

Publications of the Week

RhIR-Regulated Acyl-Homoserine Lactone Quorum Sensing in a Cystic Fibrosis Isolate of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*

First Author: Renae Cruz | Senior Author: Ajai Dandekar (*pictured*)
mBio | UW



The *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* pathogen is a leading cause of airway infection in cystic fibrosis (CF) patients. Dr. Ajai Dandekar (*pictured*) and team at the UW Department of Microbiology have found that in isolates of the pathogen from CF patients, RhIR is a key regulator and may be a possible target for therapeutic intervention. [Abstract](#)

Coevolution of Host-Plasmid Pairs Facilitates the Emergence of Novel Multidrug Resistance

First Author: Hannah Jordt | Senior Author: Benjamin Kerr (*pictured*)
Nature Ecology & Evolution | UW



Multidrug resistance of pathogens is an ongoing public health crisis exacerbated by the horizontal transfer of antibiotic resistance genes via conjugative plasmids. The authors have shown that one stabilizing factor is host-plasmid coevolution under antibiotic selection, using *E. coli* and *K. pneumoniae* communities. In this system, evolution promoted greater plasmid stability in its coevolved host. [Abstract](#)

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Local News

Helping the Developing Brain Chart Its Course

Fred Hutch



Topographic maps make it more efficient for our brains to process incoming sensory information and outgoing motor commands. Working with zebrafish, Dr. Cecilia Moens (*pictured*), a developmental biologist at Fred Hutch, has discovered that time is key in shaping the topographic map that represents the muscles of the throat. [Read More](#)

Donors, Including Bezos, Ballmer and Allen Families, Give \$20 Million for Coronavirus Testing, Research at UW

Seattle Times



Donors and foundations with ties to the Pacific Northwest have given more than \$20 million to boost UW Medicine's coronavirus testing and research. The money will be used to increase capacity at the UW Virology lab, which has processed about 70% of all COVID-19 tests in Washington. It will also help accelerate research on possible treatments and efforts to forecast the course of the pandemic. [Read More](#)

Seattle Genetics Breaks into Breast Cancer with New Approval Tukysa

FiercePharma



Seattle Genetics is officially ready to make its first foray into the breast cancer field, thanks to a brand-new FDA approval. The agency has approved Tukysa (*tucatinib*) in combination with Roche's Herceptin and chemo drug capecitabine for patients with metastatic, HER2-positive breast cancer who have received one or more prior anti-HER2 based regimens. [Read More](#)

How Blood Donations from Recovered COVID-19 Patients Can Help UW Medicine Researchers Fight Virus

The Daily



In partnership with Bloodworks Northwest, UW is seeking plasma donations from recovered COVID-19 patients. Co-lead investigator Dr. Terry Gernsheimer (*pictured*) expressed excitement about moving forward in this time of a serious pandemic to develop a potential new therapy for this infection, which will involve the use of convalescent blood plasma for a process called passive immunization. [Read More](#)

'For Most of Us, the Immune System Does the Impossible': Q&A with an Immunology Expert

Allen Institute for Immunology



Immunologist Troy Torgerson (*pictured*) recently joined the Allen Institute for Immunology, the newest division of the Allen Institute, as the Director of Experimental Immunology. During the current public health crisis, he shares insights on research in the time of coronavirus, why the immune system is so fascinating, and the largest mysteries of human health and disease. [Read More](#)

'A Turning Point in the Fight': UW to Launch Antibody Tests for Coronavirus

KOMO News



Specialists at the UW Medicine Virology Lab are about to take a big step toward curbing the COVID-19 outbreak through a newly developed blood test that can identify people in Washington state who have antibodies to the virus. These tests are expected to significantly improve medical understanding of the virus, including how long antibodies stay in the body and how well they provide immunity. [Read More](#)

Fred Hutch among Grant Recipients from St. Baldrick's Foundation to Fund the Next Generation of Pediatric Oncologists

PR Newswire



The St. Baldrick's Foundation, the largest non-government funder of childhood cancer research grants, has awarded 12 Fellows and 18 Summer Fellows totaling more than \$1.8 million to institutions across the country. Fred Hutch has received a Summer Fellows grant, funding key research into pediatric oncology using state-of-the-art stem cell expansion technology to discover novel cancer therapy targets. [Read More](#)

New Research Projects Aim to Advance COVID-19 Testing & Treatment

Fred Hutch



Two new research projects that aim to advance COVID-19 testing and treatment have launched thanks to a \$350,000 gift from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust to Fred Hutch. The first, led by Dr. Keith Jerome (*pictured*), seeks to massively increase capacity and speed of testing. The second, led by Dr. Andrew McGuire, aims to develop neutralizing antibodies that can stop the virus in its tracks and potentially be used as a first-line treatment for infected individuals. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

Untapped Potential: More US Labs Could be Providing Tests for Coronavirus

Nature News



A survey of more than 4,000 researchers in the United States suggests that better coordination at an institutional and national level could make hundreds of thousands more coronavirus tests available. The survey revealed that several top university laboratories are operating at half their potential capacity when it comes to processing tests for SARS-CoV-2. [Read More](#)

Federal Agencies Are Setting Aside Billions for Coronavirus Research

GeekWire



The White House Office of Science and Technology policy is playing a leading role in focusing the power of artificial intelligence, high-performance computing and other high-tech tools on the fight against coronavirus. Now it's laying out an array of funding opportunities worth billions of dollars to researchers and innovators, of which are outlined in this article. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Seattle

April 29

9:00 AM

Webinar: Mechanisms of Cross-Talk between Histone Ubiquitination and Methylation

Online

April 30

12:00 PM

Fred Hutch Donor Town Hall

Online

May 1

11:00 AM

Pre-/Post-Publication Peer Review

Online

May 8

5:00 AM

NIH Online Career Symposium

Online

May 21

7:30 PM

UW Engage Science: How We Learn, Parasites in the Sound, Tracking Thunderstorms

Online

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Science Jobs in Seattle

Division Chief, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology

UW

Scientific Project and Alliance Manager

Allen Institute for Brain Science

Research Associate II, Bench

Seattle Children's Research Institute

Associate Director, CMC

Chimook Therapeutics

Scientist, Product Sciences, Allogeneic Cell Therapy

Bristol Myers Squibb

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