

Publications of the Week

Activated Interleukin-7 Receptor Signaling Drives B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in Mice

First Author: Kerri Thomas (*pictured, right*) | Senior Author: David Rawlings (*left*)
Leukemia | Seattle Children's, Brotman-Baty Institute for Precision Medicine, and UW



Philadelphia chromosome-like acute lymphoblastic leukemia is a high-risk subtype of B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia often associated with genetic variants that alter cytokine receptor signaling, including mutations in the interleukin-7 receptor (*IL7R*). To investigate whether *IL7R* variants are leukemia-initiating, the authors built mouse models expressing activated *IL7r*. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Pharmacologic Modulation of RNA Splicing Enhances Anti-Tumor Immunity

First Author: Sydney Lu | Senior Author: Robert Bradley (*pictured*)
Cell | Fred Hutch and UW



Alterations in RNA splicing within cancer cells could result in neoepitope production. However, the endogenous antigenicity and clinical potential of such splicing-derived epitopes have not been tested. Here, the authors demonstrate that pharmacologic modulation of splicing via specific drug classes generates bona fide neoantigens and elicits anti-tumor immunity. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

Resolution of Tissue Signatures of Therapy Response in Patients with Recurrent GBM Treated with Neoadjuvant Anti-PD1

First Authors: Yue Lu and Alphonsus Ng (*pictured*) | Senior Author: James Heath
Nature Communications | Institute for Systems Biology



The authors report on a comparative analysis of tumor tissues collected from patients with recurrent glioblastoma (GBM) and high-risk melanoma, both treated with neoadjuvant checkpoint blockade. They develop a framework to investigate the pathophysiological and molecular factors within the tumor microenvironment that influence treatment response. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

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Awards

Dr. Michele Andrasik and Fred Hutch Researchers Win Awards

Fred Hutch



Fred Hutch unveiled two new awards honoring employees who embody the Hutch's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion in research. Dr. Michele Andrasik (*pictured*), Dr. April Randhawa, and Kathy Briant each received an inaugural Inclusive Leadership and Excellence Award, while Dr. Beverly Torok-Storb received the first Humanity in Science Leadership Award. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Silverback Therapeutics Announces Clinical Supply Agreement with Regeneron to Evaluate SBT6050 in Combination with Libtayo®

Silverback Therapeutics



Silverback Therapeutics has announced a clinical supply agreement with Regeneron for Libtayo®. The supply agreement supports the evaluation of Libtayo®, a PD-1 inhibitor, in combination with SBT6050, the first of a new class of targeted immuno-oncology agents designed to direct a TLR8 agonist linker-payload to activate myeloid cells in tumors expressing moderate to high levels of HER2. [Read More](#)

Epsilon Variant Mutations Help Spur COVID Immune Evasion

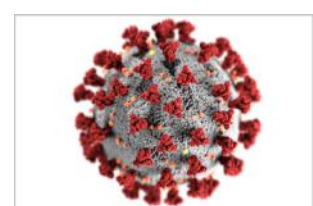
UW Medicine Newsroom



Mutations give the Epsilon coronavirus variant a means to evade specific monoclonal antibodies used in clinics and reduces the effectiveness of antibodies from the plasma of vaccinated people. To better understand the exact immune escape strategies at work, UW scientists including Dr. David Veessler (*pictured*) visualized this variant's infection machinery. [Read More](#)

Icosavax, Which Is Developing COVID-19 Vaccines, Files for IPO

GeekWire



Icosavax has filed to go public via an IPO. The company, a spin-out from the UW's Institute for Protein Design, is developing vaccines to resemble naturally occurring viruses. The company's two COVID-19 vaccine candidates are built from spherical nanoparticles studded with 60 copies of a major viral component, a bit of the spike protein. [Read More](#)

Seattle's HDT Bio to Start US Clinical Trials of Its COVID-19 Vaccine Candidate

GeekWire



An experimental COVID-19 vaccine in development by HDT Bio will enter early-stage clinical trials in the US. The Phase 1 trial will enroll 60 volunteers and will assess safety and the strength of the immune response against the vaccine. The HDT RNA is additionally powered to make multiple copies of itself, which has the potential to yield a more potent shot with lower doses, and at lower costs. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Seattle


July 13 4:00 PM	Research Roundtable with Dr. Naeha Subramanian Online
July 15 6:00 PM	Healing through Music Online
July 19 12:00 PM	Introduction to Clinical Research Boot Camp 2021 Online
July 22 10:30 AM	Allen Institute Distinguished Seminar Series: Lin Tian Online
August 6 8:00 AM	Absher Kids' Cup Washington National Golf Club

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Science Jobs in Seattle

- Research Administrator, Clinical Research**
Fred Hutch
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Bristol Myers Squibb
- Senior Director, Medicinal Chemistry**
Gilead
- Clinical Research Associate, Immunotherapy**
Seattle Children's
- Scientist, AAV Gene Therapy**
Allen Institute for Brain Science

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