

Publications of the Week

Preventing Hypocontractility-Induced Fibroblast Expansion Alleviates Dilated Cardiomyopathy

First Author: Ross Bretherton | Senior Author: Jennifer Davis (pictured)
Science | UW



Cardiomyocyte hypocontractility underlies inherited dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM). Yet, whether fibroblasts modify DCM phenotypes remains unclear despite their regulation of fibrosis, which strongly predicts disease severity. The authors show that p38-mediated fibroblast responses were essential regulators of DCM severity, marking a potential cellular target for therapeutic intervention. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

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Awards

New Grant Will Supercharge Breast Cancer Vaccine Trial

UW Medicine



More cancer patients will soon be able to enroll in a Phase 2 clinical trial of a therapeutic breast cancer vaccine thanks to a \$500,000 grant announced by the Cancer Vaccine Coalition (CVC). The first of several planned grants for an initiative to modernize cancer treatments, it is awarded through a partnership between CVC and the V Foundation for Cancer Research. [Read More](#)

Dr. Elizabeth Swisher Receives the Torkelson Family Endowed Chair

Fred Hutch



Dr. Elizabeth Swisher (pictured), who leads Gynecologic Oncology at Fred Hutch Cancer Center, was recently named the inaugural recipient of the Torkelson Family Endowed Chair. The Endowed Chair was established by Doris Torkelson, who was successfully treated for ovarian cancer at Fred Hutch, and recognizes Swisher's 25 years of studying genetic risk factors of gynecologic cancers. [Read More](#)

Dr. Brad Anawalt Receives Outstanding Educator Award

UW Medicine



Dr. Bradley Anawalt (pictured), Professor of General Internal Medicine, is the 2026 recipient of the Outstanding Educator Award by the Endocrine Society. This annual award recognizes exceptional achievement as an educator in the discipline of endocrinology and metabolism. The Society's Laureate Awards recognize the highest achievements in the endocrinology field, including groundbreaking research and innovations in clinical care. [Read More](#)

Meet the 2025-26 Washington Research Foundation Fellowship and Levinson Emerging Scholars Award Recipients

University of Washington



The recipients of the Washington Research Foundation Fellowship and the Levinson Emerging Scholars awards have been announced. These undergraduate researchers, including Sahana Subramanian (pictured), have showcased high motivation, independence, and innovation in the advancement of new biological technologies through their contributions in undergraduate research. [Read More](#)

Washington Research Foundation Awards \$1M to Fred Hutch Cancer Center to Advance Research Focused on Improving Health Outcomes

Washington Research Foundation (WRF)



WRF has awarded \$1 million to Fred Hutch to continue its support of the organizations' collaboration to accelerate the development of technologies with significant potential to improve patient health. Dr. Sujatha Srinivasan (pictured) is developing a rapid point-of-care diagnostic for bacterial vaginosis with the assistance of two earlier awards from the program totaling \$300,000. [Read More](#)

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Local News

UW MoIES Welcomes Sixteen Students to Its 2025 PhD Cohort

The University of Washington Molecular Engineering and Sciences Institute



The UW Molecular Engineering and Sciences Institute (MoIES) is excited to introduce the newest cohort of Ph.D. candidates to the Molecular Engineering program. One of the candidates is Riya Patel (pictured), who is interested in leveraging synthetic biology and metabolic engineering tools towards enabling more efficient bioproduction platforms for desirable compounds or therapeutic products. [Read More](#)

Archaic Gene Variant May Have Aided Adaptation to Americas

UW Medicine



A group of anthropologists and geneticists have been exploring the population distribution and the structure of the Denisovan *MUC19* gene variant in people. The variant was originally detected in DNA from bone fossils of humanlike Denisovans, who vanished from the Earth tens of thousands of years ago. Their fossils have been discovered in a Siberian cave and sites in Asia. [Read More](#)

Fred Hutch Leaders Raise \$10M for New AI Startup Aiming to Expedite Drug Discovery

GeekWire



Synthesize Bio has announced \$10 million in funding from Madrona Venture Group. The biotech company aims to make new drug discovery faster and cheaper by using AI to simulate the results from hypothetical lab experiments. The team built what it's calling a generative genomics foundation model to predict gene expression, providing insights into how a novel drug is expected to impact cell behavior. [Read More](#)

Scientists Shoot Lasers into Brain Cells to Uncover How Illusions Work

Allen Institute



In a new study, researchers identified the key neural circuit and cell type that plays a pivotal role in detecting illusions—more specifically, their outer edges or “contours”—and how this circuit works. They discovered a special group of cells called IC–encoder neurons that tell the brain to see things that aren't really there as part of a process called recurrent pattern completion. [Read More](#)

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📅 Upcoming Events in Seattle

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| September 23
6:00 p.m. | Biotech Networks Speed Networking
Stoup Brewing |
| September 28
8:00 a.m. | Lake Conference – Neural Coding & Dynamics 2025
The Hyatt Regency Seattle |
| October 4
8:00 a.m. | Introduction to Lichen Identification and Ecology
University of Washington |
| October 4
9:00 a.m. | 3rd Annual BACPAC Prostate Cancer Community Research Symposium
Fred Hutch |
| October 9
8:00 a.m. | ISSCR: Seattle International Symposium
Block 41 |

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📁 Science Jobs in Seattle

- | |
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| Faculty Position in the Division of Human Biology
Fred Hutch |
| Histotechnologist
LabCorp |
| Research Associate II, Neural Coding, Axonal Connectomics
Allen Institute |
| Research Scientist 3
UW |
| Medical Laboratory Scientist, Core Lab
Seattle Children's |

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