

Publications of the Week

Upregulated PD-1 Signaling Antagonizes Glomerular Health in Aged Kidneys and Disease

First Author: Jeffrey Pippin | Senior Author: Stuart Shankland *(pictured)*
The Journal of Clinical Investigation | UW and the Institute for Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine



To prove programmed cell death protein 1 (PD-1) signaling was critical to podocyte aging, the authors injected aged mice with anti-PD-1 antibody. Treatment significantly improved the aging phenotype in both kidney and liver. In the glomerulus, it increased the life span of podocytes, but not that of parietal epithelial, mesangial, or endothelial cells. Transcriptomic and immunohistochemistry studies demonstrated that anti-PD-1 antibody treatment improved the health span of podocytes. [Abstract](#)

Clinical Trial Development in TP53-Mutated Locally Advanced and Recurrent/Metastatic Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma

First Author: Cristina Rodriguez *(pictured)* | Senior Author: Shakun Malik
Journal of the National Cancer Institute | UW



As mutations in the TP53 gene are associated with worse outcomes in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC), novel therapeutic approaches are needed for patients with TP53 mutated tumors. The authors summarize the proceedings of the National Cancer Institute-sponsored Clinical Trials Planning Meeting with the goal of developing clinical trials for patients with TP53 mutant HNSCC that can be conducted within the National Clinical Trials Network. [Abstract](#)

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Local News

Seattle Biotech Company Is the First to Receive Approval to Test B Cell Gene Therapy in Humans

GeekWire



Immusoft has received approval to begin clinical trials of its novel strategy for treating genetic disease, the company recently announced. Immusoft says it's the first to get permission to use engineered immune system cells called B cells in a human study. "This is a huge achievement for the company and a historic moment in the field of cell and gene therapies," said Sean Ainsworth *(pictured)*, Immusoft's Chief Executive Officer. [Read More](#)

Using Nanotechnology and AI to Diagnose TB in Children

UW Medicine



A technique that combines nanotechnology with artificial intelligence can diagnose tuberculosis in children in whom the deadly disease might otherwise go undetected, an international team of researchers report. Co-led by Dr. Sylvia LaCourse *(pictured)*, the new test takes advantage of an optical property of gold nanoparticles. This property allows scientists to see when the nanoparticles interact with even extremely small amounts of a target substance. [Read More](#)

Transformative \$78M Gift to Establish New Precision Oncology Institute

Fred Hutch



A transformational commitment by Stuart and Molly Sloan of \$78M to establish the Stuart and Molly Sloan Precision Oncology Institute at Fred Hutch will go toward the recruitment of an Institute Director and scientific programs that will aim to spark innovative new discoveries, and a new building to house the laboratory space and enable technologies critical to those discoveries. [Read More](#)

BBI Researchers to Present at Upcoming IGVF Conference

Brotman Baty Institute (BBI)



BBI will be well-represented at the upcoming conference of the Impact of Genomic Variation on Function (IGVF), September 21 through 23, with presentations by three researchers. The three – Senior Research Scientist Silvia Casadei, MD-PhD student Moez Dawood *(pictured)*, and PhD student Shawn Fayer – will discuss their work on variants of unknown significance and saturation genome editing. [Read More](#)

Roche to Acquire Good Therapeutics' Lead Drug Program for \$250M, Plus Milestone Payments

GeekWire



Pharmaceutical giant Roche will acquire Good Therapeutics, reeling in its lead program six years after the Seattle startup was founded to design drugs that operate only where needed in the body. The deal comes with the potential for future payments based on development, regulatory, and commercial milestones, and includes rights to develop closely related agents based on the platform. [Read More](#)

Ora Biomedical Plans New Drug-Discovery Facility in Seattle Area

Life Science Washington



Ora Biomedical is planting roots in the Puget Sound region with plans to open a drug-discovery laboratory. The company recently announced a \$500,000 pre-seed round from Optispan Ventures, which will help fund a temporary space. Ora Biomedical plans to move into a permanent space at the beginning of 2023, reaching complete operations by May 2023. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Seattle

- September 14 10:30 AM **Distinguished Seminar Series – Corey Hartwell**
Online
- September 14 6:00 PM **Meghan O'Rourke with Jim Heath**
Online
- September 17 9:00 AM **SEP Fall Kick Off 2022**
Online
- September 21 - 23 9:00 AM **Neuropixels and OpenScope Workshop**
Allen Institute
- September 21 12:00 PM **Science Matters Seminar Series**
Online

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Science Jobs in Seattle

- Research Associate III, Human Cell Types**
Allen Institute
- Sample Management Specialist II**
Adaptive Biotechnologies
- Associate Director/Director, Analytical Development, Cell Therapy**
Bristol Myers Squibb
- Research Scientist, Medicinal Chemistry**
Gilead Sciences
- Clinical Research Coordinator II**
Seattle Children's

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