

### Publications of the Week

## Minimizing the Off-Target Frequency of the CRISPR/Cas9 System via Zwitterionic Polymer Conjugation and Peptide Fusion

First Author: Yanjiao Han (*pictured*) | Senior Author: Shaoyi Jiang  
Chemical Science | UW



Researchers provided two novel methods at the protein and mRNA levels to minimize non-specific mismatches between single guide RNA and target DNA by chemically conjugating Cas9 with zwitterionic pCB polymers or genetically fusing Cas9 with zwitterionic (EK)<sub>n</sub> peptides. The zwitterlated or EKylated CRISPR/Cas9 ribonucleoproteins showed reduced off-target DNA editing while maintaining a similar level of on-target gene editing activity. [Abstract](#)

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### Awards

## Professor Catherine Karr is the 2023 DEOHS Outstanding Faculty Mentor

UW Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences



UW Department of Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences (DEOHS) students are now honoring Dr. Catherine Karr's (*pictured, right*) dedication with the 2023 DEOHS Outstanding Faculty Mentor award. Recent DEOHS PhD graduate Orly Stampfer, who nominated Karr for the award, presented it to her at the DEOHS Graduation Celebration. [Read More](#)

## UW President Cauce Praises BBI's Husky Coronavirus Testing Team at Awards Ceremony

Brotman Baty Institute (BBI)



Members of Brotman Baty Institute's Husky Coronavirus Testing (HCT) Team were "truly, truly heroic" and "helped the university to continue our mission of public service throughout the pandemic," UW President Ana Mari Cauce said June 8 at the university's Distinguished Staff Award ceremony. The HCT Team was honored for its innovation, one of five award categories. [Read More](#)

## Lung Cancer Expert Dr. McGarry Houghton Receives Satya and Rao Remala Family Endowed Chair

Fred Hutch



Dr. McGarry Houghton (*pictured*), a pulmonary physician-scientist whose work explores the immune system's role in cancer and lung cancer early detection, has been named the first recipient of the Satya and Rao Remala Family Endowed Chair at Fred Hutch. Dr. Houghton, who oversees lung cancer research at Fred Hutch, describes himself as a "lung tumor microenvironment person." [Read More](#)

## Virus Researchers Cohn and Blanco-Melo Win Coveted Grants

Fred Hutch



Dr. Lillian Cohn was named by the Pew Charitable Trusts as one of 22 members of this year's class of biomedical scholars, a prestigious program that includes an award. Across the street from Cohn's lab on the Fred Hutch campus, Daniel Blanco-Melo (*pictured*) is also celebrating. He is about to begin his first year as one of 15 new Searle scholars, a similarly sought-after honor supported by the Searle Funds, at the Chicago Community Trust. [Read More](#)

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### Local News

## Life Science Washington Announces New Grant Programs to Build Diverse Pipeline of Early-Stage Companies

Life Science Washington



Life Science Washington Institute (LSWI), a Life Science Washington affiliate focused on supporting early-stage companies and entrepreneurs in Washington state, announced two new grant programs, the SBIR/STTR Matching Fund and Washington Competes, to expand the pipeline of diverse and early-stage companies located throughout Washington. [Read More](#)

## Study Highlights Varied Need for Botox with Vocal Disorders

UW Medicine



Some of Dr. Tanya Meyer's (*pictured*) patients contend with chronic neuromuscular conditions that can turn smooth, unencumbered speech into raspy paroxysms of sound. Fortunately, this can be managed with periodic botulinum toxin injections — yes, Botox — in the throat, which block the unwelcome nerve signals that make vocal muscles spasm. [Read More](#)

## Dr. Sara Hurvitz Joins Fred Hutch, University of Washington

Fred Hutch



Fred Hutch and the UW Department of Medicine announced the hiring of Dr. Sara Hurvitz (*pictured*) as the Senior Vice President of the Clinical Research Division at Fred Hutch and Head of the newly united Division of Hematology and Oncology at the UW Department of Medicine. Dr. Hurvitz directs the Breast Oncology Program at UCLA, where she joined the faculty in 2006, and co-directs the Santa Monica-UCLA Outpatient Oncology Practice. [Read More](#)

## Novartis to Buy Seattle Biotech Firm Chinook Therapeutics in \$3.2B Deal

GeekWire



Novartis announced that it will be purchasing Chinook Therapeutics, a Seattle-based biotech company, for \$3.2 billion. Founded in 2019, Chinook Therapeutics focuses on developing treatments for kidney disorders. The company currently has two experimental drugs undergoing phase three studies and trials. Novartis is also involved in kidney treatments and is developing its own drug for the cause. [Read More](#)

## A Seesaw Between Transcription and Translation Restrains Bladder Carcinogenesis

Fred Hutch



The Hsieh lab and Dr. Sujata Jana (*pictured*) broadly study the interplay between transcriptional and translational regulation in cancer, with a particular focus on cancers of the genitourinary system. Their latest work, published in *Cancer Cell*, took aim at a mysterious protein called ARID1A — a chromatin-remodeling component that had recently been identified as a tumor suppressor commonly mutated in bladder cancers. [Read More](#)

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### 📅 Upcoming Events in Seattle

June 28 5:30 pm	<b>Summer Nights Happy Hour</b> Pacific Science Center
July 7 12:00 pm	<b>Alliance of Angels Panel: Trends and Capital Raising for Life Science Startups</b> The Pacific Northwest Mission Acceleration Center
July 13 8:30 am	<b>2023 Allen Institute Modeling Software Workshop</b> Allen Institute
July 18 4:00 pm	<b>Life Science Washington HR Connect Summer Gathering 2023</b> Life Science Washington
July 19 8:00 am	<b>Jacob Green Charity Golf Classic</b> The Golf Club at Newcastle

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### 🏢 Science Jobs in Seattle

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