

# UBC research could help transplant recipients

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[CBC News](#)

Medical researchers at the University of B.C. say they've made a breakthrough that could lead to fewer rejections following organ transplants.

Their discovery centres on the immune systems of recipients, which often attack organs from donors.

UBC Professor Hermann Ziltener said the Vancouver researchers have isolated a special molecule that attracts cells to boost the immune system.

With this discovery, Ziltener says doctors should be able to target the molecule, to make counteracting the immune system easier, with fewer side effects.

"Nobody knew that this molecule had such a role. We now have a more subtle way of blocking the rejection," he told CBC News.

"We can now use this as a new target, and say we have one more approach now to fight and interfere with the immune system, so it can be beneficial in the case of some diseases."

The findings are contained this week in the journal *Nature Immunology*.

Ken Donohue of the B.C. Transplant Society said the molecular discovery is very encouraging.

"It's really important for the public to understand that transplant research and research in general has lasting effects for patients."