

## OUR RESEARCHERS



**Dr. Brian Rodrigues**  
UBC - Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences

### Diabetes and Heart Disease

Dr. Brian Rodrigues will be looking at how Lipoprotein Lipase (LPL) controls fat delivery and usage in the heart during diabetes. His team will mimic different states of diabetes in heart models and conduct various tests that will show the mechanisms behind fat delivery and usage, and show how excess fats place a burden on the heart. This will allow the team to identify new targets for therapeutic intervention.



**Dr. Jacqueline Saw**  
Vancouver General Hospital & UBC

### Women's Heart Health and SCAD

SCAD is a poorly understood condition that primarily occurs in young people that are, typically, women. This study will be the largest, most comprehensive study of SCAD in the world. Researchers will rigorously screen patients for underlying causes of SCAD and follow their progress long-term to document recovery. This comprehensive analysis has the potential to provide the information necessary to establish the first set of clinical guidelines to diagnose and treat SCAD.

**PATIENT STORY** | “As the medical team struggled to treat her, at times Sudi felt ready to give up. But she had lost her own mother at the age of two. Looking at her baby, she knew she had to survive. ‘I couldn’t take something so precious from his life.’” [Read Sudi Barre’s story](#)



**Dr. Shubhayan Sanatani**  
BC Children’s Hospital & UBC

### Arrhythmia and Sudden Death in Children

Each year, thousands of otherwise healthy young Canadians, including children, die unexpectedly because of lethal abnormal heart rhythms, called arrhythmia, causing 15% of sudden deaths in young people. People with catecholaminergic polymorphic ventricular tachycardia (CPVT), a genetic disorder that can cause life-threatening arrhythmia, do not show signs of the disease under normal conditions, making it difficult to diagnose or is often misdiagnosed. CPVT is often untreated, and the first indication of the condition is often sudden death.



**Dr. Yu Tian Wang**  
UBC - Centre for Brain Health

### Preventing Brain Damage from Stroke

The focus in Dr. Wang’s laboratory aims to develop new therapeutic targets to protect brain cells against the damages of stroke. By targeting protective pathways in the brain, that signal cell survival, the new compounds to be tested present a potential treatment for brain damage caused by stroke. Overall, this research has the potential to improve the quality of life of patients living with the effects of stroke, and of people that will experience stroke in the future.

**IMPACT** | With the support of donors like you, Dr. Wang’s research has made huge strides, resulting in four new brain medications. [Learn more](#)