



*Brola. PHOTO BY UVIC PHOTO SERVICES*

## We use gold for jewelry, tooth fillings and Olympic medals—and soon for Zika detection

by Patty Pitts

The University of Victoria's Centre for Advanced Materials and Research Technology (CAMTEC) is using gold nanoparticles to detect Zika virus.

Biomedical research is part of a wide spectrum of interdisciplinary work conducted at UVic's CAMTEC.

The centre is a collaboration between UVic's Centre for Advanced Materials and Research Technology (CAMTEC).

Professor Brola is a faculty member in the Department of Chemistry and is also a member of the UVic Centre for Advanced Materials and Research Technology (CAMTEC).

Each year, the centre receives funding from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the BC Knowledge Development Fund.

When he's not developing nanostructures, Brola also participates in "That Chemistry Show" several times a year.

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### EDGEWISE

The viruses that cause Zika infection and dengue fever are both carried by *Aedes* mosquitoes, primarily found in tropical and subtropical regions. *Aedes* mosquitoes are not established in Canada due to our cooler climate.

Zika was first identified in Uganda and Tanzania in 1952. Outbreaks have since been recorded in the Americas, Asia and the Pacific. The World Health Organization describes Zika infection as a serious disease with staying power.

Biomedical research is part of a wide spectrum of interdisciplinary work conducted at UVic's CAMTEC. The chemists, electrical and computer engineers, mechanical engineers and physicists associated with the centre work closely with medical doctors, scientists and engineers from the private and public sectors to develop new technologies and processes for use by industry and hospitals.

Funding for CAMTEC comes from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the BC Knowledge Development Fund.

When he's not developing nanostructures, Brola also participates in "That Chemistry Show" several times a year, along with other UVic faculty members. The popular show—with flashes and bangs and colour-curling potions—is always a hit during UVic's annual 50th anniversary celebrations.