

Publications of the Week

Siglec-9 Is an Inhibitory Receptor on Human Mast Cells *In Vitro*

First Author: Irina Miralda | Senior Author: Adrian Piliponsky *(pictured)*
The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology | Seattle Children's Research Institute and UW



Mast cell activation is critical for the development of allergic diseases. Ligand of Sialic acid-binding immunoglobulin-like lectins (Siglecs) such as CD33, Siglec-6, -7, and -8 have been shown to inhibit mast cell activation. Recent studies showed that human mast cells express Siglec-9, an inhibitory receptor also expressed by neutrophils, monocytes, macrophages, and dendritic cells. The authors aimed to characterize Siglec-9 expression and function in human mast cells *in vitro*.

[Abstract](#)

A Phase I/II Trial of HER-2/neu Vaccine Primed Autologous T-Cell Infusions in Patients With Treatment Refractory HER-2/neu Overexpressing Breast Cancer

First Author: Mary Disis *(pictured)* | Senior Author: Lupe Salazar
Clinical Cancer Research | UW



High levels of type I T cells are needed for tumor eradication. The authors evaluated whether the HER2 specific vaccine primed T-cells are readily expanded *ex vivo* to achieve levels needed for therapeutic infusion. They found that adoptive transfer of HER2 vaccine primed T cells was feasible, associated with minimal toxicity, and resulted in an increased overall survival in responding patients.

[Abstract](#)

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Awards

Irl Hirsch Recipient of Alan J. Garber Lectureship

UW Medicine



Dr. Irl Hirsch *(pictured)* has been selected as the recipient of the 2023 Alan J. Garber Lectureship for the Prevention and Management of the Complications of Diabetes, to be presented during the American Association of Clinical Endocrinology 32nd Annual Meeting. This lectureship is presented to an individual who has demonstrated exemplary contributions to their individual profession or area of expertise. [Read More](#)

Eric Chudler's BrainWorks Is Nominated for a Northwest 2023 Emmy Award

UW Department of Bioengineering



Congratulations to UW Bioengineering's Dr. Eric Chudler and his team at UW on being nominated for a 2023 Northwest Regional Emmy Award for the program, "BrainWorks – Vision and the Brain." BrainWorks takes viewers on a journey inside the human brain and aims to educate children about the wonders of neuroscience. The program won an Emmy in 2017 for "BrainWorks: Exercise and the Brain" in the Science and Health – Program/Special category. [Read More](#)

Hongkui Zeng Elected to the National Academy of Sciences

Allen Institute



Dr. Hongkui Zeng *(pictured)*, Executive Vice President and Director of the Allen Institute for Brain Science, was elected to the prestigious National Academy of Sciences for her work to understand the cells and connections in the mammalian brain, and leading the development of tools and openly available data resources that accelerate brain research worldwide. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Do People and Monkeys See Colors the Same Way?

UW Medicine



New findings in color vision research imply that humans can perceive a greater range of blue tones than monkeys do. "Distinct connections found in the human retina may indicate recent evolutionary adaptations for sending enhanced color vision signals from the eye to the brain," said the researchers, led by Drs. Yeon Jin Kim and Dennis Dacey. [Read More](#)

Life Sciences Investors Share Tips on Raising Funds and Conserving Cash in a Tight Market

GeekWire



Amid a tightened fundraising environment, life sciences companies should double down on basics like focusing on key projects and getting out data, and look at creative ways to raise capital. Those were some of the take-home messages from venture capitalists and other investors at a panel discussion at the 2023 Life Science Innovation Northwest conference. [Read More](#)

AI and the Future of Human Health: Leroy Hood on the New Age of 'Scientific Wellness'

GeekWire



Biomedicine pioneer Dr. Leroy Hood *(pictured)* says that artificial intelligence (AI) will play a key role in the future of healthcare by accelerating the progress of "scientific wellness," an approach that he has championed for many years. Dr. Hood, Co-Founder of the Institute for Systems Biology (ISB), delves into this approach in his new book, "The Age of Scientific Wellness." [Read More](#)

Beyond the Scale: How Multiomics and Biological BMI Can Help Achieve Optimal Health

Institute for Systems Biology (ISB)



In the mid-1800s, a Belgian mathematician developed what would eventually become the body mass index (BMI). This equation has been an informative tool to determine if an individual is underweight, normal weight, overweight or obese. ISB researchers have constructed a biological BMI that provides a more accurate representation of metabolic health and is more varied, informative, and actionable than long-used classical BMI. [Read More](#)

Are Probiotics the Answer to a Healthy Microbiome?'

UW Medicine



Probiotics have become the "in" thing, as a casual glance at the headlines as well as TikTok feeds shows. But do they really work? For UW Medicine gastroenterologist Dr. Chris Damman, the answer is "maybe." Dr. Damman has studied the microbiome and its effects on health for 20 years. His focus has been on the microbiome's role as a protector against inflammatory bowel disease, metabolic disease, and malnutrition. [Read More](#)

Lynda Stuart Appointed Executive Director of the Institute for Protein Design

Institute for Protein Design (IPD)



The IPD is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Lynda Stuart *(pictured)* as its new Executive Director. Dr. Stuart, an accomplished immunologist and former Deputy Director at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, assumed her new role on May 1. She brings to the IPD over 20 years of experience in immunology, global health, and product development. [Read More](#)

John Amory Will Be New Director of the UW Institute of Translational Health Sciences

UW Medicine



Dr. John Amory *(pictured)*, Professor of General Internal Medicine, will be the new Director of the UW Institute of Translational Health Sciences (ITHS), effective February 2024. Amory is currently the Deputy Director and Assistant Principal Investigator of ITHS. He will take the helm from Dr. Nora Disis, who has directed ITHS since 2007. [Read More](#)

Improving Immunotherapy for Advanced Prostate Cancer

Fred Hutch



Picking the right target and helping recruit a wider range of anti-tumor immune cells can help improve CAR-T cell therapy against advanced prostate cancer, according to new preclinical work from Dr. John Lee *(pictured)* at Fred Hutch. The newly developed CAR-T cells described in the study will form the basis of an early-stage clinical trial to test them in people whose late-stage prostate cancer has defied other treatments. [Read More](#)

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Interesting Articles

WRF Opens Application for 2024 Postdoctoral Fellowships

Washington Research Foundation



Washington Research Foundation (WRF) is currently accepting applications for postdoctoral fellowships beginning in 2024. The award provides three years of support to enable up to 12 outstanding postdoctoral researchers to carry out innovative projects with the potential for real-world impact at leading research institutions in the state of Washington. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Seattle

May 10 - 11 9:00 am	Drug Development Immersion 188 E Blaine St Ste 150
May 10 5:30 pm	UW Engage Science 2023 The Wyncote NW Forum
May 15 5:30 pm	UW Engage Science 2023 The Wyncote NW Forum
May 17 2:00 pm	American Cancer Society ResearchHERS Symposium Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
May 18 - 23 12:00 pm	Career Development Workshop: Preparing Scientists for Industry Careers Online

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