

Publications of the Week

EXT418, a Novel Long-Acting Ghrelin, Mitigates Lewis Lung Carcinoma Induced Cachexia in Mice

First Author: Haiming Kerr | Senior Author: Jose Garcia *(pictured)*
Journal of Cachexia, Sarcopenia, and Muscle | Veterans Affairs Puget Sound Health Care System and UW



Ghrelin is a potential therapy for cachexia due to its orexigenic properties and anabolic effects on muscle and fat. However, its clinical use is limited by the short half-life of active ghrelin. EXT418 is a novel long-acting, constitutively active ghrelin analog created by covalently linking it to a vitamin D derivative. The authors evaluated the effects and mechanisms of action of EXT418 on Lewis lung carcinoma-induced cachexia in mice. [Abstract](#)

Investigating Thymic Epithelial Cell Diversity Using Systems Biology

First Author: Honyin Chiu | Senior Author: Steven Ziegler *(pictured)*
Journal of Immunology | Benaroya Research Institute



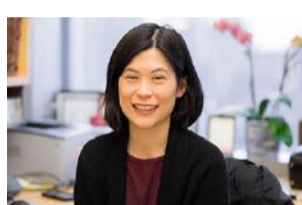
The thymus is an intricate organ consisting of a diverse population of thymic epithelial cells (TECs). Cortical and medullary TECs and their subpopulations have distinct roles in coordinating the development and selection of functionally competent and self-tolerant T cells. In this brief review, the authors focus on the newly characterized subsets of TECs and their diversity in relation to their functions in supporting T cell development. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Congratulations 2023 ITHS Pilot Award Recipients

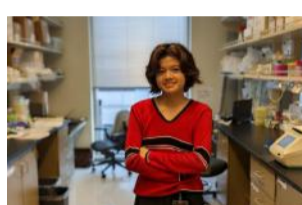
Institute of Translational Health Sciences (ITHS)



The ITHS has announced the recipients of the 2023 Pilot Awards. The Pilot program is designed to inspire innovative and collaborative research aimed at improving overall human health. This year's awardees, including Dr. Suzie Pun *(pictured)*, were selected from a diverse group of applicants whose research spans across translational science spectrum, including basic research, clinical implementation, public health, and clinical and pre-clinical research. [Read More](#)

NIH Grant Advances Alzheimer's Research – And Launches a Career

Institute for Stem Cell & Regenerative Medicine



By isolating loss of tau function from tau aggregation, Tiara Schwarze-Taufiq *(pictured)* has been able to produce a clearer picture of the variables that seem to contribute to complications associated with Alzheimer's disease. The preliminary data from these experiments has led to a National Institutes of Health (NIH) R21 grant which will support a deeper dive into the consequences of tau mutations. [Read More](#)

40 Under 40 Honorees

UW Medicine



Dr. Joshua Liao, Associate Professor in General Internal Medicine and Associate Chair for Health Systems, and Dr. Andrew Stergachis *(pictured)*, Assistant Professor in Medical Genetics, have been selected by the Puget Sound Business Journal as two of its 40 under 40 most important and influential young leaders in the Puget Sound region. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Peripheral Neuropathy: When Having No Pain Is a Big Problem

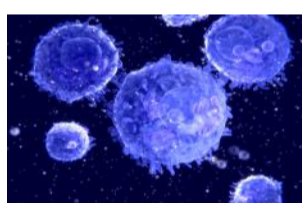
Fred Hutch



Many cancer chemotherapy drugs are life savers, but they can come with side effects of damage to nerves, especially to axons — the long, thready structures that extend through our hands and feet. These are the peripheries where we feel hot and cold, pressures, pleasure, and pain. There are few precise measures of how many cancer patients deal with chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy, but the scope of the problem is clearly enormous. [Read More](#)

Sonoma Bio Inks \$75M Deal With Regeneron to Advance Cell Therapies Against Autoimmunity

GeekWire



Sonoma Biotherapeutics is partnering with Regeneron to co-develop cell therapies for Crohn's disease and other autoimmune conditions. The agreement comes with a \$75 million upfront payment and a potential \$45 million milestone payment to Sonoma by Regeneron. Sonoma's cell therapies take aim at autoimmunity, which results from an overactive immune response. [Read More](#)

Q&A with Seagen Founder Clay Siegall on the Pfizer Deal and His New Biotech Startup

GeekWire



Dr. Clay Siegall *(pictured)* is proud of his legacy as Co-Founder and longtime CEO of Seagen, the largest biotech company in the Seattle area. He co-founded the company then known as Seattle Genetics in 1997, helped bring it public in 2001 and oversaw the approval of four oncology drugs. Last week, Seagen announced plans to sell to Pfizer for \$43 billion, the biggest biopharma acquisition in three years. [Read More](#)

Expansion in WDR7 Gene Linked to Increased ALS Risk

ALS News Today



A potential new genetic risk factor for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) has been discovered by researchers at the UW. The scientists say a mutation in which a region of the *WDR7* gene is repeated more times than usual may increase the risk of ALS. "We believe that this expansion acts as a genetic modifier to disease susceptibility, as in the repeat on its own doesn't cause disease, but it functions in conjunction with other genetic risk factors," said Samuel Smukowski, a researcher on the project. [Read More](#)

Second Fred Hutch Clinic Building Opens in Seattle

Fred Hutch



The new building in South Lake Union comes with new imaging suites, automated parking and a care model that puts patients at the center of everything. "This clinic expansion is just the latest example of our commitment to innovation in cancer care," said Dr. Thomas Lynch. "In addition to our advanced imaging capabilities, we'll be able to take more precise biopsies that will help us learn more about our patients' tumors, fueling our search for better treatments for them and for others in the future." [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Seattle

- April 4
11:45 am

PacSci Ignite Luncheon
Pacific Science Center
- April 5
6:00 pm

Demystifying ChatGPT for Academics
Kane Hall Auditorium 130
- April 11
1:00 pm

New Member Roundtable: Women In Bio Membership Benefits & Speed Networking
Online
- April 25 - 26
8:00 am

Life Science Innovation Northwest 2023
Seattle Convention Center
- April 30 - May 2
8:00 am

Fourth Symposium on Infectious Diseases in the Immunocompromised Host
Marriott Waterfront Seattle

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Science Jobs in Seattle

- Manufacturing Specialist Cell Culture Launchpad**
Seagen
- Research Associate II, Histology, Molecular Anatomy**
Allen Institute
- Quality Assurance Associate I**
nanoString
- Bioinformatics Analyst I**
Fred Hutch
- Senior Manager, QA Operations**
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