

Medical Engineering Students Designing Innovations for a Cause

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October Issue

Welcome back to MEDIC Foundation - Spooky Issue

By [Benjamin Green](#) on October 30, 2021

Welcome back to our new *spooky* issue of our MEDIC foundation newsletter! This month we are going to provide some insight into MEDIC's future outreach plans, share some recent developments in organ transplantation, and introduce our latest outreach event: MEDIC's Wellness Walk! We hope you have a great November, and remember to stay safe and keep some time to yourself this month.

Happy Halloweekend!

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THIS MONTH'S
TOP STORIES

MEDIC Wellness Walk

Summary by [Benjamin Green](#) on October 29, 2021

For our audience out there in university: midterms are upon us! October is the time where classes start to ramp up, and it takes some time to adjust to the new pace. For many the added stress of exams can negatively affect mental wellbeing, which is far more important than a class grade. Regardless of whether you are even in university, the colder weather can come with a lot more stress, so it's important to take care of yourself.

As part of an initiative to encourage healthy strategies to alleviate this mental stress, MEDIC has been planning it's first ever Wellness Walk! Join us at [11 am \(PST\) on Sunday, November 21st](#) to enjoy the sights and smells of Pacific Spirit Regional Park and meet the MEDIC team

outdoors. In order to save time for those midterms, the walk will be about 45 minutes long - just enough time to de-stress and experience the magnificent nature we have here at UBC.

Keep a lookout on our socials: Instagram and Facebook to sign up and learn more!

Time: 11 am (PST) Sunday, November 21st

Where: Pacific Spirit Regional Park, Meet at Westbrook Mall



New York Surgeons Complete the First Successful Pig Kidney Transplant to a Human Patient

Summary by [Dayna Kern](#) on October 30, 2021

On October 21, it was announced that surgeons from New York had successfully attached a pig kidney to a human patient. Within minutes of transplantation the kidney started functioning normally and after 54 hours there were no signs of rejection. The transplanted kidney, along with the pig's thymus gland, had been genetically modified to lack the alpha-gal sugar which triggers the human immune system to attack. This procedure could be revolutionary for future transplants. [In the US, over 100,000 people are on the national transplant waiting list, about 90 percent need a kidney.](#) This statistic is similar in Canada. Despite the progress this surgery could have in the medical community, it does raise many ethical concerns. Specifically, the idea of potentially raising pigs to harvest their organs. Needless to say this is research that will be heavily monitored by both the science and ethics communities.

To view the original press release visit:

<https://nyulangone.org/news/progress-xenotransplantation-opens-door-new-supply-critically-needed-organs>

What's Outreach been up to?

Last month, the outreach team was hard at work brainstorming new projects and events to bring awareness to current health issues and further connect people with the MEDIC foundation.

Without spoiling too much (that would ruin the fun!) The team wants to bring together local leaders in STEM and the biomedical field to host a one-time event open to the public.

We also hope to restart our youth outreach program to introduce students to the biomedical field and share the impacts of STEM on society. While we cannot yet travel in-person to schools, connecting via online video chats will allow us to expand the capacity of the program.

Do you have any ideas for projects that the Outreach team could work on this semester? Please send us a message at outreach.teammedic@gmail.com, we would love to hear it!

MEDIC's New and Improved Website

If you missed it last month... don't forget to check out our new website at medicfoundation.org! Let us know what you think, and if there's anything you'd like to see added to our website! Do you have something you think would be worth featuring or spotlighting next month? Notice any issues viewing or accessing our website? We appreciate all feedback, so don't hesitate to contact us!

Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter and supporting our initiative! Don't forget to tune into next month's issue!

[CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE](#)



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Located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the hənq̓əmin'əm̓-speaking xʷməθkʷəy̓əm people, now known as Vancouver, BC.

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