

Publications of the Week

A Biobank of Patient-Derived Pediatric Brain Tumor Models

First Author: Sebastian Brabetz | Senior Author: James Olson (*first row, fourth from right*)
Nature Medicine | Seattle Children's Hospital, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, and UW



The authors generated and comprehensively characterized 30 patient-derived orthotopic xenograft models and seven cell lines representing 14 molecular subgroups of pediatric brain tumors. These models and their molecular characterization provide an unprecedented resource for the cancer community to study key oncogenic drivers and to evaluate novel treatment strategies. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Automated Quantification of Bioluminescence Images

First Author: Alexander Klose (*right*) | Senior Author: Neal Paragas (*left*)
Nature Communications | InVivo Analytics and UW



The authors developed a computer-aided analysis tool for quantitatively determining bioluminescent reporter distributions inside small animals. The core innovations are a body-fitting animal shuttle and a statistical mouse atlas, both of which are spatially aligned and scaled according to the animal's weight, and hence provide data congruency across animals of varying size and pose. [Abstract](#)

Therapeutic Strategies Targeting Connexins

First Author: Dale Laird | Senior Author: Paul Lampe (*pictured*)
Nature Reviews | Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center



Connexins are best known for forming clustered intercellular channels, structurally known as gap junctions, where they serve to exchange members of the metabolome between adjacent cells. The authors review the roles of connexins in health and disease, focusing on the potential of connexins as therapeutic targets in acquired and inherited diseases as well as wound repair, while highlighting the associated clinical challenges. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Dr. Matthias Stephan Named Allen Distinguished Investigator

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center



Fred Hutch immunobioengineer Dr. Matthias Stephan (*pictured*), who is developing the use of immune-cell-programming nanoparticles as a cancer treatment, has been named a 2018 Allen Distinguished Investigator by The Paul G. Allen Frontiers Group, a division of the Allen Institute. He will use the three-year, \$1.5 million award to help take the steps necessary to bring the approach to the clinic to treat lymphoma. [Read More](#)

Two UW Cardiologists Honored at Northwestern University

Institute for Stem Cell & Regenerative Medicine



Two UW cardiologists received honors at Northwestern University's 14th Annual Northwestern Cardiovascular Young Investigator Forum. Dr. Daniel Yang (*pictured*) was presented with the grand prize in the Junior Faculty Basic Science category, receiving \$10,000 to go towards cardiovascular research. Fellow cardiologist Farid Moussavi-Harami was awarded third place for his submission. [Read More](#)

Benaroya Research Institute Awarded Funding for Autoimmune Disease Research in Down Syndrome Population

Benaroya Research Institute



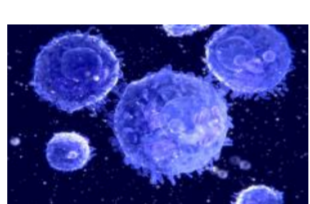
Scientists at the Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason, led by Dr. Jane Buckner (*pictured, middle*), were recently awarded a one-year grant from the NIH to build a Down syndrome (DS) biorepository to research the connection between autoimmune disease and DS. The biorepository, or biobank, is a collection of blood, serum and tissue samples, as well as medical histories, from volunteers with and without autoimmune and immune system diseases. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Seattle Children's Launches Trial Aimed at Solid Cancer Tumors

KING 5 News



One of the indisputable leaders in pediatric immunotherapy, Seattle Children's Hospital, has begun a new approach to ridding kids of solid tumor cancer. The STRIVE-01 trial is currently recruiting children with solid tumor cancer that either couldn't be cured or reoccurred, and what makes STRIVE-01 different from the many trials that have come before is that it targets solid tumors. [Read More](#)

A Comprehensive 'Parts List' of the Brain Built from Its Components, the Cells

Allen Institute for Brain Science



Neuroscientists at the Allen Institute, led by Dr. Hongkui Zeng (*pictured*), have moved one step closer to understanding the complete list of cell types in the brain. In the most comprehensive study of its kind to date, the researchers sorted cells from the cortex, the outermost shell and the cognitive center of the brain, into 133 different "cell types" based on the genes the cells switch on and off. [Read More](#)

Celgene CEO: Treating Cancer Is Becoming 'Ironically Easy' — Now the Problem Is Affordability

GeekWfRe



Cancer treatments have improved astronomically in the past few decades. But as more patients overcome the disease, a different monster is rearing its head: financial toxicity. Speaking at the Life Science Washington Summit, Mark Alles (*pictured*), the CEO and president of biotech company Celgene, said the financial burden of treatment is eclipsing the biological challenges of treating cancer for many patients. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

U.S. Approves First New Type of Flu Drug in Two Decades

The Seattle Times



U.S. health regulators have approved the first new type of flu drug in two decades. Xofluza is a pill that can reduce severity and shorten duration of flu symptoms after just one dose. It was developed by the Roche Group and Shionogi & Co. It works about as well as Tamiflu, Roche's older flu treatment, which is also available in cheaper generic versions. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Seattle

- November 8
6:00 PM

Parenteral Drug Association Pacific Northwest Chapter Kickoff and Welcome Reception
Aptevo Therapeutics
- November 10
9:00 AM

Science in the City: Salmon, Orcas, and Our Changing Ecosystems
Pacific Science Center
- November 13
5:00 PM

Adolescent Mental Health and HIV Keynote Lecture
Husky Union Building
- November 13
7:00 PM

Science in the City: The Surprising Link between Livestock Health and Girls' Education
Pacific Science Center
- November 26
6:00 PM

Science on Tap: Jeff Duda
Ravenna Third Place Bookstore

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Science Jobs in Seattle

- Research Scientist Engineer, Flu Sequencing**
UW Department of Genome Sciences
- Clinical Research Coordinator**
Philips
- Postdoctoral Scientist**
Infectious Disease Research Institute
- Postdoctoral PharmD Fellow, Clinical Scientist**
Seattle Genetics
- Principal Scientist, Immuno-Oncology/Cellular Therapy Translational Development**
Juno Therapeutics

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