Volume 4.30: August 9, 2021

Publications of the Week

Characterization of Neoantigen-Specific T Cells in Cancer Resistant to Immune Checkpoint Therapies

First Author: Shamin Li *(pictured, second from right)* | Senior Author: Evan Newell *(pictured, third from right)*
PNAS | Fred Hutch and UW

The authors characterize neoantigen-specific $CD8^+$ T cells in a tumor that is resistant to immune checkpoint blockade (ICB) treatment and neoantigen vaccination. They showed that a robust neoantigen-specific T cell response in the Lewis Lung carcinoma tumor model could fail in tumor response to ICB, which will have important implications in designing future immunotherapeutic strategies.
Profile | Abstract

RNA Splicing Factors SRRM3 and SRRM4 Distinguish Molecular Phenotypes of Castration-Resistant Neuroendocrine Prostate Cancer

First Author: Mark Labrecque | Senior Author: Colm Morrissey *(pictured)*
Cancer Research | UW and Fred Hutch

The authors interrogated the regulation of RE1-silencing transcription factor (REST) and elucidated molecular programs driving amphicrine prostate cancer and small cell or neuroendocrine prostate cancer biology. Their results nominate serine/arginine repetitive matrix protein 3 as the principal REST splicing factor expressed in early neuroendocrine differentiation. **Abstract**

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Awards

Robert Bradley Receives $250,000 from Washington Research Foundation to Develop Small Molecules to Boost Immunotherapies

EIN Presswire

Dr. Robert Bradley *(pictured)* has been awarded a $250,000 technology commercialization grant to develop small molecules that have the potential to improve immunotherapies for a broad range of cancers. Dr. Bradley has demonstrated a novel approach to force tumor cells to produce more neoantigens and therefore give a needed boost to immune checkpoint therapy. His team at Fred Hutch is collaborating with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center for this project.
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Local News

'We've Been Instrumental': How Seattle Became a Hub for COVID-19 Vaccine Research

GeekWire

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, University of Washington scientist Deborah Fuller *(pictured)* did a quick pivot to the new virus. Her skills in vaccine research had been honed for many years on HIV, a tricky virus that has eluded the best attempts at vaccine design. Dr. Fuller is just one of many Seattle-area vaccine scientists that have focused their studies on COVID-19, building on the region's deep roots in vaccine research on HIV and other tough-to-beat pathogens.
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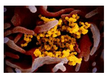
How Studies of Coronavirus Immunity Can Inform Better Vaccines, Treatments

Fred Hutch



To develop vaccines and therapies that protect against a shape-shifting virus and its future variants, we need to understand critical interactions between our immune systems and SARS-CoV-2. Scientists around the world, including at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, are delving into our immune response and the virus' attempts to sidestep it. **Read More**

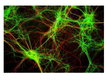
Sonoma Biotherapeutics Raises $265M to Advance Therapies for Autoimmune, Inflammatory Diseases

GeekWire

Seattle and South San-Francisco based preclinical biotech company Sonoma Biotherapeutics, led by CEO Jeffrey Bluestone *(pictured)*, has raised $265 million in new funding, the company announced Wednesday. The funding will be used to advance its programs aiming to treat autoimmune and inflammatory conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis and type 1 diabetes. **Read More**

Alzheimer's Study Explains How Tau Pathology Affects Brain Cells

UW Medicine Memory and Brain Wellness Center



Tau is a substance that builds up in the brains of people developing Alzheimer's disease as well as other neurodegenerative diseases called tauopathies, including corticobasal degeneration and types of frontotemporal degeneration. A study, led by the Kraemer Lab's Dr. Pamela McMillan, a research scientist in the Department of Psychiatry in the UW School of Medicine, shows how tau pathology interferes with genetic expression in brain cell structures called 'nuclear speckles'.
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New Concerns about Coronavirus Evolution in Immunosuppressed Patients

Fred Hutch

In the wake of findings that COVID-19 virus variants are more likely to spring from patients with weakened immune systems, leading medical experts are calling for heightened precautions in the treatment of such individuals and better, more intensive therapies to help them fully recover from their disease. Renowned virologist Dr. Larry Corey *(pictured)* of Seattle's Fred Hutch and colleagues raised their concerns in a commentary published by the *New England Journal of Medicine*. **Read More**

Adaptive Biotechnologies Appoints Nitin Sood as Chief Commercial Officer

Adaptive Biotechnologies Corporation

Adaptive Biotechnologies announced the appointment of Nitin Sood *(pictured)* to the position of Chief Commercial Officer. Nitin brings more than 15 years of proven commercial experience at leading life sciences and diagnostics companies, most recently at Guardant Health. At Adaptive, he will apply his past experience growing and scaling businesses that apply next-generation sequencing and technology to cancer and other diseases to improve the lives of patients. **Read More**

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Upcoming Events in Seattle

August 14 7:00 PM	**Auction of Washington Wines Virtual Live Auction** Online
August 17 5:00 PM	**A Celeb-Studded Event to Support Research** Paramount Theatre
August 19 4:30 PM	**Life Science Washington Annual Summer Social** Conference Center
August 20 10:00 AM	**Become a Wildlife Scientist** Online
August 23 11:00 AM	**Basic Cardiovascular Sciences Scientific Sessions 2021** Online

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