

**Publications of the Week**
**PGD<sub>2</sub> and CRTH2 Counteract Type 2 Cytokine–Elicited Intestinal Epithelial Responses during Helminth Infection**

 First Author: Oyebola Oyesola | Senior Author: Elia Tait Wojno *(pictured)*  
 Journal of Experimental Medicine | Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason Medical Center and UW


The authors show that mice deficient in the prostaglandin D<sub>2</sub> (PGD<sub>2</sub>) receptor CRTH2 and mice with CRTH2 deficiency only in nonhematopoietic cells exhibited enhanced worm clearance and intestinal goblet cell hyperplasia following infection with the helminth *Nippostrongylus brasiliensis*, showing that the PGD<sub>2</sub>–CRTH2 pathway negatively regulates the Type 2 cytokine–driven epithelial program.

[Abstract](#)
**An Actin-Related Protein That Is Most Highly Expressed in *Drosophila* Testes Is Critical for Embryonic Development**

 First Author: Courtney Schroeder *(pictured)* | Senior Author: Harmit Malik  
 eLife | Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and Howard Hughes Medical Institute


The authors show that Arp53D localizes to fusomes and actin cones, two germline-specific actin structures critical for sperm maturation, via a unique N-terminal tail, and find that male fertility is not impaired upon *Arp53D* loss, yet population cage experiments reveal that *Arp53D* is required for optimal fitness in *Drosophila melanogaster*.

[Abstract](#)
**Allergic Aspects of IgG4-Related Disease: Implications for Pathogenesis and Therapy**

 First Author: Despina Michailidou | Senior Author: Grant Hughes *(pictured)*  
 Frontiers in Immunology | UW


IgG4-related disease (IgG4-RD) is a rare systemic fibroinflammatory disease frequently associated with allergy. The pathogenesis of IgG4-RD is poorly understood, and effective therapies are limited. The authors review allergy-like features of IgG4-RD and highlight targeted therapies for allergy that have potential in treating patients with IgG4-RD.

[Abstract](#)
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**Awards**
**Kelly Stevens Selected for National Academies New Voices Cohort**

Institute for Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine (ISCRM) at UW



ISCRM faculty member Dr. Kelly Stevens *(pictured)* is one of 22 early career leaders nationwide selected by the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine for the 2021-2023 New Voices Cohort. Dr. Stevens is an Assistant Professor of Bioengineering and Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. Working at the intersection of biofabrication and regenerative biology, the Stevens lab develops technologies to map and assemble artificial human organs.

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**Local News**
**bluebird bio Receives EC Approval for SKYSONA™ (Elivaldogene Autotemcel, Lenti-D™) Gene Therapy for Patients Less than 18 Years of Age with Early Cerebral Adrenoleukodystrophy (CALD) without Matched Sibling Donor**

Institute for Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine at UW



bluebird bio, Inc. announced that the European Commission has granted marketing authorization of SKYSONA™, a one-time gene therapy for the treatment of early CALD in patients less than 18 years of age with an *ABCD1* genetic mutation, and for whom a human leukocyte antigen-matched sibling hematopoietic stem cell donor is not available.

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**Study Links Autism to New Set of Rare Gene Variants**

UW Medicine



Researchers report the finding of a new set of ultra-rare gene variants that increase a child's risk of developing autism. To find these ultra-rare variants, they examined the genome sequences of nearly 3,500 families that had at least one child with autism spectrum disorder. They limited their search to changes in the genes that would likely disable the gene, called likely-gene disruptive variants. Dr. Evan Eichler *(pictured)*, UW Professor of Genome Sciences, led the team that conducted the study.

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**Umoja Biopharma Expands Management Team with Key Hires in Research and Business Development**

Umoja Biopharma



Umoja Biopharma, an oncology company leveraging its proprietary integrated technologies to reprogram immune cells *in vivo* to create next-generation immunotherapies for the treatment of solid tumors and hematologic malignancies, announced the appointments of three new hires in the company's research and business development functions, including Dr. Bruce Kerwin *(pictured)* as Senior Vice President of Process and Product Development.

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**Life Science Washington Announces Retirement of President and CEO, Dr. Leslie Alexandre**

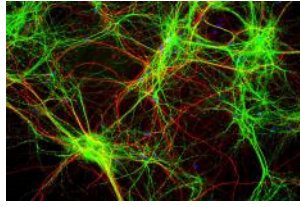
Life Science Washington



Life Science Washington, the state's life science industry association, announced President and CEO Dr. Leslie Alexandre *(pictured)* will be retiring at the end of 2021. Until then, Dr. Alexandre will continue to lead the association, and its closely affiliated Life Science Washington Institute, while Life Science Washington's board searches for the next leader to drive the organization forward.

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**Brain Scientists Unveil Wiring Diagram Containing 200,000 Cells and Nearly Half Billion Connections in Tiny Piece of a Mouse's Brain**

Allen Institute for Brain Science



A team of neuroscientists and engineers at the Allen Institute, Princeton University and Baylor College of Medicine has just released a collection of data that marries a 3D wiring diagram with the function of tens of thousands of neurons to create the most detailed examination of mammalian brain circuitry to date. The dataset maps the fine structures and connectivity of 200,000 brain cells and close to 500 million synapses all contained in a cubic millimeter chunk of mouse brain.

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**New Study Finds Many Cancer Patients Have No Antibodies to Measles or Mumps**

Fred Hutch



Long before COVID-19 burst into the world, there was another viral disease that topped Dr. Steven Pergam *(pictured)*'s list of worries: measles. A new study underscores his reasons for concern. To find out how much protection cancer patients have against measles and mumps, the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center physician-scientist, along with Hutch biostatistician Elizabeth Krantz, led a project to assess the levels of antibody protection against those viruses in that population.

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**Upcoming Events in Seattle**

August 10 11:00 AM	<b>Science Says</b> Online
August 14 7:00 PM	<b>Auction of Washington Wines Virtual Live Auction</b> Online
August 17 5:00 PM	<b>A Celeb-Studded Event to Support Research</b> Paramount Theatre
August 19 4:30 PM	<b>Life Science Washington Annual Summer Social</b> Conference Center
August 20 10:00 AM	<b>Become a Wildlife Scientist</b> Online

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**Science Jobs in Seattle**

- Quality Assurance Associate**  
Seattle Cancer Care Alliance
- Clinical Research Technologist**  
Fred Hutch
- Clinical Research Coordinator**  
Seattle Children's
- Director, Global Regulatory CMC Cell Therapy**  
Bristol Myers Squibb
- Research Scientist, Medicinal Chemistry**  
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