

Publications of the Week

Genetic and Epigenetic Screens in Primary Human T Cells Link Candidate Causal Autoimmune Variants to T Cell Networks

First Author: Ching-Huang Ho | Senior Author: John Ray *(pictured)*
Nature Genetics | Benaroya Research Institute, Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology, Brotman Baty Institute, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and UW



Genetic variants associated with autoimmune diseases are highly enriched within putative cis-regulatory regions of CD4⁺ T cells, suggesting that they could alter disease risk through changes in gene regulation. Here, researchers tested >18,000 autoimmune disease-associated variants for allele-specific effects on expression using massively parallel reporter assays in primary human CD4⁺ T cells. [Abstract | Press Release](#)

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Awards

Dr. Lee Hood Receives Inaugural Michael Sela Prize from Weizmann Institute of Science

Institute for Systems Biology (ISB)



ISB Co-founder Dr. Leroy (Lee) Hood *(pictured)* has been named one of the inaugural recipients of the Michael Sela Prize in Biomedical Sciences, awarded by the Weizmann Institute of Science. Hood shares the honor with Dr. Francis S. Collins and Dr. Eric S. Lander for pioneering work that has reshaped modern medicine and advanced human health. [Read More](#)

Infection Prevention Strategies After CAR T Cell Therapy

UW Medicine



Dr. Joshua Hill *(pictured)* has received a 5-year K24 Midcareer Investigator Award in Patient-Oriented Research from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. This award will provide protected time for Dr. Hill to mentor trainees in patient-oriented research in preventing infections in patients receiving CAR T cell therapies. [Read More](#)

Dr. Shailender Bhatia Receives the Lyn and Daniel Lerner Endowed Chair in Merkel Cell Carcinoma

Fred Hutch



Medical oncologist Dr. Shailender Bhatia *(pictured)* is the inaugural holder of the Lyn and Daniel Lerner Endowed Chair in Merkel Cell Carcinoma (MCC). Dr. Bhatia has dedicated his career to providing outstanding clinical care to patients with MCC and has led numerous clinical trials to improve outcomes in this life-threatening cancer. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Behind the Breakthroughs: ISB's Postdoctoral Fellows in Focus

Institute for Systems Biology



Postdoctoral fellows are the lifeblood of research institutions, yet their contributions are often underrecognized. At the Institute for Systems Biology, postdocs like Drs. Alex Carr, Dmitry Sutorminenter, and Heeju Noh *(pictured)* the scientific workforce with passion, vision, and advanced training—bringing the fresh ideas that fuel discovery. [Read More](#)

ITHS Profile: How a Two-Time Pilot Award Recipient Is Advancing Bioengineering

Institute of Translational Health Sciences (ITHS)



The ITHS profile series is meant to shine a deserving spotlight on individuals or programs within ITHS doing critical work across the vast spectrum of translational science. For this installment, Teddy Johnson, the ITHS Director of Technology Development and Co-Director of the ITHS Pilots Program, sat down with the two-time Pilot Award recipient, Dr. Patrick Boyle *(pictured)* to learn about the impact of ITHS Pilot funding in his research. [Read More](#)

Scientists Use Open Ephys GUI to Study How Psychedelics Affect the Brain

Allen Institute



Dr. Alex Kwan is a researcher at Cornell University passionate about finding new therapies for neuropsychiatric disorders like depression. One promising treatment option could be psilocybin. Dr. Kwan's research team made new discoveries using Neuropixels probes to record from hundreds of mouse brain cells in real time, and an advanced open-source software package called Open Ephys GUI from the Allen Institute. [Read More](#)

Arzeda to Lead Major NSF-Funded Initiative Advancing Cell-Free Manufacturing Through AI-Designed Enzymes

PR Newswire



Arzeda, The Protein Design Company™, announced it has been selected to lead a highly competitive U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) award as part of NSF's Use Inspired Acceleration of Protein Design initiative. The award, totaling approximately \$6.3 million, will harness Arzeda's Intelligent Protein Design Technology™ to unlock industrial-scale cell-free biomanufacturing across multiple sectors. [Read More](#)

Monod Bio Receives \$1.5M Grant to Develop NovoBodies for Next-Generation Tuberculosis Diagnostics

PR Newswire



Monod Bio, a biotechnology startup and spinout from UW's Institute for Protein Design, announced that it has received a \$1.5 million grant from the Gates Foundation to develop a next-generation, rapid diagnostic test for the detection of tuberculosis (TB). The funding will support development of a urine-based test designed to address a critical gap in TB detection in low-resource settings. [Read More](#)

Fred Hutch Study Finds New Life for 'Ineffective' Drugs

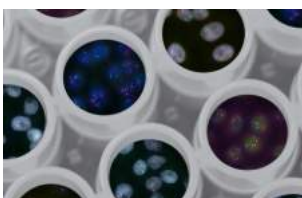
Fred Hutch



Pharmaceutical companies typically test drugs on isolated cancer cells cultured under ideal conditions in a Petri dish. A new study by Fred Hutch's Dr. Taran Gujral *(pictured)* compares the effectiveness of drugs tested on two different kinds of samples: the conventional cancer cells grown in a Petri dish and on samples Dr. Gujral calls "microtumors," which comprise thin slices of tumor that contain cancer cells but also key elements of the tumor microenvironment. [Read More](#)

Umoja Biopharma Named One of 2025's Most Promising Biotech Companies by Endpoints News and Fierce Biotech

Umoja Biopharma



Umoja Biopharma, the clinical-stage leader of *in vivo* cell therapies that aim to realize the full reach and promise of CAR T cells, announced its recognition by both Endpoints News and Fierce Biotech as one of the most promising biotechnology companies of the year. Umoja is honored to be named to the 2025 Endpoints 11 and the 2025 Fierce 15 lists—prestigious annual awards that spotlight emerging companies driving innovation in science and medicine. [Read More](#)

UW Institute Led by Nobel Laureate Uses AI to Develop 'Off Switch' for Cancer Drugs and Other Applications

GeekWire



Researchers at UW's Institute for Protein Design have used AI to engineer a protein that can quickly shut off interleukin-2, as just one example of the technology's potential applications. With one of these engineered proteins, "you could much more precisely control the duration of [immune response] signaling and also immediately shut down any immune activation, even after it's already started," said Adam Broerman *(pictured)*, lead author of the *Nature* paper. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Seattle

October 4 8:00 AM	Introduction to Lichen Identification and Ecology University of Washington
October 4 9:00 AM	3 rd Annual BACPAC Prostate Cancer Community Research Symposium Fred Hutch
October 9 8:00 AM	ISSCR: Seattle International Symposium Block 41
October 14 6:00 PM	Nature and Health Fall Community Dinner Fremont Brewing
November 6 5:30 PM	SpaceVision 2025 The HUB Seattle

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Science Jobs in Seattle

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