

Publications of the Week

PhoCoil: A Photodegradable and Injectable Single-Component Recombinant Protein Hydrogel for Minimally Invasive Delivery and Degradation

First Author: Nicole Gregorio (*pictured*) | Senior Author: Cole DeForest
Science Advances | UW



Toward the creation of biomaterials with both excellent biocompatibility and customizability, recombinant protein-based hydrogels have emerged as molecularly defined and user-programmable platforms that mimic the proteinaceous nature of the extracellular matrix. Here, researchers introduce PhoCoil, a dynamically tunable recombinant hydrogel formed from a single protein component with unique multistimuli responsiveness. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

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Awards

Discovering Immune Mechanisms That Contribute to Progressive Pulmonary Fibrosis

UW Medicine



Dr. Sarah Holton (*pictured*), Acting Instructor of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine, is the recipient of a K23 award from the National Institutes of Health for mentored patient-oriented research career development. This 5-year award will support her efforts to define the immune cell populations that lead to progression of fibrosis in interstitial lung disease. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Allen Institute Cells Blast Off into Outer Space

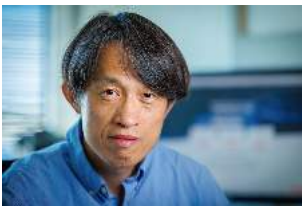
Allen Institute



Specially designed cells from the Allen Institute embarked on an out-of-this-world adventure—literally. On Sunday August 24, the cells blasted off to the International Space Station as part of a multi-year research project by Cedars-Sinai investigating whether stem cells can be turned into heart and brain organoids in space. If successful, this would be a scientific first. [Read More](#)

Looking Beyond Suspect Genes in Cancer

Fred Hutch



Researchers at Fred Hutch and UW want to find the function of every protein-coding gene in the human genome by discovering what happens or doesn't happen in a cell when that gene is turned off using cell culture models that mimic the function of real tissues and organs. The Molecular Phenotypes of Null Alleles in Cells, or MorPhiC project, led by Dr. Wei Sun (*pictured*) is expected to produce an enormous flow of data. [Read More](#)

Allen Institute for AI Lands \$152M from Nvidia and NSF to Lead National AI Project

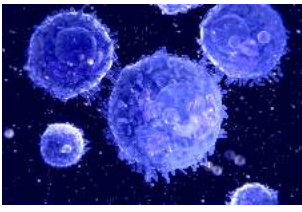
GeekWire



Is this the Allen Institute for AI's breakout moment? The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) and chip powerhouse Nvidia will provide a total of \$152 million in funding and infrastructure to the Seattle-based non-profit research institute to lead a new national project to build open AI models for scientific research. It marks NSF's first major investment in AI software infrastructure for science. [Read More](#)

RareCyte Secures \$500K Gates Foundation Grant to Study Circulating Trophoblasts in Fetal Growth Restriction

RareCyte



RareCyte, Inc., a leading innovator in precision biology and liquid biopsy technology, is proud to announce receipt of a \$500K award from the Gates Foundation to advance research into fetal growth restriction (FGR), a major cause of preterm birth, stillbirth, and neonatal morbidity worldwide. FGR is a significant global health challenge, contributing to long-term developmental delays and increased risk of chronic diseases for affected children. [Read More](#)

Promising Young Scientist: Ivan Woo's Career Launched by Playing with Parents' Calculator at Age 3

Brotman Baty Institute



Ivan Woo (*pictured, right*) from Dr. Lea Starita's (*left*) lab is committed to educating, training, and mentoring the next generation of scientists. He plans far into the future; Woo is only 22 years old. "Pursuing a career in academia is a lot of work, but I find it interesting," he said. "I love doing research and teaching. And training the next generation." [Read More](#)

Beyond Cures: Optimizing CAR T Cell Therapy for Cognitive Safety

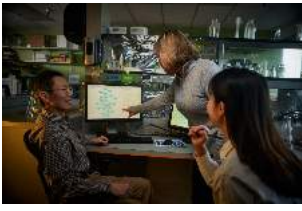
Seattle Children's



Curing cancer is a worthy and lofty goal, but for Seattle Children's Dr. Julianne Gust (*pictured*) it's not enough. The neurologist and her team were among the first to publish the neurocognitive side effects of immunotherapies, and she continues to lead foundational research and bold collaborations, shifting the focus from survival alone to survival without cognitive compromise. [Read More](#)

A Summer of Discovery: PNRI's 2025 SURI Interns Take the Stage

Pacific Northwest Research Institute (PNRI)



PNRI's 2025 Summer Undergraduate Research Internship (SURI) cohort recently presented on the culmination of nine weeks of hands-on research, problem-solving, and discovery. For some, it was their first time presenting original research. For others, it was the moment their summer's work finally crystallized into a story they could tell. Overall, it was an incredible showcase by Seattle's future life science researchers. [Read More](#)

AVE Alliance Working Group Developing International Guidelines for Genetic Variant Classification

Brotman Baty Institute (BBI)



A working group of the Atlas of Variant Effects (AVE) Alliance has undertaken a task as much-needed as it is long and overdue: developing more definitive guidelines for genetic variant classification. The group, the ClinGen/AVE Functional Data Working Group, has more than 25 international members from academia, government, and the private sector. It is co-chaired by BBI's Dr. Lea Starita (*pictured*) and the Institute of Cancer Research's Dr. Clare Turnbull. [Read More](#)

Washington's Life Sciences Scene Moves Beyond Research Roots

BioSpace



As Washington's life sciences scene has expanded beyond being a top research cluster, its workforce has increased significantly, according to Life Science Washington's latest economic impact report. Between 2013 and 2023, it found the industry's job growth in the state jumped 50%, bringing the total number of employees to 47,898. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Seattle

- | | |
|--|---|
| September 13
8:00 AM | Pacific Northwest Prostate Cancer 25th Annual Conference
Fred Hutch |
| September 16
8:00 AM | Paradigms in Inflammation Research: New Ways of Thinking About and Treating Disease
Orin Smith Auditorium |
| September 16
10:30 AM | 2025 Long-Read Sequencing Symposium
UW |
| September 17
12:00 PM | PNRI Science Matters Seminar on Newborn Screening
Kane Hall and Online |
| September 28 -
October 2
8:00 AM | Lake Conference – Neural Coding & Dynamics 2025
The Hyatt Regency Seattle |

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Science Jobs in Seattle

- Research Scientist III**
Seattle Children's
- Senior Program Officer, Vaccine Discovery**
Gates Foundation
- Research Scientist/Engineer 4**
UW
- Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Bedford Lab**
Fred Hutch
- Oncology Early Stage Clinical Scientist Senior Manager**
Pfizer

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