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## **Postdoctoral Research Fellow: Epigenetics and Asthma**

**BC Children's Hospital Research Institute  
Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine  
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada**

*Asthma is the most common chronic non-communicable disease. Asthma typically begins in childhood and lasts throughout life. The numbers are striking: asthma affects ~13% of children (~500,000 in Canada) and more than 3 million Canadians of all ages. This high prevalence, combined with significant asthma-related morbidity, leads to a heavy economic and human burden of asthma in Canada and worldwide.*

*Epigenetics offers a mechanism by which environmental exposures in early life can get “under the skin” to regulate the activity of genes relevant to asthma. DNA methylation, an epigenetic mechanism used by cells to control gene expression, is highly changeable during prenatal development and early life, and some of these changes have been correlated to early life events, including the gut microbiome and other environmental exposures. Our goal is to define the relationship between early life environmental exposures, epigenetics, gene expression and clinical outcomes leading to the diagnosis of childhood asthma.*

A postdoctoral position is available to join an energetic and collegial group dedicated to enhancing the health of children. The successful applicant will work at the BC Children's Hospital Research Institute on this exciting collaborative project directed by Drs. Stuart Turvey and Michael Kobor. This position will be translational and interdisciplinary in nature aimed at examining whole genome DNA methylation and global gene expression in a large birth cohort dedicated to defining the origins of asthma.

Applicants should have a recent (<2 years) PhD or MD/PhD with a strong background and publication record in a relevant field (e.g. immunology, genetics, molecular biology). The position will rely heavily on statistical analyses so demonstrated expertise in statistical analysis is required. In addition, either experience in epigenetics or in processing of microarray data would be an asset. The position will commence as soon as possible. The initial appointment will be for a one-year term, with potential for annual renewal. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

*UBC hires on the basis of merit and is committed to employment equity. All qualified persons are encouraged to apply. We especially welcome applications from members of visible minority groups, women, Aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities, persons of minority sexual orientations and gender identities, and others with the skills and knowledge to engage productively with diverse communities. However, Canadians and permanent residents of Canada will be given priority.*

Qualified candidates should send (by email) a statement of research interest, curriculum vitae and contact details for 3 referees to:

Stuart Turvey MB BS DPhil FRCPC  
BC Children's Hospital Research Institute  
University of British Columbia  
950 West 28 Avenue  
Vancouver BC V5Z 4H4

**Email:** [join.turvey.lab@gmail.com](mailto:join.turvey.lab@gmail.com)