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Volume 3.44: November 16, 2020

Publications of the Week

Elicitation of Potent Neutralizing Antibody Responses by Designed Protein Nanoparticle Vaccines for SARS-CoV-2

First Author: Alexandra Walls | Senior Author: Neil King (*pictured*) Cell | UW



The authors describe the structure-based design of self-assembling protein nanoparticle immunogens that elicited potent and protective antibody responses against SARS-CoV-2 in mice. The nanoparticle vaccines displayed 60 SARS-CoV-2 spike receptor-binding domains in a highly immunogenic array and induced neutralizing antibody titers 10-fold higher than the prefusion-stabilized spike despite a 5-fold lower dose. Abstract | Press Release

Sox2 Is Necessary for Androgen Ablation-Induced Neuroendocrine Differentiation from *Pten* Null Sca-1⁺ Prostate Luminal Cells

First Author: Oh-Joon Kwon | Senior Author: Li Xin (*pictured*) Oncogene | UW



Researchers showed that both types of mouse prostate luminal cells (castrationresistant Sox2-expressing Sca-1⁺ cells and castration-responsive Sca-1⁻ cells) were susceptible to oncogenic transformation induced by loss of function of the tumor suppressor *Pten*. The tumors derived from the Sca-1⁺ cells were castration resistant and more inclined to develop castration-induced neuroendocrine differentiation. **Abstract**

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Spotlight

Daniel Ellis Talks Protein-Based Nanoparticles and Influenza Vaccines Science in Seattle



Daniel Ellis (*pictured*) is a PhD candidate in the laboratory of Dr. Neil King at the University of Washington's Institute for Protein Design. His research centers on designing a universal influenza vaccine using protein-based nanoparticles. We sat down with Daniel to discuss his research, including the Phase 1 clinical trial that has resulted from it. **Read More**

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Awards

Breast Cancer Researchers from Hutch / UW Cancer Consortium Gain BCRF Funding

Fred Hutch



Seven researchers in the Fred Hutch/UW Cancer Consortium have received grants from the Breast Cancer Research Foundation (BCRF). Drs. Nancy Davidson, Tom Kensler and Ann McTiernan (*all pictured*) are the recipients from Fred Hutch. Their work will focus on almost every aspect of breast cancer, from its genetic drivers and potentially reducible risk factors, to new therapies. **Read More**

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Local News

Research Alliance Co-Founded by Fred Hutch and Microsoft Announces Initial Cancer Studies

GeekWire



A collaboration to share data between top Pacific Northwest cancer research groups has announced its first three projects, focused on genetic analysis for monitoring breast cancer; interactions between gut bacteria and cancer drugs; and machine learning for identifying types of cancers. The consortium was founded in 2019 by Microsoft and Fred Hutch, named the Cascadia Data Discovery Initiative.

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Break It Up: Polymer Derived from Material in Shrimp's Shells Could Deliver Anti-Cancer Drugs to Tumor Sites

UW



A team led by Dr. Miqin Zhang (*pictured*), a UW Professor of Materials Science / Engineering and of Neurological Surgery, has demonstrated that their chitin-derived system can successfully ferry Taxol, a potent anti-cancer drug that is also known as paclitaxel, through the bloodstream and inhibit tumor growth and metastasis, in mice. **Read More**

Adaptive Biotechnologies Is Developing a New Test to Identify COVID-19 Immunity

Built In Seattle



Seattle-based Adaptive Biotechnologies, co-founded by Chad and Harlan Robins (*both pictured*), is working on a new way to identify people who have successfully recovered from COVID-19, which may be a key step to overcoming the virus. Adaptive's research shows that T-cells can play an important role in determining COVID-19 immunity because they stick around much longer than antibodies. **Read More**

The Mammalian Brain Is Built From Many Kinds of Neurons. A New Study Reveals a Holistic Way to Look at Them

Allen Institute



A new lens on visual neurons is laying the groundwork for a more complete "family tree" of the mammalian brain. A team of researchers from the Allen Institute for Brain Science has published a study — the largest of its kind to date — revealing a new categorization of mouse neurons that relies on multiple types of data drawn from each individual cell. **Read More**

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觉 Upcoming Events in Seattle

November 17Cascadia Innovation Corridor8:00 AMOnline

November 18 Hindsight 2020 - The Allen Institute Developmental Recording

Symposium
OnlineSymposium
OnlineDecember 3
6:00 AMCoronavirus Virtual Event Series
OnlineDecember 3 - 9
8:00 AMCell Bio 2020
OnlineDecember 15 - 16
8:00 AMAllen Institute Showcase Symposium 2020
Online

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(Science Jobs in Seattle

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Senior Scientist, Cell Therapy Assay Development Bristol Myers Squibb

PharmD Fellow, Oncology Clinical Scientist Seagen

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