

Publications of the Week

Cx43 Phosphorylation Sites Regulate Pancreatic Cancer Metastasis

First Author: Joell Solan (pictured, right) | Senior Author: Paul Lampe (pictured, left)
Oncogene | Fred Hutch



Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDA) is aggressive, highly metastatic and characterized by a robust desmoplasia. Connexin proteins that form gap junctions have been implicated in tumor suppression for over 30 years. Cx43, the most widely expressed connexin, regulates cell behaviors, including migration and proliferation. Thus, the authors hypothesized that Cx43 could regulate PDA progression. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Haplotype-Resolved Diverse Human Genomes and Integrated Analysis of Structural Variation

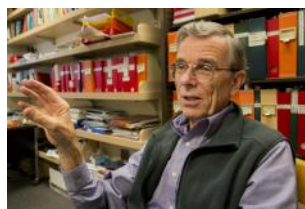
First Author: Peter Ebert | Senior Author: Evan Eichler (pictured)
Science | UW Medicine



Long-read and strand-specific sequencing technologies together facilitate the *de novo* assembly of high-quality haplotype-resolved human genomes without parent-child trio data. The authors present 64 assembled haplotypes from 32 diverse human genomes. They identified 107,590 structural variants (SVs), of which 68% were not discovered by short-read sequencing, and 278 SV hotspots. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

Compartmentalization of Phosphatidylinositol 4,5-Bisphosphate Metabolism into Plasma Membrane Liquid-Ordered/Raft Domains

First Author: Jongyun Myeong | Senior Author: Bertil Hille (pictured)
Science | UW Medicine



Possible segregation of plasma membrane (PM) phosphoinositide metabolism in membrane lipid domains is not fully understood. The authors exploited two differently lipidated peptide sequences, L10 and S15, to mark liquid-ordered, cholesterol-rich (L_o) and liquid-disordered, cholesterol-poor (L_d) domains of the PM, often called raft and nonraft domains, respectively. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Dr. Jennifer Deem Awarded NIH Research Scientist Development Award

UW Medicine



Dr. Jennifer Deem (pictured) has been awarded a National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases-Mentored Research Scientist Development Award for her project entitled "Neurocircuits linking thermoregulation and feeding". This five-year project sought to understand the neurocircuitry linking thermoregulation to energy homeostasis and may identify novel targets for obesity treatment. [Read More](#)

Emma Wrenn Receives Weintraub Award

Fred Hutch



Emma Wrenn (pictured), a graduate student in the Molecular & Cellular Biology program at UW and Fred Hutch, is a 2021 recipient of the Harold M. Weintraub Graduate Student Award for outstanding achievement in the biological sciences. She is one of 13 recipients of the award this year, selected from a competitive pool of candidates from institutions around the world. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Adaptive Biotechnologies Launches T-Detect™ COVID

Adaptive Biotechnologies



Adaptive Biotechnologies, a commercial stage biotechnology company that aims to translate the genetics of the adaptive immune system into clinical products to diagnose and treat disease, announced the launch of T-Detect™ COVID, the first clinical T-cell based test to confirm recent or prior COVID-19 infection. In real-world studies, this first-in-class test outperformed leading antibody tests. [Read More](#)

Umoja Biopharma Appoints Dr. Robert Glassman to its Board of Directors

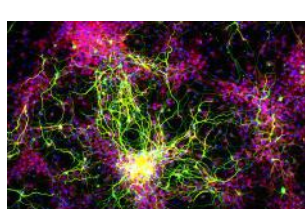
Umoja Biopharma



Umoja Biopharma, a biotechnology company pioneering an integrated, *in vivo* immunotherapy platform, announced the appointment of Dr. Rob Glassman (pictured) to its Board of Directors. "I am excited to be a part of the Umoja team and apply my medical and finance backgrounds in support of the company's key milestones," said Dr. Glassman. [Read More](#)

Building a Better Model of Blindness and Eye Disease

Allen Institute for Cell Science



Researchers published a study outlining exactly where retinal organoids mirror and differ from their real-life counterparts, developing human retinas. They wondered if the problems could arise from the artificial conditions organoids are grown in, but when they kept real retinas alive and growing in the same lab conditions, their inner layers and structures looked just fine. [Read More](#)

Evotec and Chinook Therapeutics Announce Strategic Collaboration

Evotec



Evotec and Chinook Therapeutics announced a strategic collaboration focused on precision medicine therapies for patients with chronic kidney diseases. Based on Evotec's proprietary comprehensive molecular datasets from thousands of patients across chronic kidney diseases of multiple underlying etiologies, Chinook and Evotec will jointly identify, characterize and validate novel mechanisms and discover and develop precision medicines. [Read More](#)

Presage Biosciences Raises \$13M and Inks New Deal with Merck for Cancer Drug Tests

GeekWire



Presage Biosciences announced \$13 million in funding as well as new collaborations with Merck and Maverick Therapeutics. Presage is a biotech device company that has built a platform for testing new cancer drugs used to treat tumors. The company launched in 2009 as a Fred Hutch spinoff built on technology developed by Fred Hutch oncologist Dr. Jim Olson (pictured). [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Seattle

- March 9 8:00 AM **Open for (Neuro)Science: Tutorials and Symposium** Online
- March 9 3:00 PM **Screening of "Picture a Scientist"** Online
- March 9 4:00 PM **SEP Hutch@Home Speaker Series** Online
- March 10 12:00 PM **Time Management Webinar** Online
- March 11 5:00 PM **GU Oncology Seminar Series** Online

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Science Jobs in Seattle

- Research Associate, Raw Material Testing**
Bristol Myers Squibb
- Scientist, Synthetic Biology**
A-Alpha Bio
- Research Technician I-II, Cell Biology**
Fred Hutch
- Staff Scientist**
Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason
- Research Technician, Genomics**
Phase Genomics

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