



Publications of the Week

Genetics of Cystogenesis in Base-Edited Human Organoids Reveal Therapeutic Strategies for Polycystic Kidney Disease

First Author: Courtney Vishy | Senior Author: Benjamin Freedman *(pictured)*
Cell Stem Cell | Institute for Stem Cell & Regenerative Medicine, Plurexa, and UW



In polycystic kidney disease (PKD), microscopic tubules expand into macroscopic cysts. Among the world's most common genetic disorders, PKD is inherited via heterozygous loss-of-function mutations but is theorized to require additional loss of function. To test this, the authors established human pluripotent stem cells in allelic series representing four common nonsense mutations, using CRISPR base editing. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

Performance of SOBA-AD Blood Test in Discriminating Alzheimer's Disease Patients from Cognitively Unimpaired Controls in Two Independent Cohorts

First Author: Amy Chen | Senior Author: Valerie Daggett *(pictured)*
Scientific Reports | AlzPep and UW



Amyloid-beta (Aβ) toxic oligomers are critical early players in the molecular pathology of Alzheimer's disease (AD). The authors have developed a Soluble Oligomer Binding Assay (SOBA-AD) for detection of these Aβ oligomers that contain α-sheet secondary structure that discriminates plasma samples from patients on the AD continuum from non-AD controls. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

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Awards

Sydney Sattler, a Ph.D. Candidate in Genome Sciences & Recipient of Curci Foundation Fellowship

UW Medicine



Ph.D. student Sydney Sattler *(pictured)* is the 2023 Shurl and Kay Curci Foundation fellow. The Curci Ph.D. Fellowship provides generous funding to assist with Sydney's tuition and living expenses in years three through five of her Ph.D. program. She is currently exploring the evolution of a novel innate immune system in the annual killifish in Dr. Phil Abitua's lab. [Read More](#)

The American Sexually Transmitted Diseases Association Awards

UW Medicine News



The American Sexually Transmitted Diseases Association Awards recognize individuals who epitomize the Association's mission to foster scientific knowledge, develop leadership, and champion practice in the field of sexually transmitted infections. Congratulations to this year's recipients from the UW Department of Medicine, including Dr. Connie Celum *(pictured)*. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Seattle Children's Receives \$50 Million Gift to Support Leukemia Research, Treatment, and Clinical Trials

Seattle Children's



Seattle Children's has received one of the largest philanthropic gifts in its 117-year history from the William Lawrence & Blanche Hughes Foundation. The transformational gift will support the research and development of revolutionary therapies and treatment options for leukemia and other pediatric cancers, accelerating the global advancement of groundbreaking cures for pediatric disease by leveraging next-generation cell and gene therapies. [Read More](#)

How Single-Cell Omics Is Revolutionizing Our View of Neurobiology

Inside Precision Medicine



The adult human brain is made up of billions of neurons and glial cells. "There's an enormous history and literature on trying to understand the cellular makeup of the brain, that has been fundamentally driven by the technologies that have been available," said Dr. Ed Lein *(pictured)*, Senior Investigator at the Allen Institute for Brain Science. [Read More](#)

ITHS Pilot Program Welcomes New Co-Directors

Institute of Translational Health Sciences (ITHS)



Teddy Johnson *(pictured, left)* and Dr. Nina Isoherranen *(right)* have joined the ITHS Pilot program as new Co-Directors. The Pilot Translational and Clinical Studies Program at ITHS is a catalyst for innovation across the Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho region. Since 2008, ITHS has offered funding for new clinical and translational research projects or "pilots" to get off the ground. [Read More](#)

Vertex Will Buy Alpine Immune Sciences for \$4.9B in Another Big Seattle Biotech Deal

Geekwire



Boston-based biotech company Vertex Pharmaceuticals agreed to acquire Seattle-based Alpine Immune Sciences for \$65 per share, totaling about \$4.9 billion in cash. Alpine develops immunotherapies to address cancer, kidney disease, and other serious autoimmune and inflammatory conditions by engineering proteins that influence the body's immune response. [Read More](#)

New Frontiers in Immunology: Studying Diseases in the Tissues Where They Happen

Benaroya Research Institute



Traditionally, scientists have studied immune system diseases by looking at blood samples. But they've also known studying the actual tissue that those diseases affect could provide even more information. "Blood samples are informative but they don't tell the whole story," says Dr. Eddie James *(pictured)*, "The real action is in the tissue, but we haven't really had access to it in the past." [Read More](#)

SeaHub's Jesse Gray: Embarking on the Greatest Opportunity – and Most Daunting Challenge – of His Career

Brotman Baty Institute



Dr. Jesse Gray *(pictured)* has embarked on what may be the greatest opportunity – and most daunting challenge – of his career: reengineering cells to record their own histories and reprogram disease to health. As Senior Director of Strategy and Operations, he is supporting Lead Scientific Director and "Imaginer-in-Chief" Dr. Jay Shendure by tending to the day-to-day operations of the Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Seattle

- April 17 - 18
11:00 a.m. **Life Science Innovation Northwest 2024**
Seattle Convention Center
- April 17
12:00 p.m. **PNRI's Science Matters Seminar: Applications of Human Brain Organogenesis**
Online
- April 18
2:00 p.m. **Product Development**
Online
- April 23
4:00 p.m. **Research After Dark (RAD) Networking: Science Pitch Workshop**
Fred Hutch
- April 27
9:00 a.m. **SEP School Year Workshop: Cancer Fighting Proteins**
Fred Hutch

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Science Jobs in Seattle

- Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Translational Science and Therapeutics**
Fred Hutch
- Postdoctoral Fellow**
Institute for Systems Biology
- Center Director Kids Science Labs**
Kids Science Labs
- Associate Director of Manufacturing, Science and Technology**
BrainChild Bio
- Medical Science Liaison**
Syneos Health

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