

Publications of the Week

**A TfR-Binding Cystine-Dense Peptide Promotes Blood-Brain Barrier Penetration of Bioactive Molecules**

First Author: Zachary Crook (pictured, front row, far left) | Senior Author: James Olson  
The Journal of Molecular Biology | Fred Hutch



Cystine-dense peptides (CDPs) are of recent interest as drug-delivery vehicles for central nervous system (CNS) disorders, due to their size, stability, and protein interaction capabilities. The authors highlighted the utility of CDPs as a family worthy of inclusion in modern drug discovery strategies, and demonstrated a candidate CNS drug delivery vehicle, ready for further optimization.

[Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

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Awards

**Dr. Julie Overbaugh Elected to American Academy of Arts & Sciences**

Fred Hutch



The American Academy of Arts & Sciences has announced its 2020 class of new members, including Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center's Dr. Julie Overbaugh (pictured), who studies factors that shape HIV transmission. She becomes the 12<sup>th</sup> Hutch faculty member elected to the Academy and the latest in a spate of outstanding women researchers from the Hutch to be elected. [Read More](#)

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Local News

**Bacteria That Are Persistently Resistant to One Antibiotic Are 'Primed' to Become Multidrug-Resistant Bugs**

UW News



Scientists at UW have discovered just how readily multidrug-resistant (MDR) bacteria can emerge. The researchers reported that, for a bacterial pathogen already resistant to an antibiotic, prolonged exposure to that antibiotic not only boosted its ability to retain its resistance gene, but also made the pathogen more readily pick up and maintain resistance to a second antibiotic. [Read More](#)

**Merck and Institute for Systems Biology Collaborate to Define Molecular Mechanisms of SARS-CoV-2 Infection and Identify Potential Prognostic Biomarkers**

Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp.



Merck and ISB have announced a new research collaboration to investigate and define the molecular mechanisms of SARS-CoV-2 infection and COVID-19, and identify targets for medicines and vaccines. They aim to achieve this by analyzing blood samples and nasal swabs from patients with SARS-CoV-2 alongside a consortium of research organizations and biomedical companies. [Read More](#)

**Avalyn Pharma Secures \$35.5 Million Series B Financing, Broadening Development Portfolio**

Business Wire



Avalyn Pharma Inc. has announced the completion of a \$35.5 million Series B financing. Having just finalised enrollment in a clinical study of two-dose regimens of aerosolized pifrenidone (AP01) in patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, the funding will be used to support the launch of a Phase II/III trial of AP01 in chronic lung allograft dysfunction. [Read More](#)

**Doctors Start Giving Second Round of Shots to Volunteers in Seattle COVID-19 Vaccine Trial**

USA Today



The Seattle volunteers who got shots in the first trial of a possible coronavirus vaccine are now getting the second shot - an indicator the early trial is progressing well. While the doctors at Kaiser Permanente's Vaccine Treatment and Evaluation Unit in Seattle don't know the results of the first round of tests, the fact that it has continued and the second round of injections are now being given is good news. [Read More](#)

**Mysteries of Cell Fate Unlocked with New Measurement and Modeling Techniques**

Institute for Systems Biology



Researchers have known about and studied cellular differentiation for many years, but information about the concentrations of transcription factors in a cell's nucleus has been lacking. In research published in *Molecular Cell*, Dr. Jeff Ranish (pictured, left) and Dr. Mark Gillespie (pictured, right) of ISB provide a unique quantitative framework to understand transcriptional regulation of cell differentiation. [Read More](#)

**Myosana Therapeutics, Inc. Raises Up to \$1M from CureDuchenne Ventures**

Business Wire



Myosana Therapeutics, a new biotech company developing novel platform technology for non-viral gene delivery, raised up to \$1M in seed financing from CureDuchenne Ventures. Myosana will use this initial funding to advance development of its innovative non-viral gene therapy to deliver full length dystrophin for Duchenne muscular dystrophy. [Read More](#)

**Unveiling the Guerrilla Warfare Tactics of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis***

Institute for Systems Biology



Around one quarter of the world's population has latent tuberculosis (TB) - they are infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (MTB), the pathogen that causes TB, but are not yet sick with the disease or able to transmit it. Researchers at ISB have discovered important insights into how MTB enters and eventually exits a dormant state, in the lungs of infected TB patients. [Read More](#)

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**Upcoming Events in Seattle**

- May 7 4:00 PM **CFAR Seminar** Online
- May 8 5:00 AM **NIH Online Career Symposium** Online
- May 14 4:00 PM **GSD: Spring Virtual Meetup** Online
- May 21 7:30 PM **UW Engage Science: How We Learn, Parasites in the Sound, Tracking Thunderstorms** Online
- May 29 All Day **Immuno-Oncology: BD&L and Investment Forum** Online

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**Science Jobs in Seattle**

- Bioinformatician, Cancer Biology**  
Fred Hutch
- Scientist, Immuno-Oncology & Cellular Therapy Late Stage Research**  
Bristol Myers Squibb
- Manager, Quality Control**  
Celgene
- Senior Scientist, Immuno-Oncology**  
OncoResponse
- Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, DNA Break Repair and Recombination**  
Fred Hutch

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