

Publications of the Week
A Conditioned Place Preference for Heroin Is Signaled by Increased Dopamine and Direct Pathway Activity and Decreased Indirect Pathway Activity in the Nucleus Accumbens

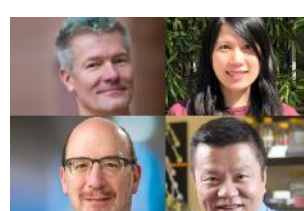
First Author: Timothy O'Neal | Senior Author: Susan Ferguson (pictured) | Journal of Neuroscience | Center for Integrative Brain Research, Seattle Children's Research Institute, and UW



How nucleus accumbens signaling guides heroin conditioned place preference (CPP), and whether heroin alters the balance of signaling between direct and indirect pathway medium spiny neurons (dMSNs and iMSNs), remains unknown. The authors integrate fiber photometry for *in vivo* monitoring of dopamine and dMSN/iMSN calcium activity with a heroin CPP procedure in rats to begin to address these questions. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Two Diphosphorylated Degrons Control C-Myc Degradation by the Fbw7 Tumor Suppressor

First Authors: Markus Welcker (pictured, top left) and Baiyun Wang (top right) | Senior Authors: Ning Zheng (bottom right) and Bruce Clurman (bottom left) | Science Advances | UW, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and Fred Hutch



c-Myc (Myc) is a cancer driver whose abundance is regulated by the SCF^{Fbw7} ubiquitin ligase and proteasomal degradation. Fbw7 binds to a phosphorylated Myc degron centered at threonine 58 (T58), and mutations of Fbw7 or T58 impair Myc degradation in cancers. The authors identify a second Fbw7 phosphodegron at Myc T244 that is required for Myc ubiquitylation and acts in concert with T58 to engage Fbw7. [Abstract](#)

Three FDA-Approved Therapies for Chronic GVHD

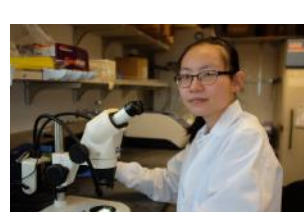
First Author: Robert Zeiser | Senior Author: Stephanie Lee (pictured) | Blood | Fred Hutch



Chronic graft-versus-host disease (cGVHD) involves multiple organs, reduces quality of life and often requires prolonged therapy with glucocorticoids, causing severe side effects. After four decades of testing multiple therapeutic approaches, the drugs ibrutinib, belumosudil and ruxolitinib were FDA-approved for cGVHD in the last four years. The authors put a spotlight on their mechanisms of action, the studies that led to approval, and their future role in cGVHD. [Abstract](#)

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Awards
Dr. Siqi Li Named a 2022 Damon Runyon Fellow

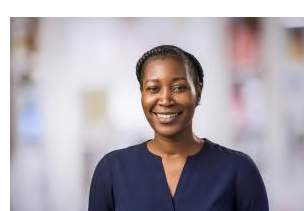
Fred Hutch



Fred Hutch postdoctoral fellow Dr. Siqi Li (pictured) has been named the Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Fellow, one of thirteen 2022 Damon Runyon Fellows. The four-year, \$231,000 fellowship will provide Dr. Li a stipend to support her investigations into the interactions between mutated cells and their normal neighbors that could affect tumor growth. [Read More](#)

Dr. Rachel Issaka Receives the Kathryn Surace-Smith Endowed Chair in Health Equity Research

Fred Hutch



Dr. Rachel Issaka (pictured), a clinical researcher at Fred Hutch, was just named the inaugural recipient of the Kathryn Surace-Smith Endowed Chair in Health Equity Research. The new endowed chair will help advance Dr. Issaka's research, which focuses on reducing colorectal cancer deaths and disparities, particularly among members of racial/ethnic minority groups and low-income populations. [Read More](#)

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Local News
Study: 'Mix-and-Match' Booster Strategy Is Safe, Effective

UW Medicine



In adults who had previously received a full regimen of a COVID-19 vaccine approved or authorized by the Food and Drug Administration, an additional dose of any of these COVID-19 vaccines was safe and prompted an immune response, according to study findings published recently in *The New England Journal of Medicine*. [Read More](#)

'Continuum of Expertise' of International Researchers Examines Pediatric Epilepsy

Brotman Baty Institute (BBI)



Dr. Ghayda Mirzaa (pictured), an Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Genetics at UW and Seattle Children's Hospital, is committed to easing the concerns about seizure control and side effects of medication of parents of children with epilepsy. With funding from the BBI for Precision Medicine and other organizations, she convened a diverse group of experts to explore possible genetic causes of pediatric epilepsy and potential surgical interventions. [Read More](#)

Seattle Children's Welcomes Dr. Mignon Loh to Lead Cancer and Blood Disorders Care and Research

Seattle Children's



Dr. Mignon Loh (pictured) joined Seattle Children's in December, and is leading the Cancer and Blood Disorders Center and directing the Ben Towne Center for Childhood Cancer Research at Seattle Children's Research Institute. "Being integrated with Fred Hutch and the UW will enable us to pursue bigger, more impactful research projects and grants and will shorten the bridge between clinical care and research," Dr. Loh said. [Read More](#)

Promising Young Scientists: Moez Dawood

Brotman Baty Institute (BBI)



Moez Dawood (pictured) is an MD/PHD student at Baylor College of Medicine and is interning at BBI, focusing on saturation genome editing, a CRISPR/Cas9-based method for the high-throughput assessment of the effects of genetic variants. He has numerous opportunities to explore this technology working alongside BBI's Dr. Lea Starita, the Co-Director of the BBI Advanced Technology lab. [Read More](#)

Liver Institute Northwest Participating in RESPONSE, a Global Phase III Clinical Research Study Evaluating an Investigational Therapy for the Treatment of Primary Biliary Cholangitis (PBC)

BioSpace



Liver Institute Northwest is enrolling participants into RESPONSE, a global Phase III clinical research study evaluating the safety and efficacy of seladelpar, an investigational drug for people already diagnosed with PBC who have been using ursodeoxycholic acid (UDCA) but have not achieved the recommended treatment goal or cannot tolerate UDCA. PBC is a chronic, serious and potentially life-threatening liver disease. [Read More](#)

ADCETRIS® Combination Significantly Improves Overall Survival in Newly Diagnosed Patients with Advanced Hodgkin Lymphoma

Seagen



Seagen announced that the Phase III ECHELON-1 clinical trial demonstrated an improvement in overall survival in patients with advanced classical Hodgkin lymphoma. "These groundbreaking results are important for patients with advanced classical Hodgkin lymphoma given that an improvement in overall survival has rarely been shown in frontline treatment of this disease," said Dr. Roger Dansey (pictured), Chief Medical Officer at Seagen. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Seattle

- February 8
12:00 PM
Current Biology Seminar – Dr. Gwendalyn Randolph
Online
- February 10
6:00 PM
Matt Richtel: The New Science of the Immune System
Online
- February 17
4:00 PM
Research Roundtable with Dr. Nitin Baliga
Online
- February 23
8:30 AM
2022 From the Laboratory to Leadership – Spring Program
Online
- February 26
9:00 AM
Women in Science & Engineering Conference
Online

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Science Jobs in Seattle

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- Research Technician II**
Fred Hutch
- Research Associate II, Cancer Biology**
Seagen
- Senior Research Associate II, Oncology**
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