

Publications of the Week

Drug Screening in 3D Microtumors Reveals DDR1/2-MAPK12-GLI1 as a Vulnerability in Cancer-Associated Fibroblasts

First Authors: Nao Nishida-Aoki (*pictured*), Songli Zhu, and Marina Chan | Senior Author: Taranjit S. Gujral
Cell Reports Medicine | Fred Hutch and UW



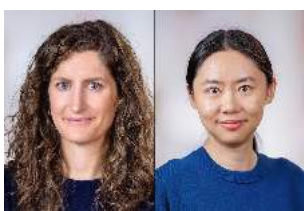
Interactions between cancer cells and surrounding stromal cells are critical for tumor biology and treatment response. Here, researchers compare drug screening results from conventional 2D cancer cell lines with 3D tumor tissues and find that, on average, three times more drugs are effective in 3D microtumors. They also confirm the effectiveness of doramapimod. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

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Awards

Fred Hutch Researchers Receive Prestigious R01 Research Grants

Fred Hutch



Two Fred Hutch Cancer Center researchers were recently awarded coveted R01 grants from the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Katrina Ortblad (*pictured, left*) received a five-year award totaling \$3.8 million from the National Institute of Mental Health. Dr. Jingyi Jessica Li (*right*) received a four-year award totaling \$2.4 million from the National Human Genome Research Institute. [Read More](#)

UW Undergrad Named 2026 Rhodes Scholar

UW Undergraduate Academic Affairs



UW senior Shubham Bansal (*pictured*) has been named a 2026 Rhodes Scholar, one of the most prestigious academic awards for U.S. students. Bansal, majoring in neuroscience, is one of only 32 students nationwide to receive the award and the University's 38th Rhodes Scholar. The Rhodes Scholarship fully funds graduate study at the University of Oxford and includes a character, service, and leadership development program. [Read More](#)

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Local News

What We're Learning About Long COVID: Updates from the PNW RECOVER Town Hall

Institute for Systems Biology



The Pacific Northwest RECOVER (PNW RECOVER) hub is part of a nationwide effort to understand, define, and ultimately treat long COVID. At a virtual town hall held on November 17, Dr. Jim Heath, Helen Chu (*pictured*), and Jason Goldman shared what the national RECOVER 1.0 study has uncovered so far, where the science is headed next, and how upcoming clinical trials aim to translate biology into better care. [Read More](#)

Oncology Insights with Dr. Petros Grivas

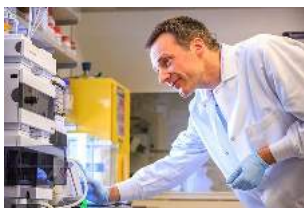
Fred Hutch



In this episode of the Fred Hutch podcast *Oncology Insights*, Dr. Petros Grivas (*pictured*) welcomes Dr. Cristina Rodriguez to discuss her journey in oncology, particularly in head and neck cancer. They explore the importance of a multidisciplinary approach in patient care, the role of clinical trials in advancing treatment, and the impact of HPV on cancer incidence. [Read More](#)

Scientists See Foam as Starting Point of a Path to Bedside Gene Therapy

Fred Hutch



Fred Hutch's Dr. Matthias Stephan (*pictured*) is developing a special foam to try to make gene therapy for blood stem cell defects an easy, bedside procedure. "We can use our foam to genetically modify bone marrow stem cells at a very high efficiency," Dr. Stephan said. In a new study, the foam delivered higher amounts of the gene therapy vector than either a viral or lipid nanoparticle delivery system. [Read More](#)

Seattle Hub's 'Sense Team' Plays Pivotal Role Building Technologies to Record Live Data from Cells

Brotman Baty Institute



For Dr. Hina Iftikhar (*pictured, right, front row*), building "a lot of new things" as the Sense Team Lead of the Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology, may be the biggest challenge and greatest opportunity of her scientific career. She and her five colleagues who comprise the team play a foundational role in the Seattle Hub's objective: creating new technologies to record the history of cells over time. [Read More](#)

Pentagon-Backed Lumen Is Ready to Drastically Slash Antibody Manufacturing Costs

Endpoints News



Seattle-based Lumen Bioscience, led by CEO Dr. Brian Finrow (*pictured*), is developing a method to produce antibodies in edible spirulina, drastically lowering costs and enabling oral administration. Their LMN-201 treatment for *C. difficile*, funded by the Defense Department, is in Phase III trials. Lumen can reduce antibody production costs from \$100–\$200 per gram to around 10 cents. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Seattle

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|-------------------------|--|
| December 4
7:00 PM | Future Tense: Neuroscience, AI and Society with Cory Doctorow
Samuel E. Kelly Ethnic Cultural Center |
| December 7
8:00 AM | Hope on the Court: A Pickleball Tournament for a Cure
Side Out Tsunami |
| December 9
3:00 PM | Collaboration in Research: Discovery, Innovation, and Impact
Vista Cafe |
| December 12
9:00 AM | 2025 Virtual Microbiome Symposium
Online |
| December 15
11:30 AM | LSW Institute Lunch and Learn: Funding Strategies for Life Sciences Companies
Online |

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Science Jobs in Seattle

- Research Associate III**
Seattle Children's
- Scientist, Discovery**
Umoja Biopharma
- Senior Scientist, Cellular and Molecular Biology**
GenScript Biotech
- Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Cancer Genetics**
Fred Hutch
- Research Coordinator II**
UW

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