

Publications of the Week

Individualized Dynamic Risk Assessment and Treatment Selection for Multiple Myeloma

First Author: Carl Murie | Senior Author: Nitin Baliga (*pictured*)
British Journal of Cancer | Institute for Systems Biology and UW



Individualized treatment decisions for multiple myeloma (MM) patients require accurate risk stratification that accounts for patient-specific consequences of cytogenetic abnormalities on disease progression. Here, researchers found that activities of transcriptional programs offered significantly better prognostic and predictive assessments of treatments across different stages of MM in an individual patient. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

UW Bioengineering Ph.D. Student Arjun Kumar Awarded Inaugural Pfizer Oncology Fellowship

UW Department of Bioengineering



Arjun Kumar (*pictured*), a Ph.D. student at UW Bioengineering, has been named one of the inaugural recipients of the Pfizer Oncology Fellowship. The new two-year fellowship provides funding and professional development opportunities for promising Ph.D. students pursuing cancer-related research. Kumar conducts his research in the lab of Dr. Hao Yuan Kueh. [Read More](#)

‘Pushing the Field to the Next Stage’: Allen School Professor Su-In Lee Recognized as a Fellow of the International Society for Computational Biology

UW Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering



Allen School's Dr. Su-In Lee (*pictured*), who directs the University of Washington's AI for bioMedical Sciences (AIMS) Lab, is shaping the future of biology and medicine through artificial intelligence. Dr. Lee's groundbreaking work has earned her a long list of accolades. Most recently, the International Society for Computational Biology inducted her into its 2025 Class of Fellows. [Read More](#)

Benaroya Research Institute Awarded \$11 Million Across Eight Grants in Second Half of 2024 to Predict, Prevent, Reverse and Cure Immune System Diseases

Benaroya Research Institute



Benaroya Research Institute announced eight research grants, totaling nearly \$11.4 million, awarded in the latter half of 2024. These included a \$3.8 million grant that will be used study Type 1 diabetes (T1D) pathogenesis to guide timing and selection of early therapies. The T1D grant is led by Dr. Alice Long (*pictured*) and will fund research to enable prevention by better understanding the process by which the disease develops and progresses. [Read More](#)

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Local News

The Beam: Protons for Esophageal Cancers; Benefits of Mentorship Among Physicians; Meet One of Our Patient Care Coordinators

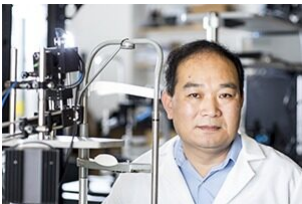
Fred Hutch



In this summary of The Beam by Fred Hutch, readers learn about Dr. Jing Zeng, who shares benefits of protons for esophageal cancer; Drs. Annemarie Shepherd and Smith Apisarnthanarax who talk about physician mentorship at Fred Hutch; and they meet patient care coordinator Erik Rummell who works with patients in need of proton therapy. [Read More](#)

Imaging Pioneer Ruikang Wang To Deliver Inaugural Fujimoto Lecture

UW Department of Bioengineering



Dr. Ruikang "Ricky" Wang (*pictured*) has been selected to deliver the Inaugural James G. Fujimoto Award Lectureship during the 12th Annual International Retinal Imaging Symposium. The Fujimoto Award honors scientists and clinicians who have significantly advanced retinal imaging technology through innovative techniques and their successful implementation in clinical settings. [Read More](#)

New Cystic Fibrosis Guidelines Promise Improved Diagnosis in Newborns

Seattle Children's



New recommendations for cystic fibrosis screening in newborns aim to improve diagnosis and outcomes for infants with the disorder. Findings led by first author Dr. Meghan McGarry (*pictured*) at Seattle Children's Research Institute's Center for Respiratory Biology and Therapeutics are published in the *International Journal of Neonatal Screening*. [Read More](#)

Scientists Use AI to Identify Animal Populations Most Likely to Spread Diseases to Humans

GeekWire



Avian flu, mad cow disease, hantavirus, black plague and other notorious ailments originated with animals and made the jump to humans. Now scientists at Washington State University led by Dr. Stephanie Seifert (*pictured*) have built a machine learning model to examine multiple indicators that increase the odds of a disease making that leap, including the ecological characteristics of the host animals, virus genetics and the animals' overlap with humans. [Read More](#)

Multiple Myeloma Is Treatable, Not Curable. Is That Set To Change?

Fred Hutch



Multiple myeloma is cancer of the bone marrow; the "multiple" part refers to cancer cells that appear in various areas of the body as cancerous plasma cells overtake healthy blood cells. Historically, multiple myeloma has been treatable, but not curable. Is that set to change? Some experts at Fred Hutch believe a 'functional cure' is already within reach. [Read More](#)

Peptide Biomarkers Predict Coral Survival From Heat Stress

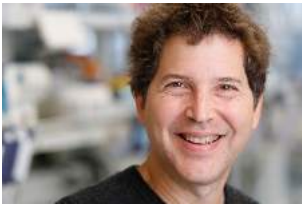
UW Medicine



Researchers have discovered molecular characteristics that distinguish which corals can withstand a bleaching event, and which are susceptible. A recent UW project showed that the type, amount, and interactions of proteins and peptides — the proteomics of the coral — is a key indicator of whether it could overcome a thermal-induced bleaching event. [Read More](#)

Introducing LigandMPNN

UW Institute for Protein Design (IPD)



The latest deep-learning model from IPD, LigandMPNN, excels at creating proteins that interact with other diverse molecules, including small molecules, nucleic acids, and metals. Researchers from the lab of Dr. David Baker (*pictured*) anticipate a wave of new innovations, from highly selective biosensors for diagnostics and environmental monitoring to robust scaffolds for drug development and therapeutic delivery. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Seattle

April 23
11:00 AM

Life Science Innovation Northwest 2025
Seattle Convention Center

April 23
12:00 PM

Using Virtual Platforms and Genomic Sequencing to Reduce Inequities in Health Outcomes for Children with Rare Genetic Disorders
Online

April 28
8:30 AM

BRI Immunology Symposium: New Horizons in Immunity and Disease
Town Hall Seattle

May 1 - 2
8:00 AM

Engineering Biology Research Consortium 2025 Annual Meeting
University of Washington

May 3
9:00 AM

NSPN National Symposium
Rainier Club

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Science Jobs in Seattle

Clinical Research Coordinator I/II
Benaroya Research Institute

Postdoctoral Fellow, Coler Lab
Seattle Children's

Clinical Laboratory Coordinator
UW

Scientist I, Optical Physiology of Neural Circuits
Allen Institute

Biology Laboratory Technician IV
Seattle Central College

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