

Publications of the Week

**Conformation-Dependent Blockage of Activated VWF Improves Outcomes of Traumatic Brain Injury in Mice**

First Author: Xin Xu | Senior Author: Jing-fei Dong *(pictured)*  
blood | Bloodworks Research Institute and UW



The authors report results of a study designed to test the hypothesis that von Willebrand factor (VWF) released during acute traumatic brain injury (TBI) is intrinsically hyperadhesive because its platelet-binding A1-domain is exposed and contributes to TBI-induced vascular leakage and consumptive coagulopathy. This hyperadhesive VWF can be selectively blocked by a VWF A2-domain protein to prevent TBI-induced coagulopathy and to improve neurological function with a minimal risk of bleeding. [Abstract](#)

**Residual  $\beta$  Cell Function in Long-Term Type 1 Diabetes Associates with Reduced Incidence of Hypoglycemia**

First Author: Rose Gubitosi-Klug | Senior Author: Jerry Palmer *(pictured)*  
The Journal of Clinical Investigation | UW



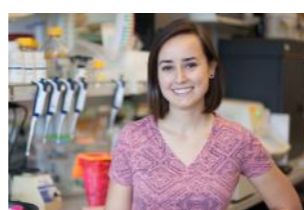
Scientists investigated residual  $\beta$  cell function in Diabetes Control and Complications Trial/Epidemiology of Diabetes Interventions and Complications study participants with an average 35-year duration of type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM).  $\beta$  Cell function can persist in long-duration T1DM. With a peak C-peptide concentration of >0.03 nmol/L, they observed clinically meaningful reductions in the prevalence of severe hypoglycemia. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

**Dr. Stephanie Berger Awarded WRF Translational Funding**

UW Institute for Protein Design (IPD)



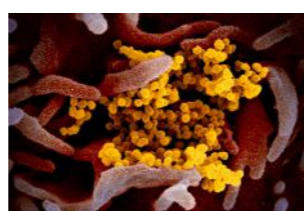
Washington Research Foundation (WRF) has provided a \$250,000 grant to support work carried out by UW IPD's Dr. Stephanie Berger *(pictured)* on a new therapeutic for patients with inflammatory bowel disease. A grant of \$50,500 from WRF in 2019 and an award from Washington Entrepreneurial Research Evaluation and Commercialization Hub (WE-REACH) in 2020 has enabled Berger to conduct early tolerability and efficacy studies for this project. [Read More](#)

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Local News

**What the New Variants Mean for the Future of COVID-19 Vaccines**

The Infectious Disease Research Institute via Inverse



The arrival of two coronavirus vaccines in December allowed the world to breathe a small sigh of relief. But emerging variants of the virus are unwanted variables in an already precarious time. At least three are confirmed to be circulating, stemming from the United Kingdom, South Africa, and Brazil. An unpublished study also suggests a variant has emerged in California. [Read More](#)

**Chinook Receives Rare Pediatric Disease Designation from US FDA for CHK-336 for Primary Hyperoxaluria**

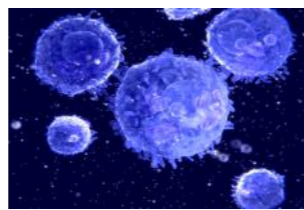
Chinook Therapeutics, Inc.



Chinook Therapeutics, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery, development and commercialization of precision medicines for kidney diseases, announced that the US FDA has granted rare pediatric disease designation for CHK-336, an investigational oral small molecule inhibitor of lactate dehydrogenase A for primary hyperoxaluria. [Read More](#)

**Bristol Myers Squibb's CAR-T liso-cel Wins Long-Delayed FDA Nod**

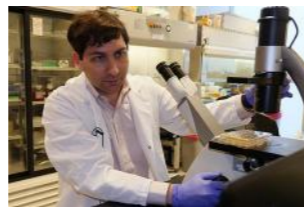
Fierce Pharma



After regulatory delays and manufacturing issues caused Bristol Myers Squibb investors to miss out on Celgene contingent value rights, the closely watched CAR-T drug liso-cel has scored an FDA nod. The agency endorsed the drug, to be called Breyanzi, to treat patients with certain types of large B-cell lymphoma who haven't responded to two other systemic treatments or who have relapsed after receiving those treatments. [Read More](#)

**Q&A with Dr. Benjamin Freedman: Mini Organs Offer Hints to COVID-19's Kidney Injury**

UW Medicine



People hospitalized with COVID-19 can experience a myriad of symptoms. We've heard a lot about the virus' ability to congest lungs, to fog the brain, to inhibit the senses of smell and taste, and to cause crushing fatigue. One of COVID-19's lesser-reported injuries involves kidneys. Dr. Benjamin "Beno" Freedman *(pictured)*, UW Medicine Nephrology researcher, has been studying these injuries since last summer. [Read More](#)

**With \$588M IPO, Sana Leads Wave of New Biotechs Going Public**

Biopharma Dive



Sana Biotechnology, an unusually heavily financed cell and gene therapy developer run by former Juno Therapeutics executives, has raised \$588 million in an initial public offering (IPO), a strong sign that interest in emerging biotechs hasn't waned after a record-setting 2020. The Seattle-based biotech sold 23.5 million shares at \$25 apiece, well ahead of projections it set just last week. [Read More](#)

**Molecular Imaging Determines Effectiveness of Novel Metastatic Breast Cancer Treatment**

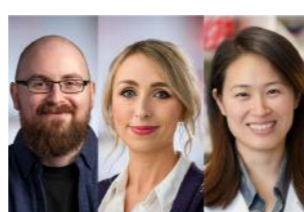
UW



New research published in *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* shows that using an imaging agent called 18F-fluoroestradiol in PET scans can help predict responsiveness to less invasive treatments for patients with ER-positive, HER2-negative metastatic breast cancer. The study was led by Dr. Hannah M. Linden *(pictured)*, Athena Distinguished Professor and Breast Medical Oncologist at the UW Fred Hutch Cancer Research Center and Seattle Cancer Care Alliance. [Read More](#)

**Could Bacterial Enzymes Drive Cancer Formation by Directly Modifying Human DNA?**

Fred Hutch



Our microbiomes, the communities of microbes living in and on our bodies, influence everything from our weight to our cancer risk. But many of the mechanisms that link bacteria to our health remain murky. Now, a multidisciplinary team of scientists at Fred Hutch, including Drs. Chris Johnston *(pictured, left)* and Susan Bullman *(middle)* in partnership with Dr. Angela Ting *(right)* at Cleveland Clinic's Lerner Research Institute, plan to study a new way they suspect some bacteria may be able to cause cancer by modifying human DNA. [Read More](#)

**Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy: Experts Answer Important COVID-19 Vaccine Questions**

Seattle Children's



In December 2020, the US FDA issued Emergency Use Authorizations for COVID-19 vaccines developed by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna. This was hailed as a turning point in the COVID-19 pandemic. Still, many people are hesitant about these new vaccines for a variety of reasons. *On the Pulse* spoke with Seattle Children's experts, Dr. Douglas Diekema and Dr. Douglas Opel. [Read More](#)

**What's Next for T-Cell Therapies: Q&A with Dr. Stanley Riddell**

Fred Hutch



FDA approval of Bristol Myers Squibb's liso-cel for the treatment of non-Hodgkin lymphoma is a milestone in the development of T-cell therapies as potential cures for cancer. Fred Hutch Immunologist Dr. Stanley Riddell *(pictured)* carried out early CAR T-cell research that contributed to the development of this "living drug," made by genetically engineering the patient's own immune cells to target malignant blood cells. [Read More](#)

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 **Upcoming Events in Seattle**

- February 17 12:00 PM **Biostatistics Seminar Series** Online
- February 23 8:00 AM **Global Oncology Lecture Series** Online
- February 23 9:00 AM **Progress on the Pandemic: A Year of Tackling COVID-19** Online
- February 24 10:00 AM **Open for (Neuro)Science Tutorials: New from the Allen Cell Types Database** Online
- March 30 - 31 8:00 AM **Life Science Innovation Northwest** Online

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 **Science Jobs in Seattle**

- Product Manager, Pluripotent Stem Cell Biology**  
STEMCELL Technologies
- Postdoctoral Research Associate, Autoimmune Diseases**  
Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason
- Research Technician II, Vaccines**  
Seattle Children's
- Associate Project Manager, Cell Science**  
Allen Institute for Cell Science
- Senior Director, Clinical Manufacturing and Resources**  
Fred Hutch

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