

**Publications of the Week**
**Robust Antibody and Cellular Responses Induced by DNA-Only Vaccination for HIV**

 First Author: Stephen DeRosa (pictured, right) | Senior Author: Juliana McElrath (pictured, left)  
 JCI Insight | Fred Hutch and UW


The authors conducted a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial, evaluating the safety, tolerability and immunogenicity of PENNVAX<sup>®</sup>-GP HIV DNA vaccine, administered with or without plasmid IL-12 (pIL-12). They demonstrated that PENNVAX<sup>®</sup>-GP induced robust cellular and humoral immune responses, with immunogenicity enhanced by electroporation and inclusion of pIL-12. [Abstract](#)

**Reduced Oligodendrocyte Exosome Secretion in Multiple System Atrophy Involves SNARE Dysfunction**

 First Author: Zhenwei Yu | Senior Author: Jing Zhang (pictured)  
 Brain | UW


The authors developed a novel immunocapture technology to isolate blood CNPase-positive, oligodendrocyte-derived enriched microvesicles (OEMVs). They demonstrated that OEMV concentrations were significantly lower in multiple system atrophy patients, compared to Parkinson's disease patients and healthy control subjects. [Abstract](#)

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**Local News**
**Roche Acquires Stratos Genomics to Expand Nanopore Sequencing Technology**

BioSpace



Switzerland's Roche has acquired Stratos Genomics, a genetic sequencing company headquartered in Seattle. Roche is interested in the company's unique chemistry, Sequencing by Expansion. Roche hopes to advance the development of its own nanopore sequencer, which would use a new approach combining electronic and biological components to sequence DNA quickly and at low cost. [Read More](#)

**Injectable HIV Drug Prevents Infections**

Fred Hutch



An international trial of an injectable drug designed to prevent HIV has been halted after an early look at data showed significantly fewer new HIV infections among those given the shots compared to participants assigned a once-a-day pill. Fred Hutch's Dr. Deborah Donnell (pictured) helped to design and manage data from the study, and describes it as "a real win for HIV prevention". [Read More](#)

**David Shoultz Seeks Tech and Science Solutions as Washington Research Foundation Grants Director**

GeekWire



David Shoultz (pictured) joins Washington Research Foundation (WRF) as Director of Grant Programs at a unique time for an organization dedicated to accelerating science and technology innovation. WRF has received a number of grant applications that run the full gamut of ideas and technologies related to the pandemic, including digital health apps, vaccines and diagnostics, but doesn't want this to contort their research focus just to address a COVID-19 angle. [Read More](#)

**A-Alpha Bio Demonstrates Feasibility for Molecular Glue Discovery and Receives Phase II SBIR Funding**

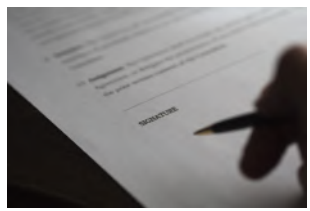
A-Alpha Bio, Inc.



A-Alpha Bio has announced that it has been awarded a National Science Foundation Phase II Small Business Innovation Research grant to continue developing its AlphaSeq platform for the discovery of molecular glues. AlphaSeq is a proprietary drug discovery platform that applies synthetic biology and next generation sequencing to measure up to millions of protein-protein affinities simultaneously. [Read More](#)

**Sensei Biotherapeutics Completes Acquisition of Alvaxa Biosciences, Seattle-Based Camelid Antibody Therapeutics Company**

Business Wire, Inc.



Sensei Biotherapeutics, Inc., a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing precision immuno-oncology therapies, has announced the acquisition of Alvaxa Biosciences, Inc., a Seattle-based camelid antibody therapeutics company with technology licensed from Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. [Read More](#)

**\$3.5M Grant to Develop Safer Treatment for Inherited Blood Disorders**

Fred Hutch



With a new four-year \$3.5 million grant, researchers at Fred Hutch are working toward a safer form of a longstanding treatment for inherited blood disorders. Drs. Roland Walter (pictured, left) and Hans-Peter Kiem (pictured, right) will explore ways to precisely deliver powerful radioactive particles to blood and marrow cells while sparing other non-blood cells and tissues. [Read More](#)

**Teaming Up with Virginia Mason for Rapid COVID-19 Research**

Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason



Scientists at Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason are studying COVID-19 patient blood samples to understand the immune response to the virus and predictors of severity. Dr. Cate Speake (pictured) says next steps are to start looking at whether people who have recovered from COVID-19 are still susceptible, or whether they are all protected from future bouts of infection. [Read More](#)

**Are Children Making Antibodies that Will Protect Against Future COVID-19 Infections?**

Seattle Children's



Dr. Janet Englund (pictured), a member of the Center for Clinical Translational Research at Seattle Children's, has long studied respiratory viruses and their transmission in children. With her collaborators, she quickly proposed supplements to their existing studies primarily focused on seasonal influenza, so they could begin to learn about how the new coronavirus impacts children. [Read More](#)

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**Will Trump White House Tear Down Journal Paywalls? Many Anxiously Await a Decision**

AAAS



Scientific publishers, universities, librarians, and open-access advocates are waiting anxiously to see whether the Trump administration will end a long-standing policy and require that every scholarly article produced with US funding be made immediately free to all. Such a mandate has long been fiercely opposed by some publishers and scientific societies that depend on subscription revenues from journals. [Read More](#)

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**Upcoming Events in Seattle**

June 4 10:00 AM	<b>COVID-19 Research &amp; Commercialization Funding</b> Online
June 8 7:00 AM	<b>STEMCELL - Brain Organoids Virtual Seminar</b> Online
June 8-12 8:00 AM	<b>BIO Digital International Convention</b> Online
June 15-18 9:00 AM	<b>Career Development Workshop</b> Online
June 24-27 8:00 AM	<b>ISSCR 2020</b> Online

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Stratos Genomics
- Scientist, Antibody Discovery**  
Systimmune
- Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Comprehensive Discovery of HIV Latency Factors**  
Fred Hutch
- Scientist I/II, Cortical Circuits**  
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