

Publications of the Week

Human DNA-PK Activates a STING-Independent DNA Sensing Pathway

First Author: Katelyn Burleigh | Senior Author: Daniel Ståhlson (pictured)
Science Immunology | UW School of Medicine and Seattle Children's Research Institute



Stimulator of interferon genes (STING) plays a central role in sensing intracellular DNA in mammalian cells. By studying the ability of adenoviral oncoprotein E1A to repress DNA sensing in human cells, the authors have found a STING-independent intracellular DNA sensing pathway that relies on DNA-dependent protein kinase (DNA-PK). [Abstract](#)

Towards a Comprehensive Catalogue of Validated and Target-Linked Human Enhancers

First Author: Molly Gasperini | Senior Author: Jay Shendure (pictured)
Nature Reviews Genetics | UW



The human gene catalogue is essentially complete, but we lack an equivalently vetted inventory of bona fide human enhancers. The authors reviewed emerging technologies for discovering, characterizing and validating human enhancers at scale. They propose a new framework for operationally defining enhancers that accommodates the heterogeneous and complementary results that are emerging from reporter assays, biochemical measurements and CRISPR screens. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Identifying the Root of Prostate Cancer Treatment Resistance Using Liquid Biopsy

Fred Hutch



The V Foundation for Cancer Research has awarded Fred Hutch computational biologist Dr. Gavin Ha (pictured) a 2019 V Scholar Grant to study whether a noninvasive procedure known as a liquid biopsy can help monitor and predict how patients with prostate cancer will respond to therapy. V Scholar Grants are designed to help early-career investigators like Ha pursue high-risk, high-reward ideas. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Mining Coronavirus Genomes for Clues to the Outbreak's Origins

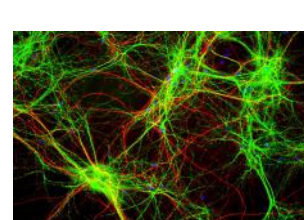
ScienceInsider



Scientists are publicly sharing an ever-growing number of full sequences of the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) from patients. One such researcher is Dr. Trevor Bedford (pictured), a bioinformatics specialist at UW and Fred Hutch who has created coronavirus family trees on nextstrain.org, an open-source pathogen tracking website that he co-founded. [Read More](#)

Schizophrenia Genetics Analyzed in South African Xhosa

UW Medicine



The first genetic analysis of schizophrenia in an ancestral African population, the South African Xhosa, has been reported. The international team was led by investigators at the UW School of Medicine. The study of schizophrenia was carried out in the Xhosa population because Africa is the birthplace of all humans, yet ancestral African populations have rarely been the focus of genetics research. [Read More](#)

New Center to Fund 'Most Exciting' Biomedical Discoveries

UW Medicine



Medical researchers at UW are receiving a new boost to get their ideas off the bench and into the public domain. A new center is being created with \$4 million in matching funds from the National Institutes of Health for promising biomedical discoveries. The Washington Entrepreneurial Research Evaluation and Commercialization Hub (WE-REACH) will provide project funding to fuel four to six biomedical startups a year with up to \$200,000 each. [Read More](#)

From Refugee Camp Wells to Researching Stem Cells

The Daily



Growing up at a United Nations refugee camp in Kenya, Abdiasis Hussein (pictured) recalls waking up at 5 a.m. to wait in line at a water station. When he was about 17-years-old, Hussein and his family had the opportunity to move to California. Today, Hussein is a fifth-year biochemistry PhD candidate in the Ruohola-Baker lab at UW studying embryonic diapause in mice. [Read More](#)

Working to Improve Immunotherapy for Lung Cancer

National Institutes of Health



Many researchers, including the team of Dr. A. McGarry Houghton (pictured) at Fred Hutch, are working hard to extend the benefits of immunotherapy to more cancer patients. His team has looked at the immune cell profiles of tumor samples from dozens of non-small cell lung cancer patients who received PD-1 inhibitors as a frontline immunotherapy treatment. [Read More](#)

A Welcome, Timely Gathering of Scientists in Seattle

The Seattle Times



The 186th annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, to be held in Seattle, will offer an opportunity to explore emerging ideas and hear from some of the world's leading authorities on a broad range of subjects — from agriculture to physics to neuroscience. As many as 10,000 people are expected to attend the annual meeting, which organizers say is the world's largest general scientific gathering. [Read More](#)

'Incredibly Disappointing': Fred Hutch, Feds End HIV Vaccine Trial after Data Shows No Benefit

The Seattle Times



In another blow to the decades-long quest for an HIV vaccine, researchers are pulling the plug on the largest ongoing clinical trial after a review found that the experimental injections provided no protection from the virus that causes AIDS. The \$120 million study, conducted by the HIV Vaccine Trials Network based at Fred Hutch, was launched more than three years ago and involved 5,407 volunteers in South Africa. [Read More](#)

Allen Institute for Cell Science Extends Agreement with Coriell Institute for Medical Research

Coriell Institute for Medical Research



The Allen Institute has extended its contract with the Coriell Institute for Medical Research for the storage and distribution of its Allen Cell Collection, a cutting-edge collection of gene-edited human induced pluripotent stem cell lines. This collection was launched in 2016 with five cell lines, and since has grown to include more than 40 lines. [Read More](#)

Seattle-Based Genome Scientist Gets to 'Play with DNA'

Brotman Baty Institute



Meet Dr. Lea Starita (pictured), a Seattle-based genome scientist who is working to understand how our individual genes impact our health. In this interview with the Brotman Baty Institute, she answers some questions about what she does for work, how she got started in the field, a day in her life, and the best and most surprising parts of her job. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Will Elizabeth Warren's Stance against "Junk Science" Matter to Voters?

Scientific American



One of the top contenders to lead the Democratic Party, Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, has come out with a proposal to keep so-called junk science, supported by industry, out of federal policy decisions. Many scientists have pointed out that misleading research and evidence, raised to new prominence under the Trump administration, has led to environmental and health policies that endanger the public. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Seattle

- February 13 1:00 PM **UW-Seattle 2020 Winter Job & Internship Fair**
Husky Union Building
- February 13-17 8:00 AM **American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Annual Meeting**
Washington State Convention Center
- February 14-16 8:00 PM **Science Comedy with Dr. Matthew Murtha**
Puget Sound Theater
- February 18 7:00 PM **Science in the City – Octopus Intelligence: Untangling a Distributed Brain**
Pacific Science Center
- February 21 7:00 PM **Science of Spirits**
Pacific Science Center

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Science Jobs in Seattle

- Senior Associate Scientist, Analytical Development**
Bristol-Myers Squibb
- Scientist, Cell Line Development**
Seattle Genetics
- Research Scientist IV**
Seattle Children's Research Institute
- Director, Oncology Research**
Gilead
- Research Associate II, Molecular Genetics, Virus Production**
Allen Institute for Brain Science

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STEMCELL Jobs

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STEMCELL Technologies
- Scientific Recruiter (Vancouver, BC)**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Program Lead, Quality Control (Vancouver, BC)**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Field Applications Specialist (Burnaby, BC)**
STEMCELL Technologies
- Program Manager, Research & Development (Vancouver, BC)**
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IDENTIFYING GENETIC VARIANTS IN hPSCs
Webinar by Dr. Florian Merkle




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