

### Publications of the Week

## Comparative Connectomics Reveals Noncanonical Wiring for Color Vision in Human Foveal Retina

First Author: Yeon Jin Kim | Senior Author: Dennis Dacey *(pictured)*  
PNAS | UW



The Old World macaque monkey and New World common marmoset provide fundamental models for human visual processing, yet the human ancestral lineage diverged from these monkey lineages over 25 million years ago. The authors therefore asked whether fine-scale synaptic wiring in the nervous system is preserved across these three primate families, despite long periods of independent evolution. [Abstract](#)

## Assessing Cytoskeletal Destruction During Pyroptosis

First Author: Michael Davis | Senior Author: Michael Gale Jr. *(pictured)*  
Pyroptosis | UW



Pyroptosis is an inflammatory form of cell death driven by the activation of caspase-1 and/or caspase-11 which cleaves and activates the pore-forming and cell-permeabilizing protein gasdermin-D. The authors present the immunocytochemical methods by which they detected and assayed cytoskeletal destruction during pyroptosis. [Abstract](#)

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### Awards

## Rachel Lex Receives ACS Fellowship to Uncover Regional Factors Driving Tumor Development

Fred Hutch



Fred Hutch postdoctoral fellow Dr. Rachel Lex *(pictured)* recently received a fellowship from the American Cancer Society (ACS) to better understand how body location influences cancer. A better understanding of the factors that contribute to regional differences in tumor formation could point the way toward new treatments and improved prevention strategies. [Read More](#)

## 40 Under 40: Andrew Stergachis, University of Washington

Puget Sound Business Journal



Genome mapping made Dr. Andrew Stergachis *(pictured)* feel "like a kid in a candy store, being able to answer all these questions that were fundamental in the field," he said. "All this knowledge we had on the research side was not being fleshed out clinically." His skills as both a clinical geneticist and basic science researcher help him approach questions about the human genome from a unique angle. [Read More](#)

## Undergrad Researcher Hannah Han Is in the Husky 100

Institute for Protein Design (IPD)



UW has announced that IPD undergraduate researcher Hannah Han *(pictured)* is among the 2023 Husky 100. Each year, the Husky 100 recognizes 100 undergraduate and graduate students from the UW Bothell, Seattle, and Tacoma campuses in all areas of study who are making the most of their time at UW. In honor of their many contributions to UW, each member of the Husky 100 is eligible to participate in a range of activities and opportunities offered by UW's on- and off-campus partners. [Read More](#)

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### Local News

## Seattle Children's Launches Pioneering Immunotherapy Clinical Trial Targeting Four Antigens at the Same Time to Combat Pediatric Brain and Spinal Cord Tumors

Seattle Children's



Seattle Children's Therapeutics has launched BrainChild-04, a first-in-human phase 1 clinical trial that will be their first chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell clinical trial that targets four antigens at the same time, by delivering CAR T cells directly to the brain. "We believe this is the first CAR T-cell product in the world to target four antigens at the same time," said Dr. Nicholas Vitanza *(pictured)*, a neuro-oncologist at Seattle Children's. [Read More](#)

## Researchers Discover Molecular Fail-Safe That Keeps Bladder Tissues From Turning Cancerous

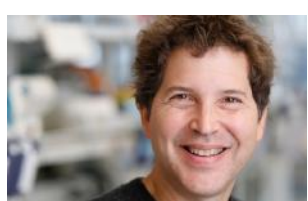
Fred Hutch



Over the decades, scientists have revealed many strategies that keep normal cells from becoming cancerous. Understanding natural anti-tumor processes could help researchers develop better approaches to treat or prevent cancer. Now, Fred Hutch scientists led by Drs. Sujata Jana *(pictured, left)* and Andrew Hsieh *(right)* have discovered a completely new — and counterintuitive — "emergency brake" that bladder cells use to stave off tumors even when cancer-promoting genes are turned on. [Read More](#)

## Reinforcement Learning: From Board Games to Protein Design

UW Medicine



Scientists have successfully applied reinforcement learning to a challenge in molecular biology. A team led by Dr. David Baker *(pictured)* developed powerful new protein design software adapted from a strategy proven adept at board games like chess and Go. In one experiment, proteins made with the new approach were found to be effective at generating useful antibodies in mice. [Read More](#)

## Early Research May Show New Way to Block Dengue and Zika Virus

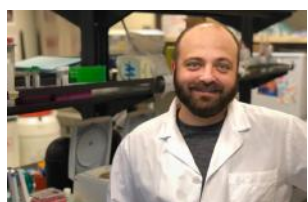
Fred Hutch



Researchers at Fred Hutch have discovered a potent antibody that appears to block all four strains of the mosquito-borne virus that causes dengue fever, a disease that sickens 100 million people every year. This marks the first time a member of family of antibodies known as immunoglobulin A, or IgA, has been shown to inhibit multiple flaviviruses. [Read More](#)

## How This Ukrainian-Born CEO Created a Biotech Startup 'Where Curious Scientists Thrive'

GeekWire



Dr. Ivan Liachko *(pictured)* launched Phase Genomics in 2015 with his longtime friend and Dungeons & Dragons teammate Shawn Sullivan, a former Microsoft engineer. Phase Genomics is now a 26-employee company known for its culture of scientific discovery, giving back to the community, and sequencing the genome of some wacky creatures. At the helm is Dr. Liachko, a finalist for Startup CEO of the Year at the 2023 GeekWire Awards. [Read More](#)

## Seattle Children's Therapeutics Marks Milestone Moment in Fight Against Childhood Cancer

Seattle Children's



Seattle Children's, an international leader in the effort to better treat cancer in children, teens and young adults by boosting the immune system with immunotherapy, is on the verge of enrolling its 500<sup>th</sup> patient in its chimeric antigen receptor T-cell immunotherapy clinical trials in ten years. Support from more than 24,000 donors in all 50 states and across 17 other countries has raised more than \$123 million to date to move this research forward. [Read More](#)

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### 📅 Upcoming Events in Seattle

April 30 - May 2 5:30 PM	<b>Fourth Symposium on Infectious Diseases in the Immunocompromised Host</b> Marriott Waterfront Seattle
May 3 5:30 pm	<b>UW Engage Science 2023</b> The Medhi Reading Room
May 4 6:30 pm	<b>Biomaterials: Cells in Jello and Wonders at Work</b> 400 Dexter Ave N.
May 5 - 6 5:00 pm	<b>Seattle Rare Disease Fair</b> Seattle Children's Research Institute
May 5 6:00 pm	<b>An Evening with Neuroscience 2023</b> Kane Hall and Online

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### 📁 Science Jobs in Seattle

**Research Associate, Analytical Assays**  
Curio Bio

**Senior Bioinformatics Scientist, Translational Research**  
Allen Institute

**Transgenic Animal Core Specialist**  
Fred Hutch

**Associate Director Biostatistics**  
Seagen

**Senior Director, Scientific Market Development**  
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