

**Publications of the Week**
**Interplay of Opposing Fate Choices Stalls Oncogenic Growth in Murine Skin Epithelium**

 First Author: Madeline Sandoval | Senior Author: Slobodan Beronja (pictured)  
 eLife | Fred Hutch


To investigate the mechanism of oncogenic tolerance, the authors induced Hras<sup>G12V</sup> in single murine epidermal cells and followed them long-term. They observed that Hras<sup>G12V</sup> promoted an early and transient clonal expansion driven by increased progenitor renewal that was replaced with an increase in progenitor differentiation leading to reduced growth. [Abstract](#)

**Clocks, Cancer, and Chronochemotherapy**

 First Author: Aziz Sancar | Senior Author: Russell Van Gelder (pictured)  
 Science | UW Medicine


Circadian clocks help to coordinate physiological processes with the daily cycles of light and dark and periods of feeding, activity, and rest. Being out of sync with such 24-hour cycles can have unhealthy effects. The authors review the available evidence regarding circadian disruption and predisposition to cancer and circadian variations in response to cancer chemotherapy. [Abstract](#)

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**Local News**
**Scientists Predict Progress against COVID-19, Cancer in 2021**

Fred Hutch



Just as the COVID-19 pandemic dominated our lives in 2020, it was a huge focus for many researchers at Fred Hutch and around the world. That focus is likely to continue in 2021, but the increasing availability of vaccines means that experts forecast a positive shift in the course of the pandemic in the coming year. Fred Hutch talked to researchers about what they are expecting in 2021 — not only in COVID-19, but also in the diseases that we've been facing year after year. [Read More](#)

**UW Medicine Starts Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Trial**

UW Medicine



UW Medicine investigators are starting volunteer enrollment for an investigational COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial. The Phase III study will examine whether the Novavax vaccine candidate can protect against SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus responsible for COVID-19. The site for enrolling participants is the Virology Research Clinic and will enroll up to 1,000 volunteers. [Read More](#)

**AGC Biologics Confirms Cell and Gene Therapy Commercial Expertise as Manufacturer of Orchard Therapeutics' Newly Approved Libmeldy™**

AGC Biologics



AGC Biologics, a leading global biopharmaceutical contract development and manufacturing organization, is the first manufacturer of Orchard Therapeutics' Libmeldy™, which was recently approved by the European Commission as a one-time therapy for eligible patients with early-onset metachromatic leukodystrophy. [Read More](#)

**What You Need to Know about the Newly Detected, More Contagious COVID-19 Variant**

GeekWire



Drs. Trevor Bedford and Deborah Fuller (pictured) discuss the new variant of COVID-19, that appears to be more contagious. The strain — known scientifically by letter and number jumbles including SARS-CoV-2 VOC 202012/01, 501.Y.V.1 or B.1.1.7 — was first detected in the United Kingdom in late September 2020. By November it was the most dominant form of the virus among people infected in Southeast England. [Read More](#)

**Research Yields New Way to Test for Fetal Lung Injury**

UW Medicine



A recent study led by researchers at UW Medicine has shown that an infectious injury to a fetus' lungs can be detected by monitoring for an increase in specific inflammatory proteins in the amniotic fluid. The study suggests that amniocentesis could be used in women with preterm labor to obtain an *in utero* snapshot of fetal lung health. [Read More](#)

**Allen Institute President and Chief Executive Officer, Allan Jones, Ph.D., Announces Plan to Step Down in 2021**

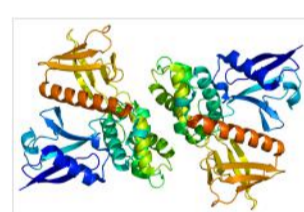
Allen Institute



The Allen Institute's founding CEO, Dr. Allan Jones (pictured), announced he will step down after nearly 18 years with the organization. In 2003, Jones joined the Institute in its planning stages, was promoted the next year to lead the science mission, then became the first Chief Executive Officer in 2010. He will continue to serve as President and CEO until his replacement arrives, at which time he will join the Board of Directors and will be honored by the title President-Emeritus. [Read More](#)

**Designer Protein Patches Boost Cell Signaling**

UW Medicine



A new class of protein material that interacts with living cells without being absorbed by them can influence cell signaling by binding and sequestering cell surface receptors, a new study from the UW School of Medicine shows. This breakthrough could have far-reaching implications for stem cell research and enable the development of new materials designed to modulate the behavior of living systems. [Read More](#)

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**Upcoming Events in Seattle**

- January 14 8:30 AM **CFAR Seminar: A Non-Human Primate Model of ZIKV Co-Infection in People Living with HIV**  
Online
- January 14 5:00 PM **GU Oncology Seminar Series**  
Online
- January 14 - 15 9:00 AM **Neuropixels Workshop**  
Online
- January 22 6:00 PM **Dr. Jim Heath and Dr. Rod Hochman: How Will Healthcare Be Different after COVID?**  
Online
- January 25 8:00 AM **Global Oncology Lecture Series**  
Online

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Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason
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Bristol Myers Squibb
- Lab Manager/Scientist, Protein Chemistry**  
OncoResponse
- Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Immunology**  
Fred Hutch

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