

Publications of the Week

Targeting NOTCH Activation in Small Cell Lung Cancer through LSD1 Inhibition

First Author: Amsud Auger (pictured, third from right) | Senior Author: David MacPherson (second from right) | Science Signaling | Fred Hutch and UW



Lysine-specific histone demethylase 1A (LSD1) inhibitors have been previously shown to have selective activity in small cell lung cancer (SCLC) models, but the underlying mechanism was elusive. The authors found that exposure to the selective LSD1 inhibitor ORY-1001 activated the NOTCH pathway, resulting in the suppression of the transcription factor ASCL1 and the repression of SCLC tumorigenesis. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Integrated Functional Genomic Analysis Enables Annotation of Kidney Genome-Wide Association Study Loci

First Author: Karsten Sieber | Senior Author: Shreeram Akilesh (pictured) | Journal of the American Society of Nephrology | Altius Institute for Biomedical Sciences, Phase Genomics Inc. and UW



Although researchers have previously published DNA maps of regulatory regions for kidney tubule cells and glomerular endothelial cells, maps for podocytes and mesangial cells have not been available. The authors generated regulatory DNA maps and paired gene expression profiles from primary outgrowth cultures of human glomeruli that were composed mainly of podocytes and mesangial cells. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Factors Associated with Durable EFS in Adult B-Cell ALL Patients Achieving MRD-Negative CR after CD19 CAR-T Cells

First Author: Kevin Hay | Senior Author: Cameron Turtle (pictured) | Blood | Fred Hutch and UW



CD19 CAR-T cells have produced impressive minimal residual disease-negative complete remission (MRD-negative CR) rates in patients with relapsed/refractory B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (B-ALL). To elucidate the factors associated with durable remissions after CAR-T cells, the authors studied patients with relapsed/refractory B-ALL enrolled in a Phase I/II clinical trial evaluating lymphodepletion chemotherapy followed by CD19 CAR-T cells. [Abstract](#)

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Spotlight

Dr. Aaron Korkegian Talks Tuberculosis and Drug Discovery

Science in Seattle



Dr. Aaron Korkegian (pictured) is a Scientist at the Infectious Disease Research Institute (IDRI) in Seattle working in the field of tuberculosis (TB) drug discovery. Dr. Korkegian sat down with Science in Seattle to discuss the TB pandemic, and what IDRI is doing in collaboration with industry to improve current treatments. [Read More](#)

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Awards

Two Hutch Postdocs Named Damon Runyon-Dale F. Frey Breakthrough Scientists

Fred Hutch



Fred Hutch postdoctoral fellows Drs. Alistair Russell (left) and Tera Levin (right) have been named Damon Runyon-Dale F. Frey Breakthrough Scientists. They first received funding from the Damon Runyon Foundation in 2015. Now, they're among six fellows who merited further funding after exceeding the organization's expectations. [Read More](#)

Genome Scientist Kelley Harris Named Sloan Fellow

UW Medicine



A 2019 Sloan Research Fellowship will help support investigations by early-career scientist Dr. Kelley Harris (pictured) on how modern human genomes evolved and diversified. Harris is studying the recent evolutionary history of humans and other species through the lens of population genetic theory and advances in DNA sequence analysis. She opened her UW Medicine lab in 2018 and is an Assistant Professor of Genome Sciences at the UW School of Medicine. [Read More](#)

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Local News

ISCRM and the UW School of Dentistry Reveal Important New Findings about the Nature of Stem Cells in Human Teeth

Institute for Stem Cell & Regenerative Medicine (ISCRM)



Dr. Ruohola-Baker and her team at the Institute for Stem Cell & Regenerative Medicine set out to investigate the nature of stem cells in teeth. What kinds of stem cells exist in teeth? What are the characteristics of these stem cells? Can the onset of aging be predicted or prevented? And, is it possible to manipulate them for use in actual treatments? [Read More](#)

How Scorpion Venom Helps Improve Brain Cancer Surgery in Children by Making Tumors Glow

GeekWire



Seattle biotech company Blaze Bioscience has raised \$5 million in funding as it pursues a pivotal trial for its "Tumor Paint," a molecule that binds to cancer cells and lights them up to help brain surgeons remove tumors. Blaze is testing the technology on children with central nervous system tumors at Seattle Children's Hospital, where it enrolled its first patient last fall. [Read More](#)

What to Do When Antibiotics Fail? One Possible Treatment Comes from Century Ago

Global News



Increasingly, people are dying of infections that once were easy to treat because many common bugs have evolved to withstand multiple antibiotics. Scientists are racing to find novel alternatives to traditional antibiotics, a hunt that is uncovering unusual ways to counter infection, in unusual places. Dr. Pradeep Singh (pictured) and fellow UW lung specialist Dr. Christopher Goss have zeroed in on iron, a nutrient vital for bacterial growth. [Read More](#)

Drug Giant Merck Pays \$300M to Acquire Seattle Biotech Company Immune Design

GeekWire



Merck, one of the world's largest drugmakers, agreed to buy Seattle-based biotechnology company Immune Design for \$300 million in cash. Immune Design develops therapies to fight diseases using the body's immune system. Merck said the acquisition would boost its capabilities in vaccine development for infectious diseases and cancer. [Read More](#)

IDRI Partners with Afrigen Biologics and Biovac to Produce Tuberculosis Vaccine

Infectious Disease Research Institute (IDRI)



In an effort to produce vaccines where they are needed most, IDRI is collaborating with the Cape Town, South Africa, based biotechnology startup company Afrigen Biologics, founded by the Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa Limited and IDRI, and its production partner the Biovac Institute, a vaccine manufacturer also located in Cape Town, to produce a vaccine for tuberculosis. [Read More](#)

Hope of a Precision Medicine Approach for GBA-Linked Parkinson's Disease

UW Memory and Brain Wellness Center



Dr. Cyrus Zabetian's lab, managed by Dora Yearout (pictured), studies the genetic glitches that steer the trajectory of some patients into cognitive impairment and dementia. They have shown that mutations, and even a common variant, of the GBA gene can lead to a distinct profile of memory and thinking problems in Parkinson's disease patients. They have also found that GBA is especially frequent in the the Colombian population. [Read More](#)

Two-Time Cancer Survivor Tom Bumol on Life after Lymphoma

Allen Institute for Immunology



When Dr. Tom Bumol (pictured) moved into his new office at the Allen Institute, he gave prominent placement on his desk to a few items from his past, including his own trio of PET CT scans. The scans accompany him everywhere. It's a reminder of the whirlwind beginning of 2012 when he woke up with the worst headache of his life and ended up a short time later with a diagnosis of a type of aggressive non-Hodgkin lymphoma. [Read More](#)

IDRI Announces Evolution of Leadership Roles; New Focus on Oncology

Infectious Disease Research Institute (IDRI)



IDRI has expanded its mission and is changing leadership. Steve Reed, PhD (pictured, left), who founded IDRI in 1993 and has held the title of Founder, President & CEO, will continue at IDRI as a Distinguished Investigator. Corey Casper, MD (pictured, right), IDRI's Chief Scientific Officer/Chief Medical Officer, will now serve as interim President and CEO for IDRI. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Seattle

- March 7 7:00 PM Science in the City – The Art of Healing Pacific Science Center
- March 12 9:00 AM Career Development Workshop Agora Conference Center
- March 14 4:00 PM Twist Bioscience Science Mixer 2.0 Gold Bar
- March 15 - 19 9:00 AM Mammalian Sensory Systems Allen Institute
- March 20 8:30 AM From the Laboratory to Leadership Agora Conference Center

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Science Jobs in Seattle

- Staff Scientist, Immunotherapy Fred Hutch
- Principal Bioanalytical Scientist, Cell Therapy Development Juno Therapeutics
- Postdoctoral Research Associate Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason
- Research Scientist II Adaptive Biotechnologies
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