

Publications of the Week

**IL-6-Targeted Therapies Directed to Cytokine or Receptor Blockade Drive Distinct Alterations in T Cell Function**

First Author: Cate Speake | Senior Author: Jane Buckner (pictured)  
JCI Insight | Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason



Therapeutics that inhibit IL-6 at different points in its signaling pathway are in clinical use yet whether the immunologic effects of these interventions differ based on their molecular target is unknown. The authors performed short-term interventions in individuals with type 1 diabetes using anti-IL-6 or anti-IL-6 receptor and investigated the impact of this *in vivo* blockade on T cell fate and function.

[Abstract](#)

**The Role of Mitochondria in the Pathogenesis of Kawasaki Disease**

First Author: Mikayla Backley | Senior Author: Michael Portman (pictured)  
Frontiers in Immunology | Seattle Children's Research Institute and UW



Kawasaki disease is a systemic vasculitis, especially of the coronary arteries, affecting children. Despite extensive research, much is still unknown about the principal driver behind the amplified inflammatory response. The authors hypothesize a framework of mitochondrial determinants that may contribute to ethnic/racial disparities in the progression of Kawasaki disease. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

**Angela Hanson Receives MSTAR Best Research Mentor Award**

UW Medicine



Dr. Angela Hanson (pictured) has been selected to receive the 2022 UCLA Medical Student Training in Aging Research (MSTAR) Best Research Mentor Award. MSTAR is a program that provides medical students short-term research training in aging and geriatrics with successful mentors in the field, with the goal of encouraging medical students to consider careers as physician scientists in aging research. [Read More](#)

**New Grant Enables Further Testing of Reliable, Non-Invasive Pediatric Brain Cancer Platform**

Brotman Baty Institute (BBI)



BBI's Dr. Sarah Leary (pictured, left) and her colleague Dr. Erin Crotty (right) are committed to lowering the number of childhood brain tumors. With Dr. Crotty's new one-year, \$100,000 Emerging Scientist Award from the Children's Cancer Research Fund enabling the expansion of their existing work supported by BBI, they and others at Seattle Children's are making substantial progress toward their shared commitment. [Read More](#)

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Local News

**BBI Faculty Conversations: Dr. Lisa Maves**

Brotman Baty Institute



Dr. Lisa Maves (pictured) is an Associate Professor in the Center for Developmental and Regenerative Medicine at Seattle Children's Research Institute. Here she talks about her journey to science and her research using zebrafish as a model for Duchenne muscular dystrophy and as a model for studying congenital heart defects. [Read More](#)

**Jazz Drops \$50M for Exclusive Rights to Zymeworks' Bispecific HER2 Hopeful**

BioSpace



Jazz Pharmaceuticals and Zymeworks has entered into a \$50 million licensing agreement over zanidatamab, Zymeworks' bispecific antibody targeting HER2. The deal will give Jazz exclusive commercialization and development rights over zanidatamab in the US, Europe, Japan, and all other territories that aren't yet covered by existing licenses. [Read More](#)

**Wayfinder Biosciences Raises \$3.5M to Program RNA**

PR Newswire via Wayfinder Biosciences



RNA design company Wayfinder Biosciences has announced that it raised a \$3.5 million series seed round led by Notation Capital and Divergent Capital to continue its groundbreaking work in the use of RNA as a detection and therapeutic platform. "Wayfinder's platform is reimagining the way we think about RNA from the ground up," said Miled Aluoccal, Head of Life Sciences of BoxOne Ventures and one of the company's first investors. [Read More](#)

**Seattle Startup Developing Therapies Based on Human Milk to Go Public via SPAC Merger**

GeekWire



Seattle startup Intrinsic Medicine plans to go public through a merger with a shell company, Phoenix Biotech. The four-year old biotech startup is developing potential therapeutic compounds matching molecules found in human milk. The deal is expected to raise \$178.8 million through the special purpose acquisition company, known as a SPAC. [Read More](#)

**An Interview with Seher Aftab**

Institute of Translational Health Sciences (ITHS)



Seher Aftab (pictured), Manager of the ITHS Gene and Cell Therapy Lab (GCTL), is a leader on the frontlines of bridging the gap between scientific discoveries and healthcare treatments. The GCTL provides translational researchers with the infrastructure, training, and technical expertise necessary to develop and manufacture gene-modified cells, *ex-vivo* manipulation of cells for novel gene and cell therapy products and stem cell banking. [Read More](#)

**AAK Partners with Arzeda to Transform Oils with Enzymes**

Food Dive



Palm oil is often associated with deforestation as tropical forests have been cleared to make way for oil-producing palms. Edible oils giant AAK has a new solution to this issue. The company recently partnered with Arzeda, a leader in using enzymes to create new proteins, to improve the sustainability and efficiency of plant-based oils. [Read More](#)

**COVID Trial Results Show Diet Exercise Help Some with Dementia**

## COCOA Trial Results Show Diet, Exercise Help Some With Memory

Institute for Systems Biology (ISB)



The two-year, ISB-led Coaching for Cognition in Alzheimer's (COCOA) trial was completed recently, and findings show that diet and exercise can help people suffering from dementia improve. ISB Senior Research Scientist Dr. Jared Roach, the principal investigator of the study, discussed the trial in an ISB Research Roundtable presentation. [Read More](#)

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### Interesting Articles

## Five Life Sciences Trends to Watch for in 2023

Puget Sound Business Journal



Financing and mergers and acquisitions took place at a torrid pace in the life sciences sector at the back end of 2020 and the entire year in 2021. But in 2022, things started to slow down. And there are interesting signs emerging that investors, real estate companies, and individuals in the service sector should be aware of as we glide into next year. [Read More](#)

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### 📅 Upcoming Events in Seattle

- November 8-9  
12:00 pm **Current Biology Seminar**  
Pelton Auditorium and Online
- November 9  
5:30 pm **2022 All-Chamber After Hours**  
Embassy Suites Seattle
- November 10  
12:00 pm **Washington State Medical Device Summit 2022**  
Cascadia College
- November 10  
3:00 pm **Spectacular Spice Science**  
Pacific Science Center
- November 16  
6:00 pm **AWIS: Metaverse, Augmented and Virtual Reality Technologies**  
Fred Hutch

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### 🏢 Science Jobs in Seattle

**Postdoctoral Fellow, Computational Biology**  
Institute for Systems Biology

**Director of Development**  
Institute for Systems Biology

**Data Coordinator II**  
Fred Hutch

**Senior Research Associate, Formulation Development**  
Omara

**Scientist Immunology**  
Seagen

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