



Publications of the Week

A Whole-Slide Foundation Model for Digital Pathology from Real-World Data

First Authors: Hanwen Xu and Naoto Usuyama (*pictured*) | Senior Authors: Carlo Bifulco, Sheng Wang, and Hoifung Poon
Nature | Microsoft Research and UW



Digital pathology poses unique computational challenges, as a standard gigapixel slide may comprise tens of thousands of image tiles. Prior models have often missed the important slide-level context. Here, researchers present Prov-GigaPath, a whole-slide pathology foundation model pretrained on 1.3 billion 256 × 256 pathology image tiles in 171,189 whole slides from 28 cancer centres. [Abstract](#)

Simple Behavioral Analysis (SimBA) as a Platform for Explainable Machine Learning in Behavioral Neuroscience

First Author: Nastacia Goodwin (*pictured*) | Senior Author: Simon Nilsson and Sam Golden
Nature Neuroscience | UW



The study of complex behaviors is often challenging when using manual annotation due to the absence of quantifiable behavioral definitions and the subjective nature of behavioral annotation. To decrease barriers to access, and with an emphasis on accessible model explainability, researchers developed the open-source Simple Behavioral Analysis (SimBA) platform for behavioral neuroscientists. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Lupus Research Alliance Grants Lupus Innovation Awards to Nine International Researchers Pushing the Boundaries of Lupus Research

Lupus Research Alliance



The Lupus Research Alliance has announced that nine international researchers are the recipients of this year's Lupus Innovation Award. Among the awardees is Dr. John Ray (*pictured*) from the Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason Franciscan Health. Dr. Ray's research aims to understand the underlying causes of systemic lupus erythematosus. [Read More](#)

Population Health Initiative Awards Pilot Grants

UW Medicine



The UW Population Health Initiative has awarded thirteen Tier 1 pilot grants to teams of interdisciplinary researchers representing eleven UW schools and colleges as well as several community-based partners. One of the funded projects will be led by Drs. Crystal Brown, Brian Wood, and Justin Bullock (*pictured*). The projects collectively seek to address grand challenges in areas including climate change, mental health, child health, and substance use disorder. [Read More](#)

Dr. Kris Patton Receives Distinguished Teacher Award

UW Medicine



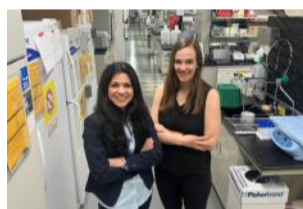
Dr. Kristen Patton (*pictured*), Professor of Cardiology, has received the 2024 Distinguished Teacher award from the Heart Rhythm Society. This award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated outstanding skills as a teacher. Dr. Patton's expertise extends beyond curriculum development and mentorship to a commitment to the entire span of a doctor's career, from initial training to advanced practice. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Promising Young Scientist: Fred Hutch's Stephanie Dobersch has Found Her Calling in Pancreatic Cancer Research

Brotman Baty Institute



Dr. Stephanie Dobersch (*pictured, right*) is a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Sita Kugel's (*left*) lab at the Fred Hutch Cancer Center. Working alongside Dr. Kugel, Dr. Dobersch has focused on basal pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma, a subtype of pancreatic cancer that is a highly aggressive. Specifically, she is working on pre-clinical models and different drug treatments. [Read More](#)

Device Restores Hand Function for Some with Spinal Injury

UW Medicine



A research team at the UW School of Medicine is conducting a clinical trial that uses a device that provides electrical current to the spinal cord through electrodes on the skin. The study found that 72% of participants with tetraplegia, a loss of some or all function in all four limbs, significantly improved strength and function following treatment. [Read More](#)

Introducing the International Center for Enzyme Design

Institute for Protein Design



Researchers from the Manchester Institute of Biotechnology and the Institute for Protein Design have launched an initiative to transform the landscape of enzyme design. The International Centre for Enzyme Design will bring together internationally leading research teams to establish a fully integrated computational and experimental platform to develop a new generation of industrial biocatalysts. [Read More](#)

Dr. Petter Bjornstad is the New Director of the UWMDI

UW Medicine Diabetes Institute



Dr. Petter Bjornstad (*pictured*) is the new Director of the UW Medicine Diabetes Institute (UWMDI). Dr. Bjornstad is a pediatric endocrinologist who originally trained at the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin. He completed an initial residency in internal medicine and pediatrics in Dublin before moving to Colorado for additional training in pediatrics and pediatric endocrinology at the University of Colorado. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Seattle

- June 11
9:00 AM

Human and Non-Human Primate Brain Atlases and Tools
Online
- June 12
7:30 AM

BiopharmaPM Seattle Forum Morning Networking Event and a Presentation
Seattle Children's Research Institute
- June 13
7:30 PM

Hack Your Health — The Secrets of Your Gut
The Wyncote NW Forum
- June 25
8:00 AM

7th TERMIS World Congress
Seattle Convention Center
- June 27
10:00 AM

Where AI Meets Humanity in Healthcare: What's Next?
Seattle University

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Science Jobs in Seattle

- Lab Generalist I**
Stat Lab
- ML Scientist**
Xaira Therapeutics
- Fellow, Neuropsychology**
Seattle Children's
- Senior Medical Science Liaison II, Therapy Selection**
Exact Sciences
- Senior Associate Scientist/Scientist, Cell Science**
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