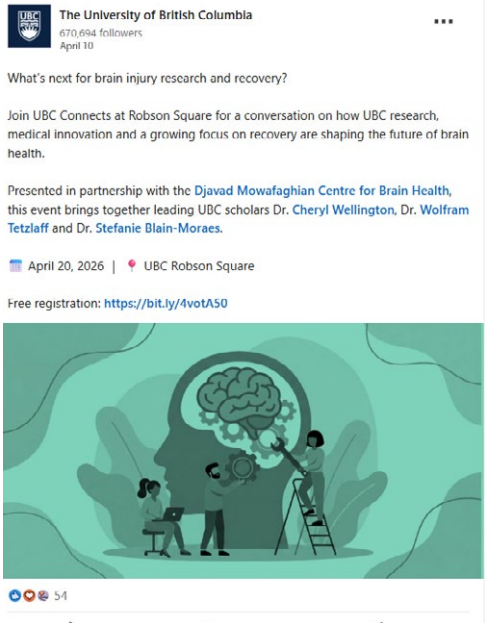


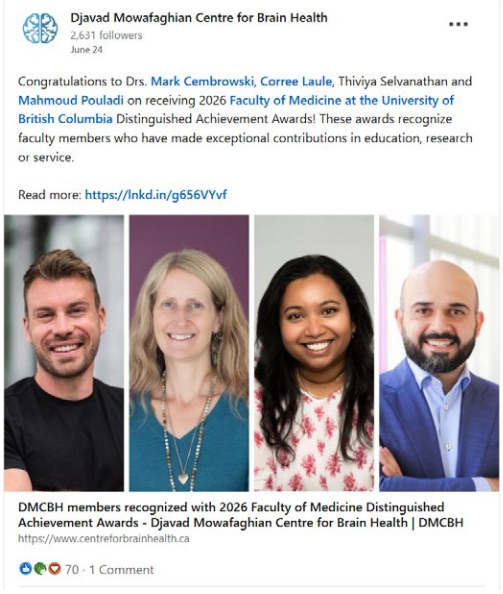
88 45

Liked by **vchresearch** and **others**

dmcbrainhealth As millions of fans around the world tune in to the FIFA World Cup, many will also place bets on matches, goals and other game-changing... more

June 16





RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

BRAIN CANADA GRANTS STRENGTHEN NATIONAL BRAIN RESEARCH PLATFORMS

Two of our researchers received 2025 Brain Canada Platform Support Grants, bringing more than $2.9 million to research platforms at UBC. The awards expand access to specialized infrastructure, expertise and biological resources supporting neurological research across Canada.



Dr. Cheryl Wellington



Dr. Michael Hayden



Dr. Cheryl Wellington leads the Platform for Neurology Biomarker Innovation (PNBI), which is developing blood-based tools to detect and monitor neurological diseases, including Alzheimer disease, multiple sclerosis and dementia. The new funding will expand access to PNBI technologies and expertise, supporting the development of faster, less invasive approaches to diagnosis and disease monitoring.

Dr. Michael Hayden leads the expansion of the HD Biobank, an internationally significant collection of human tissue samples supporting research into Huntington, Alzheimer and Parkinson diseases. Funding will expand nationwide sample collection, modernize infrastructure and strengthen ethical access to samples for researchers in Canada and internationally.

Together, the platforms demonstrate the impact of shared research infrastructure in advancing discovery and translation. By connecting researchers with specialized technologies, biological resources and collaborative expertise, they support research spanning disease biology, diagnostics and treatment.

The awards further strengthen UBC and the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health's role as a national hub for brain health research, while expanding opportunities for Canadian researchers to collaborate and access resources that can help advance more effective approaches to neurological disease.



LAUNCH OF DEMENTIA THERAPEUTICS INNOVATION INITIATIVE

A landmark gift from UBC alumnus Ken McArthur and his wife, Sheila, is helping accelerate Alzheimer's research and therapeutic discovery at the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health.

The McArthurs' philanthropy launched the Dementia Therapeutics Innovation Initiative (DTII), an interdisciplinary program focused on identifying and testing new therapeutic approaches for Alzheimer disease.

The initiative brought together a team of researchers including Drs. Brian MacVicar, Haakon Nygaard, Freda Miller and Xin Tang, creating a collaborative environment designed to connect fundamental discoveries with potential treatments. Together, their expertise spans neuroscience, genetics, stem cell biology and neuroinformatics, alongside advanced technologies and research infrastructure.

The team is investigating the genes, proteins and biological pathways involved in Alzheimer disease, with the goal of identifying promising targets for new treatments. Early research used stem cells derived from patients' blood to create 3D models of human brain cells, revealing a potential protective role for microglia, the brain's immune cells, against amyloid-related damage.

With expanded philanthropic support, DTII is now scaling up these models to enable larger drug-target screening studies. New equipment, research staff, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows are strengthening the initiative's capacity to move discoveries toward therapeutic development.

In addition, the newly named Kenneth W. McArthur Neurodegenerative Research Floor at the Centre recognizes the McArthurs' commitment to advancing Alzheimer's research and building UBC's capacity for therapeutic innovation.

HOW THE BRAIN REORGANIZES DOPAMINE IN PARKINSON DISEASE

A new study led by Dr. Jon Stoessl is providing new insight into how the brain adapts to the earliest stages of Parkinson disease. Published in *Science Advances*, the study used PET imaging to map dopamine release in real time as people with early Parkinson disease and healthy volunteers completed motor, cognitive and reward-related tasks.

In healthy brains, dopamine networks are highly organized, with distinct regions supporting specific movements and behaviours. The researchers found that this organization becomes disrupted early in Parkinson's. While dopamine release was reduced in regions most affected by the disease, relatively preserved areas showed increased activity, suggesting that the brain recruits other networks to compensate.

"This study gives us a much richer picture of what's happening in the brain of Parkinson's patients," says Dr. Stoessl.

> "Understanding how the brain reorganizes itself opens new opportunities to develop treatments that work with these adaptive mechanisms, rather than simply replacing lost dopamine."

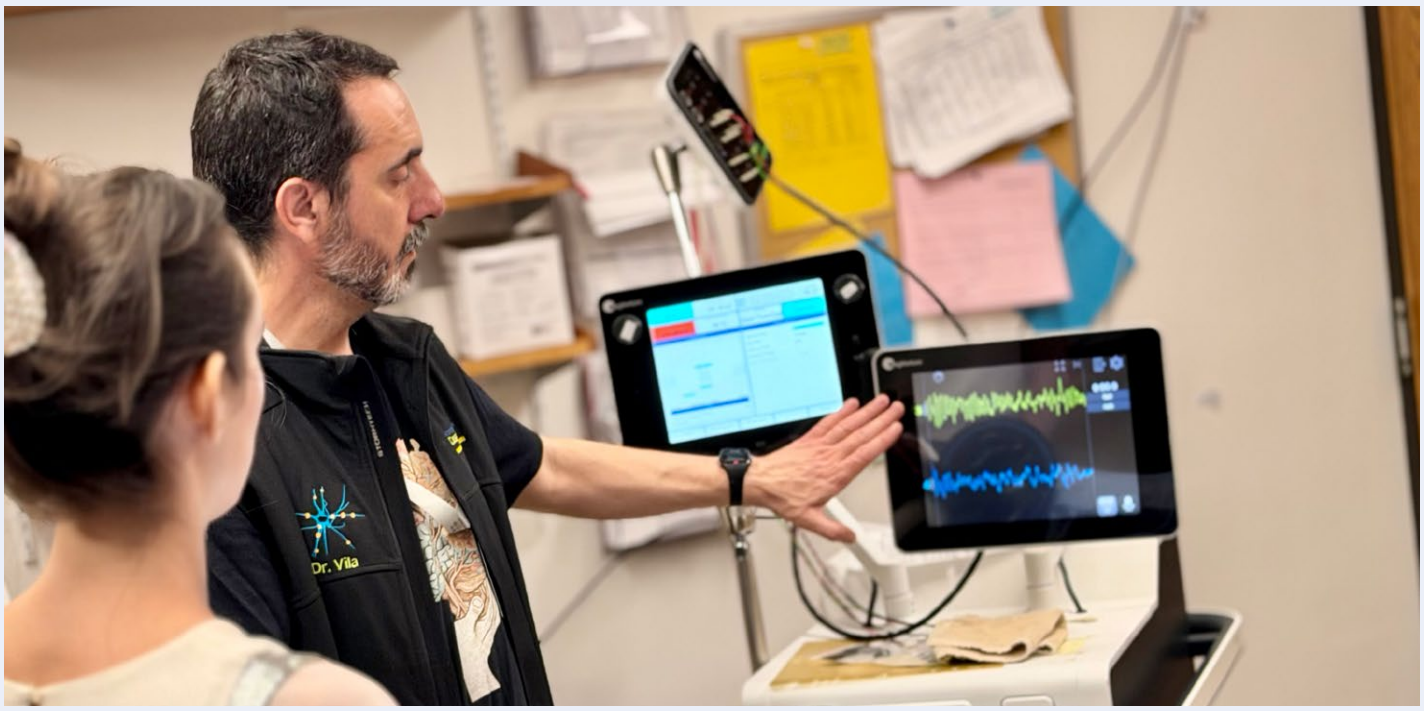


Dr. Jon Stoessi

The findings suggest this reorganization may help maintain function early in the disease, but could eventually contribute to difficulties with precise movement and multitasking as networks become less specialized.

The study involved collaborating with Drs. Vesna Sossi and Jeremy Seamans and was supported by the Pacific Parkinson's Research Institute. Dr. Stoessl is now collaborating with Dr. Silke Appel-Cresswell to investigate whether lifestyle interventions such as exercise can influence this brain reorganization.





MAGNETIC SEIZURE THERAPY OFFERS NEW POSSIBILITY FOR SEVERE BIPOLAR DEPRESSION

A clinical trial co-led by Dr. Fidel Vila-Rodriguez suggests that magnetic seizure therapy (MST) could expand treatment options for people with severe bipolar depression, offering similar benefits to electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) with fewer memory-related side effects.

ECT can be highly effective for severe depression but concerns about temporary memory loss and disorientation can prevent some patients from choosing the treatment. MST uses targeted magnetic pulses to induce a brief, controlled therapeutic seizure, potentially allowing stimulation to be delivered more precisely.

"People with severe bipolar depression are often living with profound emotional distress, and many have exhausted available treatment options," says Dr. Vila-Rodriguez. "Our findings suggest MST has the potential to become an important new tool that could help more patients access effective care."

A Canadian pilot trial compared MST and ECT in 55 adults with bipolar depression across four academic health centres, with Dr. Vila-Rodriguez leading the Vancouver site. Both treatments produced similar improvements in depressive symptoms and suicidal ideation, while MST was associated with fewer memory-related side effects. Clinically meaningful memory effects occurred in 7.1 per cent of participants receiving MST, compared with 22.2 per cent receiving ECT. Participants receiving MST also regained orientation more quickly following treatment.

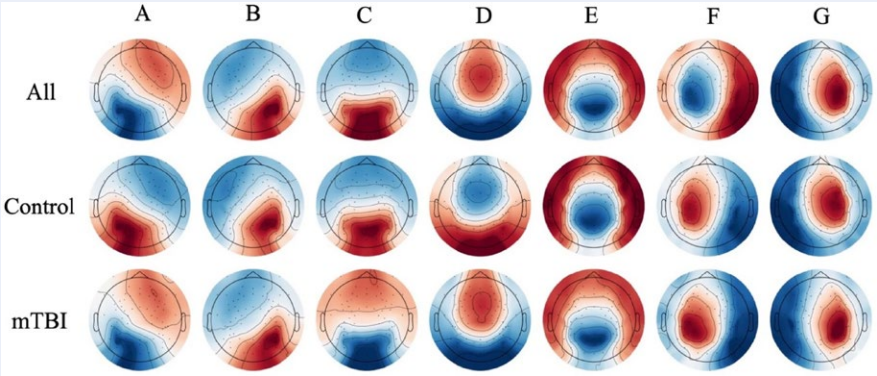
"By stimulating the brain more precisely, MST appears to offer comparable levels of therapeutic benefit, while greatly reducing side effects on memory and cognition," says Dr. Vila-Rodriguez.

Published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*, the pilot study provides evidence supporting further investigation of MST as a treatment for severe bipolar depression. Larger studies will be needed to confirm its effectiveness and longer-term benefits.

> "At a time when mental health systems are under enormous strain and many patients are not finding relief from existing treatments, we urgently need new options for severe bipolar depression."



Dr. Fidel Vila-Rodriguez





EEG topographies of seven different microstates. The first row shows the maps generated using data from both groups combined. The second and third rows show the maps generated separately for the control and concussed groups.

RESTING BRAIN ACTIVITY REVEALS HIDDEN "SIGNATURE" OF CONCUSSION

Concussion is common among adolescent athletes, but clinicians still rely largely on reported symptoms to diagnose and monitor injury. A new study led by PhD student Sahar Sattari, under the supervision of Dr. Naznin Virji-Babul, explores whether concussion leaves a measurable signature in the resting brain.

Published in *Scientific Reports*, the study used electroencephalography (EEG) to examine adolescent male athletes within two weeks of a sport-related concussion and compare them with healthy peers. The researchers focused on microstates, which are brief, recurring patterns of brain activity.

"You can think of them as the brain's 'snapshots' or 'building blocks' of thought," Sahar explains. "They are short moments when different brain networks are temporarily working together."

Sahar and her team found distinct differences in these patterns following concussion. A network involved in attention and switching between tasks remained active for shorter periods, while a network associated with movement and body awareness also appeared less frequently. Meanwhile, a network linked to internal thoughts and mind-wandering was more active and lasted longer.

> "We wanted to know whether concussion changes the brain's normal rhythms, even when someone is not performing a task. What we found is that the injured brain behaves differently at rest."



Dr. Naznin Virji-Babul

"Our findings suggest that concussion disrupts the dynamic balance between major brain networks," says Sahar. "These changes were detectable in simple resting-state EEG recordings, which is encouraging for real-world applications."

These results suggest that resting-state EEG microstate analysis could eventually provide an objective way to detect and track concussion-related brain changes, particularly in youth sports and remote settings. While the study was exploratory and based on a small sample, it provides a foundation for future research into monitoring recovery through brain activity rather than symptoms alone.



THE HIDDEN ROLE OF IMMUNE CELLS IN EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Research from Dr. Jessica Rosin is revealing how immune cells help shape bones, teeth and facial structures during embryonic development. Her lab is studying colony-stimulating factor 1 receptor (CSF1R), a protein found on immune cells including macrophages and osteoclasts, which are traditionally known for roles in immune defence and bone remodelling.

"CSF1R is well known for its role in immune cell survival, allowing us to target this signalling pathway to study the important role immune cells play in the environment that growing tissues rely on," says Dr. Rosin.

Across several recent studies, Dr. Rosin's team used a drug to temporarily block CSF1R signalling during pregnancy in mice. The researchers found that disrupting these cells during critical windows of development affected the formation of limb bones, skull and facial structures, teeth and associated muscles.

In developing limbs, CSF1R inhibition resulted in shorter bones and missing or underdeveloped bones in the heel. Changes to the skull and face included altered skull shape and impaired cranial sutures, while changes to surrounding tissues affected neural crest cells involved in facial development. The team also observed abnormal tooth shapes, suggesting that CSF1R-dependent cells influence tooth formation indirectly through the surrounding tissue environment. More recent work showed that prenatal disruption of CSF1R also altered the development of skull, jaw and facial muscles, with some changes becoming more pronounced after birth.

Together, the findings highlight the interconnected nature of development and suggest that immune cells help create the cellular environment needed for tissues to form properly. Understanding these roles could provide new insight into how disruptions during embryonic development contribute to neurological and skeletal abnormalities.

> "Our findings highlight how closely connected tissues are during growth. Changes in the cells surrounding a structure can ultimately shape its formation, even when those cells are not directly involved in building it."



Dr. Jessica Rosin

DISCOVERY REVEALS TIMING DIFFERENCES IN BRAIN VERSUS BODILY FUNCTIONS DURING DEATH

Much remains unknown about what happens in the final stages of life. A groundbreaking study led by Dr. Mypinder Sekhon is providing new insight by examining dying as a biological process that unfolds over time, rather than as a single moment.

Published in *Nature Medicine*, the study used a multimodal approach to monitor blood flow and oxygenation in the brain and body of 39 patients undergoing withdrawal of life-sustaining measures, alongside 12 healthy controls. Researchers found that blood flow to the brain and the brain's ability to use oxygen stopped before electrical and mechanical activity in the heart ceased. Brain oxygenation also stopped before circulation throughout the body.

> "Our findings provide preliminary evidence that cessation of brain blood flow may occur earlier in the dying process than is stated in current clinical assessments and guidelines."



Dr. Mypinder Sekhon

The findings could have implications for critical care and resuscitation, suggesting that interventions to preserve brain function may need to focus more closely on changes occurring in the brain rather than relying solely on heart or peripheral pulse assessments. The research also offers new insight into planned dying, with the timing of physiological changes potentially helping patients and families better understand what to expect.

The study may also inform evolving approaches to organ donation and definitions of death. By demonstrating that multimodal monitoring of the dying process is possible in humans, the research establishes a foundation for further studies into brain vulnerability, resuscitation and organ preservation.

Dr. Sekhon and his team are continuing to investigate how different regions of the brain are affected during dying, including in patients who wish to become organ donors.

UNRAVELLING THE LINK BETWEEN EPSTEIN-BARR VIRUS AND MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

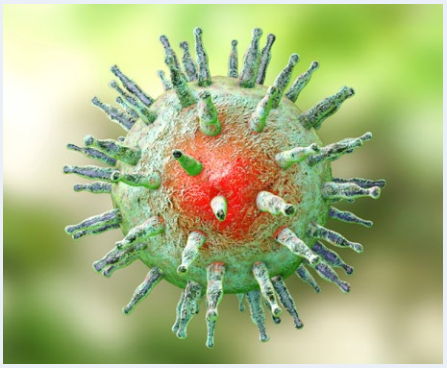
For decades, researchers have known that infection with Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) is strongly associated with multiple sclerosis (MS). A review led by Dr. Jan Lünemann, UBC Chair in Multiple Sclerosis and Autoimmune Neurology Research and Director of the MS and Neuromyelitis Optica Program, examines emerging evidence about how the common virus may contribute to MS.

Published in *The Lancet Neurology*, the review highlights research showing that EBV infection may influence MS through several pathways. The virus can alter B cells, a type of immune cell, and may trigger immune responses that mistakenly target proteins in the brain and spinal cord. However, EBV infection alone does not cause MS. Genetic, environmental and immune factors also influence an individual's risk of developing the disease.

In addition, recent research from Dr. Lünemann, published in *Annals of Neurology*, found that people with MS produce EBV-targeting antibodies with stronger inflammatory activity than those in healthy individuals. This heightened immune response was associated with signs of active disease, including relapses and brain inflammation, suggesting that how the immune system responds to EBV may be as important as the infection itself.

These findings are opening new avenues for research into EBV-focused treatments and prevention strategies, including vaccines, antiviral therapies and approaches targeting infected immune cells.

Overall, Dr. Lünemann identifies several priorities for future research, including tracking EBV-related



changes before MS symptoms emerge, developing biomarkers to identify harmful immune responses and advancing clinical trials of EBV-targeted therapies.

> "We need to move from associations to mechanisms, and from mechanisms to therapy and prevention."



Dr. Jan Lünemann

SPECIALIZED AI COULD ELEVATE DIABETES-RELATED BLINDNESS RISK PREVENTION

A new study led by Dr. Ipek Oruc is providing preliminary evidence that diabetic retinopathy may present differently in females and males, with potential implications for more personalized approaches to diagnosis and care.

Diabetic retinopathy is a leading cause of diabetes-related blindness, caused by damage to the small blood vessels at the back of the eye. Although sex is currently not routinely considered in diagnosis or treatment, Dr. Oruc and her team investigated whether retinal images could reveal differences in how the disease manifests.

Researchers trained an artificial intelligence (AI) algorithm on 2,967 retinal images from 1,491 female and 1,476 male patients with diabetic retinopathy. The groups were matched for factors including age, ethnicity, disease severity and blood sugar levels, allowing the researchers to focus on potential sex-related differences.

The team used convolutional neural networks (CNNs), which are algorithms specializing in image classification, to identify patterns of diabetic retinopathy presentation in the images. To see whether there were sex-specific disease characteristics, they then used an explainable-AI technique called Guided Grad-CAM to help them understand how the CNN arrived at its conclusions.

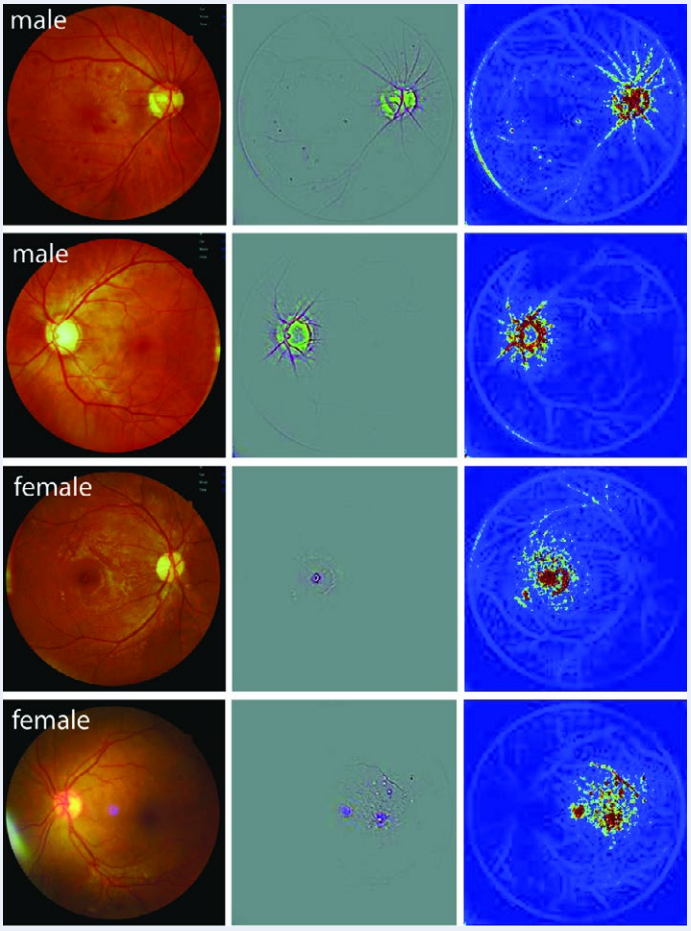
The analysis showed that the AI focused more strongly on the macula in female patients, while highlighting the optic disc and peripheral blood vessels in male patients. These findings raise the possibility that women and men may be more likely to develop different complications of diabetic retinopathy. The study demonstrates how AI can uncover subtle features that may not be readily visible to clinicians and researchers. Dr. Oruc's team is now conducting a follow-up study to confirm these patterns.

> "If confirmed, sex-specific disease indicators could have significant implications for the diagnosis, management and treatment of diabetic retinopathy."



Dr. Ipek Oruc





A saliency map of the original retinal images from male and female patients (left column), Guided Grad-CAM images (middle column) and colour-coded images (right column) that emphasize areas of disease prevalence.



NEW STUDY POINTS TO PROMISING ULTRASOUND TREATMENT FOR PARKINSON'S TREMOR

New research from Dr. Martin McKeown's lab explores a non-invasive approach to reducing tremor in people with Parkinson disease. Published in the journal *Brain Stimulation*, the study examined low-intensity transcranial ultrasound stimulation (TUS), which uses sound waves to modulate brain activity.

The lab compared two brain regions involved in tremor: the ventral intermediate nucleus (VIM) of the thalamus and the zona incerta (ZI).

"Our goal was to find out whether we could safely reduce tremor by targeting key regions in the brain's tremor network," says Dr. Varsha Sreenivasan, co-lead author and postdoctoral fellow in the McKeown lab.

The team found that stimulating the VIM improved postural tremor but did not significantly improve rest tremor, which is more characteristic of Parkinson disease. In contrast, stimulation of the ZI showed broader benefits. Brain imaging also revealed that changes in ZI network activity were associated with symptom improvement, suggesting this activity can be used as a potential biomarker for predicting treatment response.

"We found that targeting the zona incerta improved both postural and rest tremor," says Dr. McKeown. "This may be because Parkinsonian tremor involves a distributed network. The ZI is a promising treatment target because it connects to key areas involved in tremor, including the basal ganglia, cerebellum and primary motor cortex."

Unlike surgical interventions, TUS is non-invasive and reversible.

"The transient nature of ultrasound stimulation is a major advantage," says Maggie Vuong, co-lead author and biomedical technologist in the McKeown lab. "It allows us to explore new targets like the ZI safely."

Although the findings are promising, larger studies are needed to confirm the results and determine how long the benefits last.

> "Our findings support continued investigation into the zona incerta as a target for treating Parkinson's tremor. As we improve our ability to modulate specific brain networks, we hope to move closer to more precise and individualized therapies for Parkinson disease."



Dr. Martin McKeown

TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION

TRAINEE PROFILES:

NATALIE MA, MASTER'S STUDENT



Natalie Ma is a first-year Master of Neuroscience student at UBC, working under the supervision of Dr. Clare Beasley. Her research explores the role of the immune system in psychiatric disorders, with her thesis focusing on the immune mechanisms that may contribute to accelerated brain aging in schizophrenia. She is investigating whether microglial senescence (when immune cells in the brain lose their ability to function effectively) is increased in post-mortem brain tissue from people with schizophrenia, and how these changes relate to aging biomarkers in the brain and blood.

"Having witnessed the profound impact that brain-related disorders can have on those around me, I became motivated to understand how the brain works," Natalie shares. "I chose to pursue neuroscience research due to its immense potential to improve lives by deepening our understanding of complex brain conditions to improve treatments."

Natalie completed her BSc in Honours Biology at UBC, where she conducted research on age-related macular degeneration in the Matsubara lab and the effects of inflammatory bowel disease on microglia in the Ciernia lab.

Beyond the lab, she volunteers with the BC Brain Wellness Program, supports graduate student leadership through the Graduate Student Society, and enjoys reading and exploring Vancouver's restaurants and cafés.

> "In the future, I hope to pursue a career that allows me to contribute to improving lives through the knowledge I gain from the neuroscience field."

ISA SAMAD, PHD STUDENT



Isa Samad is a third-year PhD candidate in Dr. Brett Hilton's lab at ICORD, where his research explores how molecular and cellular processes influence axon regeneration after spinal cord injury. His thesis focuses on chromatin remodelling, an epigenetic process that changes how DNA is packaged within neurons and may regulate genes involved in neural repair and regeneration.

His interest in neuroscience began in middle school, sparked by a fascination with how precisely neurons form synaptic circuits, enabling the nervous system to process information across large-scale networks.

"Understanding how these processes break down after injury or disease and exploring strategies to promote plasticity and repair neural connections are major passions driving my research in neuroscience," he says.

Isa completed a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience at UCLA, where his honours thesis examined brain circuit plasticity and functional recovery following stroke. He hopes to pursue a career as a physician-scientist, combining research with patient care.

Outside the lab, he enjoys learning languages and engaging in cultural exchange. He minored in Japanese as a way of getting in touch with his Japanese roots and is also learning Korean and Spanish. In his free time, he also enjoys watching baseball, basketball and golf.

> "I hope to pursue a career as a physician-scientist, combining translational neuroscience research with the care of patients affected by neurological injury and disease."

DR. MARISSA LITHOPOULOS, POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW



For Dr. Marissa Lithopoulos, science and creativity go hand in hand. A stem cell scientist, musician and stand-up comedian, Marissa brings these interests together through her research and commitment to making science more accessible.

"I firmly believe that research is a creative endeavour," Marissa says. "There are certain lessons and skills that we can learn from artistic crafts that boost creativity in science."

Marissa's interest in science began after a serious childhood infection that affected her brain. Although she initially considered a clinical career, she discovered a passion for research during her undergraduate studies at the University of Ottawa and went on to study the effects of preterm birth on brain stem cells.

As a postdoctoral fellow working with Drs. Freda Miller and David Kaplan, Marissa studies brain stem cells and their role in early neurodevelopment. Her research explores how complications associated with preterm birth can affect these cells, with the goal of understanding how their development could be supported to improve outcomes for babies born too soon.

Outside the lab, music and comedy have become important parts of her approach to science communication. She is the founder of Science, Stand-Up, & Song, a sold-out Vancouver event series combining scientific presentations, comedy and live music to create an informal space for researchers and community members to connect. More recently, she launched a podcast called Beaker Banter, featuring researchers and the stories behind their work.

> "I hope that everyone can think of science as approachable, accessible and dare I say cool."







LOCAL AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

UNIVERSE OF THE BRAIN: SUNSET MEDITATION

On January 23, 2026, a sold-out evening at the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre invited participants to step away from the noise of everyday life and reconnect with calm through meditation, mindfulness and reflection.

Presented in collaboration with the space centre and the BC Brain Wellness Program (BCBWP), the evening began with Sunset Meditation, an immersive planetarium experience journeying from the Grand Canyon to the North Pole before settling beneath a star-filled sky and Northern Lights. Following the planetarium experience, David Greenshields, BCBWP's mindfulness instructor, led a conversation on mindfulness and resilience, exploring practical, science-informed approaches to managing stress and supporting long-term wellbeing. Hosted by Dr. Silke Appel-Cresswell and Alisa Hashimoto, the session encouraged participants to take a more intentional approach to everyday life.





NEUROTALKS

On February 18, 2026, the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health hosted its first-ever NeuroTalks event, Decoding the Brain: How Different Cells Contribute to Disease, at The Forge in Gastown. The event aimed to make neuroscience research accessible and engaging for the public while giving trainees an opportunity to develop their science communication skills.

Four speakers from different career stages shared their research in approachable, easy-to-understand presentations. Dr. Annie Ciernia explored how brain cells, including microglia, contribute to brain development and disease. PhD candidate Andrew Thompson discussed the role of oligodendrocytes in multiple sclerosis and emerging approaches to understanding and restoring myelin. Master's student Jacqueline Palik explored why motor neurons are vulnerable in ALS and how their loss affects movement. Postdoctoral fellow Dr. Mehwish Anwer highlighted how new technologies are helping researchers map the brain and investigate neurological diseases such as traumatic brain injury.

Overall, the event brought together research, communication and public engagement in an engaging evening of neuroscience.

WORLD BIPOLAR DAY AMA

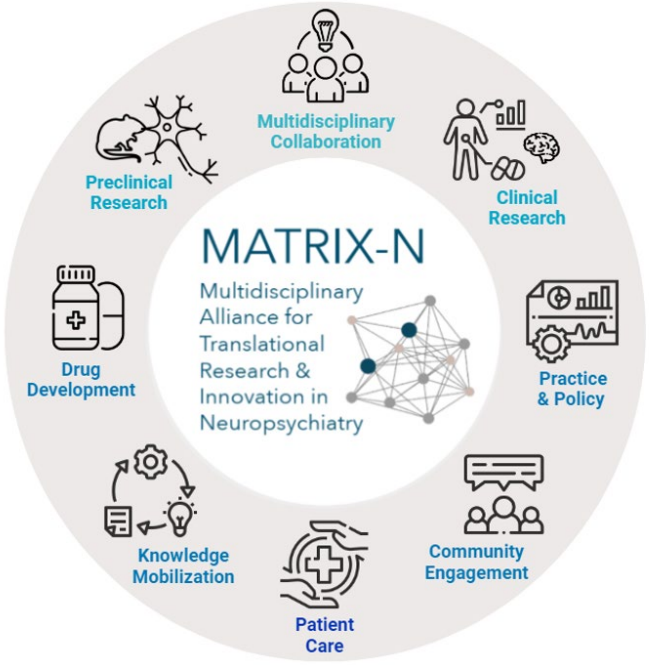
On March 30, 2026, The Collaborative RESearch Team to study psychosocial issues in Bipolar Disorder (CREST.BD), led by Dr. Erin Michalak, Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, hosted a record-breaking World Bipolar Day "Ask Me Anything" (AMA) featuring 83 experts from 20 countries, reaching hundreds of thousands globally. The initiative advanced bipolar disorder understanding, reduced stigma, and enabled open, accessible public dialogue.

In addition to the CREST.BD team hosting and organizing the event, the panelist team of experts consisted of a large team of researchers working at the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health, including Drs. Chris Gorman, Ivan Torres, John Jose Nunez, Leena Chau and Paula Nunes.

The response was incredible: more than 650 questions, 2,000 comments, 2,500 shares and over 825,000 views — making this the biggest bipolar disorder community event ever held.



INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO OPIOID USE DISORDER MANAGEMENT IN THE FENTANYL ERA



On April 17, 2026, researchers, clinicians, trainees and community members gathered at the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health for a multidisciplinary panel on opioid use disorder (OUD) management in the fentanyl era, co-sponsored by the MATRIX-N research cluster.

Held near the 10-year anniversary of British Columbia's declaration of the toxic drug crisis as a public health emergency, the event brought together experts from addiction medicine, psychiatry, chemistry, neuroscience and clinical care. Panelists discussed how an increasingly complex drug supply has challenged existing approaches to OUD treatment and highlighted the need for new research and clinical strategies.

Discussion explored treatment approaches for people who use multiple substances, including addressing factors such as craving, mood and insomnia. Panelists also examined challenges with opioid agonist therapy and the need to adapt treatment to changing patterns of opioid tolerance. Audience questions expanded the conversation to psychiatric care, withdrawal treatments and future research. A social hour provided further opportunities for attendees to connect and exchange ideas.

DEMENTIA LINK CONNECTS RESEARCH WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE

On May 9, 2026, the Dementia LINK team hosted its inaugural open house at the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health, bringing together approximately 60 community members, patient partners, caregivers, trainees and researchers.

The event featured accessible presentations from Drs. Annie Ciernia, Cheryl Wellington and Khaled Abdelrahman on Alzheimer disease biology, blood-based approaches to dementia diagnosis and emerging treatments. A moderated panel and audience Q&A provided opportunities for participants to engage directly with researchers. The program also included a networking lunch and laboratory tours led by trainees, giving participants a firsthand look at dementia research and the tools used to study the disease.



Participant feedback highlighted the value of accessible science communication, direct interaction with researchers and opportunities to see research in practice. Supported by the Michael Smith Health Research BC's patient, public and community partner engagement fund and the Alzheimer Society of BC and Yukon, the event strengthened connections between research and lived experience while engaging trainees in knowledge translation.

UBC CONNECTS AT ROBSON SQUARE BRINGS BRAIN HEALTH RESEARCH TO THE COMMUNITY

From November 2025 to April 2026, the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health partnered with UBC Community Engagement to present three UBC Connects at Robson Square events, bringing community members together to explore the science shaping brain health, mental health and neurological recovery.

The series opened with Rewiring the Mind: How Science, Lifestyle and Wellness Shape Brain Health in November, featuring Drs. Lara Boyd, Silke Appel-Cresswell and Teresa Liu-Ambrose. The speakers explored the brain's capacity to change through learning and experience, the role of exercise, nutrition, sleep and social connection in brain wellness, and how lifestyle interventions can support healthy aging and recovery.

In January, Reimagining the Mind: Innovations in Mental Health Research and Care examined emerging approaches to understanding and treating mental health conditions. Dr. Fidel Vila-Rodriguez discussed transcranial magnetic stimulation and its potential to influence brain networks, Dr. Julie Robillard explored the opportunities and ethical challenges of AI and other digital mental health technologies, and Dr. Tamara Vanderwal shared how movie-based brain imaging can reveal how young people's brains respond to complex, real-world experiences.



The series concluded in April with Repairing the Mind: The Future of Brain Injury Research and Recovery. Drs. Cheryl Wellington, Wolfram Tetzlaff and Stefanie Blain-Moraes highlighted innovative approaches to brain and spinal cord injury, including blood-based biomarkers, regenerative technologies and tools for detecting consciousness in people who cannot communicate through conventional means.

Together, the three events showcased the breadth of research at the Centre while creating opportunities for researchers and community members to connect, ask questions and explore how advances in neuroscience could shape the future of brain health and care.



SBME SYNERGY UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM

The UBC School of Biomedical Engineering (SBME) Synergy Undergraduate Summer Research Program provides students with hands-on experience in research labs, helping them develop technical skills while exploring potential careers in biomedical engineering and neuroscience.

This summer, seven students worked with Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health researchers, conducting a variety of projects spanning molecular neuroscience, computational biology, machine learning, neuroimaging and neurodevelopment. They gained experience with techniques including confocal microscopy, CRISPR/Cas9 genome editing, spatial transcriptomics, MRI analysis, machine learning and neuronal cell culture, while also developing skills in data analysis, scientific communication and experimental problem solving.

For many students, the program also offered a new perspective on how research can shape future clinical applications.

"This experience has given me a much better understanding of what a career in research looks like and has reinforced my interest in pursuing research after my undergraduate degree," says Krista Tannant, who worked in the Mizumoto lab.

"Research is not always a linear path to prove a hypothesis; rather, it requires navigating through negative data and experimental dead ends," says Heta Patel, who worked in the Bamji lab.

Overall, the program provided students with valuable preparation for future careers while contributing to research addressing neurological disease and patient care.



2026 VANCOUVER BRAIN BEE

The 18th annual Vancouver Brain Bee brought a record 97 high school students to the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health on March 28, 2026. Bringing together students from across the Lower Mainland, the event provided an opportunity to explore neuroscience, connect with UBC trainees and experience research firsthand.

The Brain Bee challenges students in Grades 9 to 12 to test their knowledge of the brain and nervous system, while introducing them to potential pathways in science, medicine and research. Co-hosted by UBC Neuroscience graduate students Isabella DiBerardino and Brittany Jensen, this year's event featured a written exam, interactive activities, research lab tours and a Jeopardy-style final round.

Lab tours were a highlight, giving students a behind-the-scenes look at neuroscience research at the Centre. For first-place winner Grace Guo, the experience helped bring concepts from her studies to life.

"From advanced machinery and brain scans to digital software and mouse brains, it felt like seeing my textbook pages come to life," she said. "The lab tours also helped me better understand how neuroscience is applied in real research settings."

The Brain Bee's outreach extends beyond the annual competition through NeuroCircles, a UBC student-led initiative that connects high school students with neuroscience graduate students through weekly sessions. By sharing their knowledge and experiences, UBC trainees help students build confidence, deepen their understanding of neuroscience and explore future opportunities in the field.

The Vancouver Brain Bee reflects the Centre's commitment to engaging the broader community and supporting the next generation of neuroscience researchers.

A SOURCE OF HOPE: THE BC BRAIN WELLNESS PROGRAM

For Sylvia Sam and her husband, Norman, the BC Brain Wellness Program (BCBWP) has become a source of hope and meaningful change.

Norman had a stroke in 2020 and was diagnosed with Parkinson disease in 2025. Concerned about his declining mobility and wellbeing, Sylvia began searching for exercise programs. With encouragement from Norman's neurologist, she looked to UBC, where she connected with Sally-Anne Stelling, Co-Director of the BCBWP, and was guided to the in-class exercise program.

"The BCBWP classes are tailored to each participant," explains Sally-Anne. "Through close supervision and support from upper year Kinesiology students, we are able to appropriately challenge individuals and help them achieve their goals."

When Norman began the program, his condition was steadily deteriorating.

"He could hardly walk," Sylvia recalls. "He was bent over like the letter 'C.'"

He had also become withdrawn, with a faint voice, reduced appetite and little interest in socializing.

"Now he can walk," Sylvia says in amazement. "And emotionally, it's a complete change. His voice is back, his appetite is back, he likes to socialize again."

Norman now looks forward to the classes, which he attends three times a week. Sylvia participates twice a week as well, helping her rebuild her own strength.

"When Norman's life opens up, my life opens up," she says. "I'm again picking up interests I had to put aside when we were so completely overwhelmed."

Most importantly, the program has given the couple renewed optimism.

> "This program has given us hope that there is a road ahead. Hope. Not despair."
>
> —Sylvia Sam





BCBWP 2025 STATISTICS

3,356 hours of programming were delivered, including in-person and online

1,260 unique individuals were supported

33,667 check-ins were recorded, ranging from group classes, kinesiology services, nutritional counselling and educational webinars

PEOPLE AND PLACES

NEW FACULTY PROFILES:

DR. STEFANIE BLAIN-MORAES



Dr. Stefanie Blain-Moraes is an Associate Professor jointly appointed in UBC's School of Biomedical Engineering and Department of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy. Her research combines engineering, neuroscience and rehabilitation to better understand consciousness and develop technologies that enable communication with people who are minimally communicative following brain injury or illness. Her lab uses brain and physiological signals, brain-computer interfaces and other innovative approaches to study consciousness and recovery. Previously a Canada Research Chair at McGill University, Dr. Blain-Moraes established an interdisciplinary research program spanning science, philosophy, arts and clinical care. At UBC, she is developing bedside tools to help assess consciousness and predict recovery after severe brain injury.

> "I love the idea of building technologies that can make a difference in people's lives."

DR. ASHLEY DALRYMPLE



Dr. Ashley Dalrymple is an Assistant Professor in UBC's Department of Physical Therapy, Canada Research Chair in Spinal Cord Neuromodulation and principal investigator at ICORD. Her interdisciplinary research combines engineering, neuroscience and rehabilitation science to develop technologies that improve recovery after nervous system injury. As Director of the Neural Engineering and Rehabilitation Via Electrical Stimulation (NERVES) Lab, she studies how the spinal cord adapts after injury and develops neural interfaces, spinal cord stimulation and machine-learning approaches to restore movement and sensation. Dr. Dalrymple completed her engineering and neuroscience training at the University of Alberta, followed by postdoctoral fellowships in Australia and the United States, before joining UBC.

> "I enjoy applying engineering solutions to neuroscience and rehabilitation problems. To me, it's a pragmatic approach to helping people."

DR. JEFF DONG



Dr. Jeff Dong is an Assistant Professor in UBC's Department of Microbiology and Immunology. His research explores how the immune system influences brain health and neurodegenerative diseases such as multiple sclerosis (MS). A UBC alumnus, he completed his undergraduate and PhD studies in microbiology and immunology before pursuing postdoctoral research at the University of Calgary and establishing an independent research program at the University of Saskatchewan. Dr. Dong's lab studies how oxidative damage contributes to nerve cell injury in MS, and how the brain's immune cells help protect against this damage. His team is also investigating how diet, exercise and new therapies could help prevent neurodegeneration.

> "Ultimately, I hope to help my trainees achieve their goals, do some cool science, and work to improve the health of Canadians."

DR. JAN LÜNEMANN



Dr. Jan Lünemann is the inaugural UBC Chair in Multiple Sclerosis and Autoimmune Neurology Research and Director of the UBC Multiple Sclerosis and Neuromyelitis Optica Program. As a neurologist, neuroimmunologist and clinician-scientist, he also leads the BC MS Cell Therapies Translational Research Network, which aims to advance innovative therapies for MS and other autoimmune neurological diseases. His research explores how the immune system contributes to neurological disease, with a focus on developing targeted immunotherapies and cell-based treatments. Before joining UBC, Dr. Lünemann was Professor of Neurology at the University of Münster in Germany, where he led a major MS and neuroimmunology clinic and clinical trial centre.

> "I look forward to working with colleagues across the university and health system to bring the latest advances in neuroimmunology and innovative therapies closer to patients."

NEW FACULTY PROFILES:

DR. TROY MCDIARMID



Dr. Troy McDiarmid is an Assistant Professor in UBC's School of Biomedical Engineering. His research combines neuroscience, bioengineering and genome editing to develop new tools for understanding how brain cells change over time and how neurological disorders develop. His lab is pioneering molecular recording technologies that allow cells to record biological events in their DNA, providing new insights into brain development and disease. He also uses single-cell CRISPR screening to identify gene-regulatory elements that could enable more precise therapies for neurological and neurodevelopmental disorders. Dr. McDiarmid completed his PhD in Neuroscience at UBC and a Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Washington.

> "We're building tools that could fundamentally change how we study and treat the brain."

DR. ZACH PENNINGTON



Dr. Zach Pennington is an Assistant Professor in UBC's Department of Psychology. He is interested in studying the neural circuits that regulate stress and emotion, with a focus on how these systems are shaped by experience and may contribute to conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder. His lab combines behavioural neuroscience with tools such as miniature microscopes and optogenetics to investigate how brain circuits control stress responses. Dr. Pennington is also committed to open science and accessibility, developing ezTrack, a free, open-source behavioural tracking platform used by researchers worldwide. His interdisciplinary, hands-on approach reflects his background in psychology and passion for creative problem solving.

> "I love how dynamic being a scientist is. In a single day, I can go from mentoring a student, to running an experiment, to analyzing data, to writing a manuscript."

DR. MILAN VALYEAR



Dr. Milan Valyear is an Assistant Professor in UBC's Department of Psychology. His research focuses on studying the brain mechanisms underlying motivation, reinforcement and disengagement. His lab combines neuroscience, behavioural experiments and emerging technologies to investigate how the brain drives us to act, and when we stop. This work may provide insights into conditions such as addiction, alcohol use disorder and binge eating. Driven by a longstanding curiosity about how things work, Dr. Valyear has pursued innovative approaches throughout his training, including chemogenetic and optical methods for studying neural circuits. He brings the same spirit of experimentation and discovery to mentoring the next generation of researchers.

> "New techniques empower us to resolve old questions and ask new questions. I wanted to be at the forefront of these efforts."

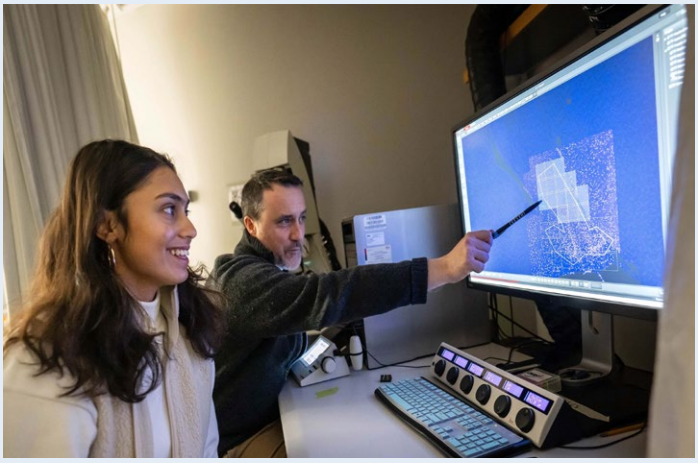
DR. HAO-TING WANG



Dr. Hao-Ting Wang is an Assistant Professor in Data Science in UBC's Department of Psychiatry. Her research combines cognitive neuroscience, neuroimaging and machine learning to better understand brain function in neurodegeneration and mental health. She completed her PhD in Cognitive Neuroscience at the University of York and is a core developer of Nilearn, an open-source Python library for machine learning in neuroimaging. Her research focuses on developing reliable, reproducible approaches to analyzing brain imaging data and exploring how brain activity relates to behaviour. Dr. Wang is particularly interested in naturalistic neuroimaging, which examines brain function in real-world contexts, with the goal of developing tools that can bridge technical and clinical research.

> "At the end of the day, we want to understand the brain so we can help people. The whole point of research is to have real-world impact."

CORE FACILITY UPDATES



NEUROIMAGING AND NEUROCOMPUTATION CORE (NINC)

The NeuroImaging and NeuroComputation Core (NINC) celebrated its 10th anniversary as a hub for advanced imaging, computation and collaboration at the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health. Launched in 2015 with a Leica SP8 confocal microscope, the NINC has grown into an essential resource for neuroscience researchers under the leadership of Drs. Tim Murphy and Kurt Haas. It provides cutting-edge technologies, technical expertise and support for experimental design, data analysis and method development.

Through major investments including the in vivo Assessment of the neuroProjectome (iMAP) project, the NINC has expanded its capabilities with three-photon microscopy, functional ultrasound, multiphoton mesoscopy and lattice lightsheet microscopy. The UBC Genes, Cells and Circuits (UBC-GC2) platform is further expanding research capabilities across molecular, cellular and neural circuit scales.

Beyond its advanced infrastructure, the NINC's greatest strength is the community that it supports. More than 20 research laboratories are part of the NINC, with researchers logging more than 140,000 hours using its resources between 2022 and 2025. Its weekly Databinge forum, established in 2016, supports knowledge sharing, collaboration and problem-solving across disciplines.

As the NINC enters its second decade, new investments in automated tissue clearing, advanced microscopy and spatial transcriptomics will further expand research into brain organization and neural circuits.



CORE FACILITY FOR NEUROLOGY BIOMARKER INNOVATION

The newly opened Core Facility for Neurology Biomarker Innovation (CFNBI) is expanding the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health's capacity to develop accessible, blood-based tools for neurological disease. Led by Dr. Cheryl Wellington, this first-of-its-kind facility in Canada is housed at UBC Hospital and brings together specialized technologies and expertise to accelerate biomarker discovery and translation.

Blood-based biomarkers can provide a window into changes occurring in the brain while offering a faster, less invasive and more accessible alternative to some traditional diagnostic approaches. The CFNBI houses advanced protein detection platforms capable of measuring more than 120 brain and inflammatory markers simultaneously, as well as portable technology that can measure brain injury biomarkers from a single drop of blood in approximately 15 minutes.

The facility builds on more than a decade of collaborative research by Dr. Wellington and her team. Since 2016, the CFNBI team has published 51 papers and supported more than 70 collaborative projects involving over 142 partners, contributing to more than $75 million in research funding, including $16 million directly supporting CFNBI activities.

Collaborative research projects span Alzheimer disease, traumatic brain injury, stroke, spinal cord injury, neuroinflammation, pediatric brain health and healthy aging. By bringing advanced biomarker technologies together under one roof, the CFNBI is helping move discoveries toward more accessible tools for diagnosis, monitoring and patient care.

CORE FACILITY UPDATES

CHARLES E. FIPKE INTEGRATED NEUROIMAGING SUITE

The Charles E. Fipke Integrated Neuroimaging Suite's MRI and PET facilities continue to support a broad range of neuroscience research.

In the past year, the UBC MRI Research Centre supported approximately 60 ongoing studies spanning method development, mechanistic research and clinical applications. Functional MRI is being used to investigate changes in brain organization associated with motor learning (Dr. Lara Boyd), neuromodulation (Dr. Fidel Vila-Rodriguez) and meaningful experiences (Dr. Kalina Christoff Hadjiilieva). Dr. John Kramer's work uses brain and spinal cord imaging to examine changes in structure and spinal cord temperature following spinal cord injury, while clinical trials in multiple sclerosis (MS), Parkinson disease and Alzheimer disease use MRI to help evaluate treatment efficacy.

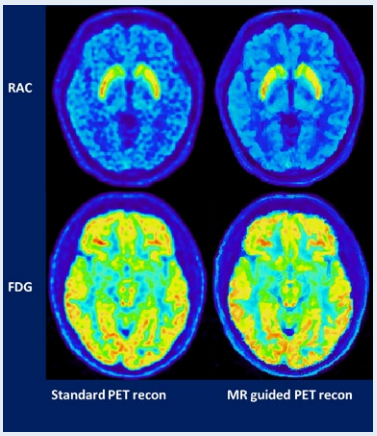
Together, these studies are advancing understanding of how the brain and spinal cord respond to injury, experience and intervention, while exploring how imaging can support the evaluation of new treatments. Dr. Shannon Kolind's lab is also continuing to evaluate the Hyperfine Swoop portable low-field MRI system for applications in MS and brain microbleeds, comparing its performance with the Centre's Philips 3T MRI scanner.

Alongside these research activities, a software upgrade in August 2026 to the Centre's 3T MRI scanner introduced AI reconstruction, enabling high-quality structural brain images to be acquired in less time. The accompanying images illustrate the structural imaging capabilities before and after the upgrade.

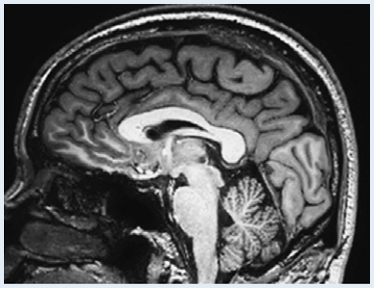
Looking ahead, the Centre's successful Canada Foundation for Innovation application marks an important milestone toward expanding its multinuclear MRI capabilities. Planned enhancements will support new studies using sodium and phosphorus imaging, extending the range of imaging approaches available to its research community.

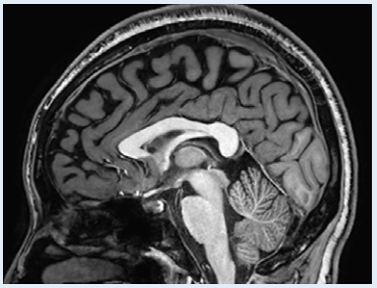
The UBC PET/MRI Imaging Program supported a diverse portfolio of research spanning Parkinson disease, healthy aging, lifestyle effects on disease, brain energetics and methodological innovation. Despite a challenging funding environment, the program remained committed to advancing neuroimaging research through the dedication, expertise and collaborative efforts of the PET/MRI research team.





MR guided PET recon enables the PET resolution to reach the same level as the provided MR image guidance.





On the left, pre-upgrade 0.8mm 3DT1 collected in 5:50 minutes. On the right, post-upgrade 0.6mm 3DT1 also collected in 5:50 minutes (Note that a 0.8mm 3DT1 post-upgrade would take only 3 minutes to collect).

Methodological advances included improvements in dopamine-release modelling, PET image denoising and reconstruction, quantitative approaches to brain energetics and multimodality analysis, strengthening the program's research capabilities and scientific impact. Findings from selected studies provide evidence of disease-induced brain plasticity, potential disease-mitigating effects of exercise and age-related metabolic changes that may be associated with neurodegeneration risk.

The program's most significant ongoing challenges are the sustainability of research funding and reliable access to a range of radiotracers, although ^{18}F-fluorodeoxyglucose (^{18}F-FDG) remains reliably available. Current priorities include diversifying imaging applications, expanding ^{18}F-FDG and MRI-only research, and maintaining readiness for diagnostic imaging initiatives and accreditation. Through these efforts, the program aims to provide sustained access to advanced PET/MRI infrastructure and expertise for the neuroscience research community.

CORE FACILITY UPDATES



BORGLAND FAMILY BRAIN TISSUE AND DNA BANK

The Borgland Biobank provides centralized biospecimen services to researchers at the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health. Led by co-directors Drs. Haakon Nygaard and Silke Appel-Cresswell, the team supports investigator-led studies and clinical trials through biospecimen collection, processing, shipping and secure storage.

In 2026, demand for Biobank services reached new levels and broadened across a growing number of studies. 11 studies used Biobank services, the highest number since tracking began in 2018, including seven new studies. Since July, the Biobank has averaged 16 visits per month, three times the 2018–2024 average of 5.3. Unlike previous years, when activity was often driven by a single large study, no study accounted for more than 28 per cent of visits in 2026.

With support from Biobank Manager Deb McCormack and Research Technician Moones Yadegari, the Biobank collects and processes a range of biology samples for research, including blood, urine, stool and cerebrospinal fluid. Samples are tracked using OpenSpecimen, a secure UBC-hosted platform, and stored in monitored freezers and liquid nitrogen systems to preserve its quality for future studies.

In March 2026, the Biobank expanded its services to include on-site phlebotomy, enabling blood collection, processing and storage in one location. This reduces the need to transport samples between facilities and helps ensure they are consistently handled, tracked and accounted for at every stage.

Since June 2025, 24 new service contracts have been signed, with five additional agreements in progress. This sustained growth reflects increasing demand for reliable biobanking services across the Centre's clinics. With continued institutional support, diverse funding and a strong fee-for-service model, the Biobank is well positioned to build on this momentum and support research across UBC and beyond.



AWARDS



TRAINEE AWARDS

The 2026 Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health Trainee Awards recognize excellence in academics and research activities of our trainees. Special thanks to our donors and the Graduate Program in Neuroscience for their generous support.

Neuroscience Graduate Student Rising Star Award:

- Ciara Ritchie (MSc student)
- Corbin Glufka (PhD student)
- Diba Davoodi (MSc student)
- Eliana Seburn (MSc student)
- Emma Breyak (MSc student)
- Hanna Elford (MSc student)
- Jacqueline Palik (MSc Student)
- Jane Da Young Kong (PhD student)
- Jenniluyn Nguyen (PhD student)
- Lauren Blume (MSc Student)
- Matthew Cooke (PhD student)
- Mohamed Darwish (PhD student)
- Neilan Tan (MSc student)
- Peiying Wen (PhD student)
- Samir Damji (PhD student)
- Sanarya Aljaf (PhD student)
- Vicky (Yi) Gu (PhD student)

George Wayne King Sr. and Beverley King-Dorsey Scholarship in Neuroscience Award:

- Rachael Smith (PhD student)

Leslie Ann Wyman Brain Tumour Research Award:

- Jieun Kim (Postdoctoral Fellow)

Jock & Irene Graham Brain Research Award:

- Emily Ye (MSc student)

PARTNERSHIPS:

The Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health represents a partnership between Vancouver Coastal Health and the Faculty of Medicine at the University of British Columbia. Its aim is to improve patient care, lead the way for new treatments and advance research for people living with debilitating brain diseases and disorders by uniting neuroscience, neurology and psychiatry with interdisciplinary and translational research.

The Centre was made possible with a generous donation from the Mowafaghian Foundation, as well as contributions from other philanthropists and leaders, in addition to those of the federal and provincial governments.

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

The University of British Columbia is a global centre for research and teaching, consistently ranked among the top public universities in the world. Since 1915, UBC's entrepreneurial spirit has embraced innovation and challenged the status quo. UBC encourages its students, staff and faculty to challenge convention, lead discovery and explore new ways of learning. At UBC, bold thinking is given a place to develop into ideas that can change the world.
www.ubc.ca

Vancouver CoastalHealth

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) is responsible for the delivery of $4.1 billion in community, hospital and long-term care services to more than one million people in communities including Richmond, Vancouver, the North Shore, Sunshine Coast, Sea to Sky corridor, Powell River, Bella Bella and Bella Coola. VCH also provides specialized care and services for people throughout BC and is the province's hub of health care education and research..
www.vch.ca

Vancouver CoastalHealth
Research Institute

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI) is the research body of the Vancouver Coastal Health and a world leader in translational health research. VCHRI is academically affiliated with UBC Faculty of Medicine and includes three of BC's largest academic and teaching health sciences centres—Vancouver General Hospital, UBC Hospital and GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre—as well as other hospitals and public health agencies across Vancouver Coastal Health. As one of Canada's top funded research institutes, VCHRI receives over $100 million in research funding annually to support health research and discoveries with direct health, economic and social impact on British Columbians.
www.vchri.ca

Djavad Mowafaghian
CENTRE FOR BRAIN HEALTH

The University of British Columbia
2215 Wesbrook Mall
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z3

centreforbrainhealth.ca

Learn more on how to get involved with research at the Centre: