

Dr. Tom Chamberlain

Supervisor Dr. Alice Mui, General Surgery



Originally from Liverpool, UK, Tom undertook undergraduate and PhD studies at Newcastle University, UK before moving to Vancouver. Here, he took up a post-doctoral position in Dr Alice Mui's lab studying inflammatory signaling pathways with a focus on the negative regulatory cytokine interleukin-10 (IL10) and the inositol phosphatase SHIP1. With a background in Pharmacology, Tom is particularly interested in the Mui lab discovery of small molecule allosteric activators of SHIP1, that mimic the function of IL10, and the therapeutic potential they show in treating inflammatory disorders.

Dr. Yi-Chun Chen

Supervisor Dr. Bruce Verchere, General Surgery



I'm Yi-Chun Chen, working with Dr. Bruce Verchere at BC Children's Hospital Research Institute. I was born in Taiwan, and I finished my undergrad there. Later I moved to the State for graduate studies. I got a MSc from University of Connecticut in cell biology, and finished PhD from Indiana University majored in physiology. My current project at UBC focuses on studying the pancreatic insulin-secreting beta cells during the development of diabetes. Specifically, I am investigating whether beta cells under the pathophysiological conditions produce different forms of peptide hormones, and whether the modified forms of peptide hormones have impacts on the health of pancreatic islets and the progression of diabetes.

Dr. Heather Denroche

Supervisor Dr. Bruce Verchere (General Surgery)



I obtained my Ph.D. from the University of British Columbia, Dept. of Cellular and Physiological Sciences. I study the interaction between immune cells and insulin-producing beta cell of the pancreas in health and diabetes. My research focuses on how macrophages are activated by islet amyloid, which forms in type 2 diabetes and islet transplants, and whether this contributes to the demise of beta cells.

Dr. Wu Yang Jin

Supervisor Dr. Jian Ye, Cardiac Surgery



I'm originally from China with a BSc from Peking University, China and a PhD from University of British Columbia. I work with Dr. Jian Ye in the Division of Cardiac Surgery where we are developing novel peptide therapeutics for acute myocardial infarction.

Dr. Anne Pesenacker

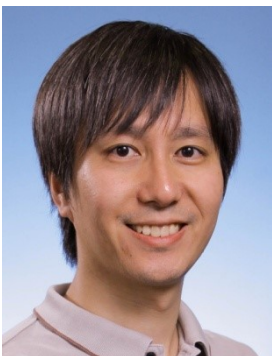
Supervisor Megan Levings, General Surgery



I obtained PhD in Immunology from University College London, UK and joined Dr. Megan Levings lab to study regulatory T (Treg) cells. The Tregs to control autoreactive effector T cells is a major driver of autoimmunity. I am studying how T cells and Tregs control immune responses in human health and in those with diabetes and juvenile idiopathic arthritis, two autoimmune diseases with childhood onset. I use culture assays, in particular using very small cell numbers, flow cytometry, molecular biology and animal models to test Treg functions; how they work, how they are controlled and how we can monitor them. We are currently testing how a gene signature specific for Tregs can be used as a novel disease activity biomarker. Further, I am particularly interested in how co-stimulatory and co-inhibitory signals augment the Treg/ T cell response upon antigen activation and how that balance is altered in autoimmunity.

Dr. Shuga Sasaki

Supervisor Dr. Francis Lynn, General Surgery



I am from Osaka University Graduate School of Medicine in Japan. In Dr. Lynn's lab I study Islet transplantation which is a promising therapy for type 1 diabetes, but is still limited by the supply of donor islets, the need for lifelong systemic immune suppression and graft failure. I aim at genetically improving human embryonic stem cell-derived insulin-producing cells, which could ultimately contribute to the generation of beta cells with a battery of protective mechanisms that enable better function and survival following transplantation.

Dr. Yasaman Lavaie

Supervisor Dr. Jamil Bashir, Cardia Surgery



I hold a M.D degree from Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences from Tehran,Iran.

My project is Anticoagulation management of post-operative atrial fibrillation after cardiac surgery.a prospective ,multicenteric study which evaluate anticoagulation management of atrial fibrillation in patients undergoing open heart surgery (CABG,Valvular or both) and its outcome related to thromboembolic events like stroke,bleeding and mortality.