

Publications of the Week

Novel Classes and Evolutionary Turnover of Histone H2B Variants in the Mammalian Germline

First Author: Pravurtha Raman (pictured, center) | Senior Author: Harmit Malik
Molecular Biology and Evolution | Fred Hutch



Variant histones promote specialized chromatin functions, including DNA repair, genome stability, and epigenetic inheritance. Previous studies have identified only a few H2B variants in animals; their roles and evolutionary origins remain largely unknown. Using phylogenomic analyses, the authors reveal the presence of five H2B variants broadly present in mammalian genomes. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Loss of Aly/ALYREF Suppresses Toxicity in Both Tau and TDP-43 Models of Neurodegeneration

First Author: Rebecca Kow (pictured, left) | Senior Author: Brian Kraemer (right)
GeroScience | Geriatrics Research Education and Clinical Center and UW



The authors used transgenic *Caenorhabditis elegans* models of tau or TDP-43 toxicity to investigate the effects of loss of ALYREF function on tau and TDP-43 toxicity. They suggest that although *aly* genes modulate both tau and TDP-43-induced toxicity phenotypes, the molecular mechanisms of suppression are different and separated from impacts on mRNA and protein levels. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

Synaptic Connectivity to L2/3 of Primary Visual Cortex Measured by Two-Photon Optogenetic Stimulation

First Author: Travis Hage | Senior Author: Gabe Murphy (pictured)
eLife | Allen Institute for Brain Science



Understanding cortical microcircuits requires thorough measurement of physiological properties of synaptic connections formed within and between diverse subclasses of neurons. Towards this goal, the authors combined spatially precise optogenetic stimulation with multicellular recording to deeply characterize intralaminar and translaminar monosynaptic connections to supragranular (L2/3) neurons in the mouse visual cortex. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Dr. Christopher Li Receives the Helen G. Edson Endowed Chair for Breast Cancer Research

Fred Hutch



Fred Hutch epidemiologist Dr. Christopher Li (pictured) was recently selected as the inaugural recipient of the Helen G. Edson Endowed Chair for Breast Cancer Research. This endowed chair will support Dr. Li's work to develop better methods for breast cancer detection and his research on preventing metastatic recurrence. "This is an incredible honor, and I am deeply appreciative of having my research and career recognized in this way," Dr. Li said. [Read More](#)

Briana Abrahms Named 2022 Sloan Research Fellow

UW Department of Biology



Dr. Briana Abrahms (pictured), UW Biology Assistant Professor, has been named a 2022 Sloan Research Fellow by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. Dr. Abrahms is among 118 early-career scholars chosen for this fellowship, representing the most promising scientific researchers working today. Winners receive \$75,000, which may be spent over a two-year term on any expense supportive of their research. [Read More](#)

Team of Top Researchers Prepares for Endemic COVID-19

Fred Hutch



The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) has awarded \$15 million for a project involving eight HHMI investigators. Drs. Erick Matsen (pictured, top left), Trevor Bedford (top right), Jesse Bloom (bottom left), and Harmit Malik (bottom right), along with four HHMI Investigators at UW, are sharing a three-year, \$15 million grant to explore new avenues of research focused on the anticipated transformation of COVID-19 from a fast-growing pandemic to a more stable, endemic disease. [Read More](#)

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Local News

'Closing the Gap' Paper Examines BBI's Progress Toward Resolving Genetic Variants of Unknown Significance

Brotman Baty Institute (BBI)



A recent study, led by Shawn Fayer (pictured) at UW Medicine, contributes to "closing the gap" between variants of uncertain significance and variants whose significance or relevance for clinical application are identified or resolved. "This paper underscores the need for greater collaboration between the research and clinical communities," Fowler said. "Our ultimate goal is to examine most, if not all, genetic variants, so our learnings and insights can inform patient care." [Read More](#)

The 'Golden Age' for Research Tools: Parse Biosciences Raises \$41.5M for Single-Cell Tech

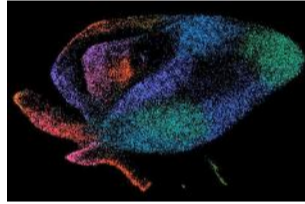
GeekWire



Dr. Alex Rosenberg (pictured) was a postdoctoral fellow at UW when he co-founded a new biotech startup in 2018 and took the helm as CEO. The company is growing fast: Parse Biosciences launched its first products last year and recently announced \$41.5 million in new funding. The company is an entry in the nascent field of single-cell RNA sequencing, where multiple methods have been developed and companies are jostling for long-term dominance. [Read More](#)

Davis Lab Examines a Protein With a Key Role in Scarring

Institute for Stem Cell & Regenerative Medicine



Dr. Jennifer Davis is the lead investigator of a study, published recently in *Cell Stem Cell*, that reveals illuminating details about the role an RNA binding protein plays in the steps that lead to scarring. "The long-term goal is to harness the system [of scarring] for better clinical outcomes. But before we can start changing the system, we have to understand how the system works," said Dr. Darrin Bugg, a postdoctoral fellow in the Davis Lab and first author of the study. [Read More](#)

UW/Fred Hutch CFAR Announces New Co-Director of the Center & New Director of the Biometrics Core

UW/Fred Hutch Center for AIDS Research (CFAR)



The UW/Fred Hutch CFAR has announced that their search process for a permanent Co-Director has resulted in Dr. Jane Simoni (pictured), moving from an interim role to the permanent Co-Director role, effective February 1, 2022. Dr. Simoni is Professor in the Department of Psychology with adjunct appointments in the Departments of Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies, and Global Health. [Read More](#)

Astellas and Seagen Announce Initial Results of PADCEV® (Enfortumab Vedotin-Ejfv) in Patients with Muscle-Invasive Bladder Cancer Not Eligible for Cisplatin Chemotherapy

Seagen



Seagen and Astellas Pharma announced the initial results from Cohort H of the EV-103 trial investigating PADCEV® as a monotherapy in patients with muscle-invasive bladder cancer (MIBC) who are ineligible for cisplatin-based chemotherapy. MIBC is a stage of bladder cancer signified by the tumor spreading into the muscle of the bladder wall. Treatment for MIBC typically combines cisplatin-based chemotherapy with radical cystectomy. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Seattle

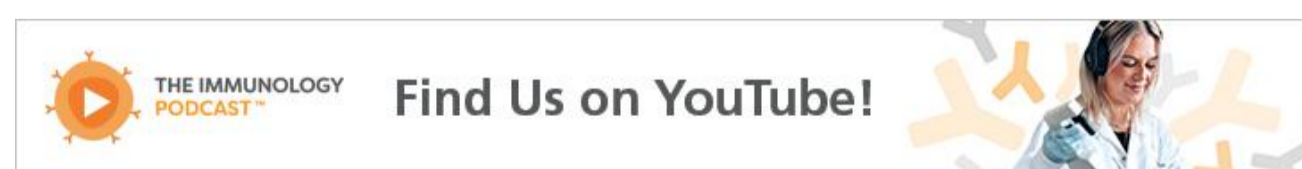
- February 22 12:00 PM **Current Biology Seminar – Dr. Akiko Iwasaki** Online
- February 23 8:30 AM **2022 From the Laboratory to Leadership – Spring Program** Online
- February 26 9:00 AM **Women in Science & Engineering Conference** Online
- February 28 8:00 AM **Global Oncology Lecture Series – Dr. Dan Milner** Online
- March 1 7:00 PM **Science in the City — COVID-19 Vaccinations for the Kids: Questions and Answers** Online

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Science Jobs in Seattle

- Clinical Research Coordinator I-II**
Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason
- Accessioning Specialist II**
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- Research Technician II**
Fred Hutch
- Senior Clinical Quality Operations Specialist**
Chinook Therapeutics
- Associate Director, Cell Biology**
Seagen

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