

Publications of the Week

Reversible Epigenetic Alterations Mediate PSMA Expression Heterogeneity in Advanced Metastatic Prostate Cancer

First Author: Erolcan Sayar | Senior Author: Michael Häfner *(pictured)*
 JCI Insight | Fred Hutch and UW



Prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA) is an important cell surface target in prostate cancer. There are limited data on the heterogeneity of PSMA tissue expression in metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC). Furthermore, the mechanisms regulating PSMA expression are not well understood. The authors demonstrate that PSMA expression is heterogeneous across different metastatic sites and molecular subtypes of mCRPC. [Abstract](#)

MUC5AC Genetic Variation Is Associated with Tuberculous Meningitis CSF Cytokine Responses and Mortality

First Author: Michelle Sabo | Senior Author: Javeed Shah *(pictured)*
 The Journal of Infectious Diseases | UW and VA Puget Sound Healthcare System



Independent single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in *MUC5B* and *MUC5AC* were assessed for associations with tumor necrosis factor (TNF) concentrations (measured by immunoassay) in cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) from tuberculous meningitis (TBM) patients. SNPs associated with CSF TNF concentrations were carried forward for analyses of pulmonary and meningeal tuberculosis susceptibility and TBM mortality. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Six Researchers Receive \$3.5 Million in Grants from Kuni Foundation

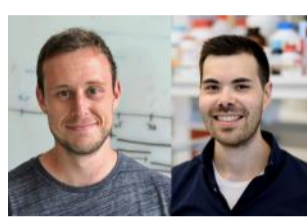
Fred Hutch



Six researchers at Fred Hutch, including Dr. Paul Nghiem *(pictured)*, have received nearly \$3.5 million in grants from the Kuni Foundation, bringing the foundation's support for Fred Hutch to more than \$12 million since 2020. "We're excited about this latest round of bold, visionary projects and honored to support this vital work," said Angela Hult, President of the Kuni Foundation. [Read More](#)

WRF Awards \$498,804 Technology Commercialization Grant to Researchers at University of Washington Institute for Protein Design

Washington Research Foundation (WRF)



Washington Research Foundation has awarded a \$498,804 technology commercialization grant to UW Institute for Protein Design researchers Drs. James Lazarovits *(pictured, left)* and George Ueda *(right)*. The funding will enable them to further develop their "plug and play" antibody cage platform, which converts antibodies into new structures that uniquely bind multiple targets to improve treatment efficacy across a broad range of health conditions. [Read More](#)

CARE Fund Awards Three Distinguished Researchers Grants

Andy Hill CARE Fund



Cancer research breakthroughs occur through the work of talented and well-resourced scientists. The CARE Fund supports recruitment of distinguished researchers from all over the world to bring their best-in-class talent to research organizations and companies in Washington. Thus far, the CARE Fund has awarded fourteen Distinguished Researchers grants, including Dr. Jay Sarthy *(pictured)* at Seattle Children's Research Institute. [Read More](#)

Meet the Promising Scholars of the 2023 KL2 Cohort

Institute of Translational Health Sciences (ITHS)



ITHS is happy to announce the three scholars who make up the 2023 cohort of the KL2 Multidisciplinary Clinical Research Career Development Program: Drs. Julie Boiko, Omeid Heidari, and James Lee *(pictured)*. These early career investigators will benefit from the protected research time, salary support, research funding, mentorship, and translational research training offered by the National Institutes of Health-sponsored KL2 program. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Dead to Me? Insights into a Tumor's Necrotic Core

Fred Hutch



New research by Fred Hutch molecular biologist Ami Yamamoto *(pictured)* in Dr. Kevin Cheung's lab shows that a tumor's necrotic core — a mass of dying and dead cells previously thought to be inconsequential or perhaps even beneficial — contains factors that appear to promote metastasis, or the seeding of tumors cells throughout the body. [Read More](#)

Seagen Stock Rises as Pfizer Reportedly in Talks to Acquire Seattle-Area Biotech Giant

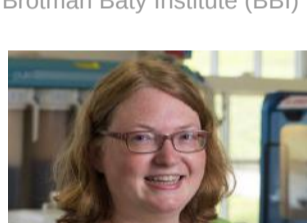
GeekWire



Biopharma giant Pfizer is eyeing an acquisition of Seagen, the biggest biotech company in the Seattle area, according to a report in the Wall Street Journal. Seagen's stock was up more than 12% on Monday. The company is valued at more than \$30 billion and employs about 3,200 people worldwide, including about 1,800 in the Seattle area. [Read More](#)

BBI Faculty Conversations: Dr. Maitreya Dunham

Brotman Baty Institute (BBI)



Dr. Maitreya Dunham *(pictured)* is a Professor of Genome Sciences at UW. In this BBI Faculty Conversations article, she discusses her professional journey, how science fiction helped spur her research interests, and her research in yeast genomics. She also talks about running a research outreach program for high school students. [Read More](#)

A Mysterious Brain Region: The Claustrum

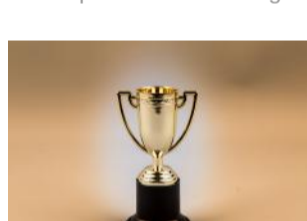
Allen Institute



Recent studies from Dr. Christof Koch and other scientists at the Allen Institute are revealing new insights about how the claustrum connects to the rest of the brain; the kinds of neurons that make it up (one of which is studded with receptors for common psychedelic drugs); and how it influences activity in the cortex, the wrinkled, outermost shell of the brain. [Read More](#)

Seven BioE Teams to Compete in the 2023 Health Innovation Challenge Finals

UW Department of Bioengineering



Congratulations to the seven UW Bioengineering-related teams competing in the 2023 Hollomon Health Innovation Challenge. The Bioengineering students are part of 22 regional finalist teams facing off in the competition. Four of the seven teams are part of the Master's of Applied Bioengineering program. Hosted by the UW Foster School's Buerk Center for Entrepreneurship, the teams are competing for more than \$40,000 in prizes this year. [Read More](#)

Promising Young Scientist: Mentors at Pivotal Times Inspire Mitchell Vollger, an 'Exceptionally Talented Computational Biologist'

Brotman Baty Institute



The phrase "lifelong learner" seems to exemplify Dr. Mitchell Vollger's *(pictured)* passion for his work in genetics, computational biology, and other related fields. "Mitchell takes problems that may have been solved in the past in a very specific way and he takes a very different approach to deal with them in a much more efficient way," said Dr. Evan Eichler, a Professor at UW. [Read More](#)

De Novo Luciferases Created Using AI from Baker Lab, Monod Bio

Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News



De novo enzyme design has been used, primarily, in efforts to introduce active sites and substrate-binding pockets. Now, for the first time, scientists have used machine learning to create brand-new enzymes. A team from the lab of Dr. David Baker *(pictured)*, a Professor at the UW School of Medicine, devised machine-learning algorithms that can create luciferases. [Read More](#)

Signaling Proteins Shown to Play Key Role in TB Biology

UW Medicine



A set of ten signaling proteins found in the microbe that causes tuberculosis (TB) play a far larger role in regulating the bacterium's growth, development, and behavior than previously thought, according to recent research. The study was led by Andrew Frando *(pictured)*, a graduate student, and Dr. Vishant Boradia, a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Christoph Grundner's lab. [Read More](#)

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Special Funding Opportunity for Predoctoral Students & Early Career Investigators

Institute of Translational Health Sciences (ITHS)



The National Institutes of Health are offering unique funding opportunities for early career researchers interested in basic or patient-oriented research related to conditions that co-occur with Down syndrome. These awards will be linked to grants currently held by ITHS, and are open to students enrolled in doctoral programs at institutions of higher education in Washington and early career faculty and postdoctoral investigators. [Read More](#)

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📅 Upcoming Events in Seattle

March 8 8:30 am	From the Laboratory to Leadership – Virtual 2023 Spring Program Online
March 8 - 9 9:00 am	BioBasics 101: The Biology of Biotech for the Non-Scientist 188 E Blaine St Ste 150
March 14 4:00 pm	The Science of Alzheimer's Allen Institute
March 15 4:00 pm	Plenary Session with Otsuka Clenergy Center
March 21 6:30 pm	The Power and Perils of Gene Editing 400 Dexter Ave N.

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📁 Science Jobs in Seattle

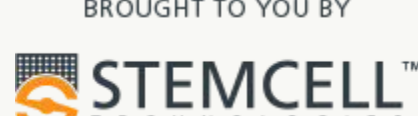
- Senior Manager, QA Operations**
Just - Evotec Biologics
- Senior Research Associate**
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