

Publications of the Week

Identification of AMOTL2 as an Antiviral Factor That Enhances the Human Type I Interferon Response Against Zika Virus

First Author: Alexandra Willcox (*pictured*) | Senior Author: Julie Overbaugh
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences | Fred Hutch and UW



Zika virus (ZIKV) has caused multiple human outbreaks, with more recent epidemics associated with severe outcomes in infants. Here, researchers developed a CRISPR knockout screen to identify host factors that impact ZIKV replication, resulting in the finding of angiotenin-like protein 2, a protein that inhibits ZIKV by regulating the host type I interferon response. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

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Awards

Dr. Nora Disis Honored as Seahawks’ Delta Community Captain

UW Medicine



Dr. Mary (Nora) Disis (*pictured, center*), Professor of Hematology and Oncology, has received the Delta Community Captain award for her groundbreaking work developing cancer vaccines that harness the body’s immune system to fight disease. As founder and director of the UW Cancer Vaccine Institute , Dr. Disis is spearheading ways to harness the immune system to prevent and treat cancer.

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Recent Awards and Features for UW Biology Graduate Students

UW Department of Biology



UW Biology has highlighted the recent achievements won by their graduate students. Melanie Cham received a Simons Foundation Award. Sophia Jannetty was awarded the 2025-26 Washington Space Grant Dissertation Completion Award. Laura Quinche (*pictured*) was featured in the UW College of Arts and Sciences First-Generation Student Stories. Grace Van Susteren was awarded a Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award. [Read More](#)

Breast Cancer Research Foundation to Fund Seven Cancer Consortium Researchers

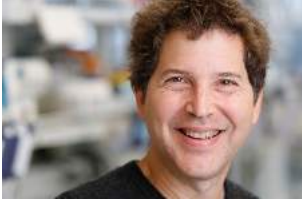
Fred Hutch



Seven scientists with the Fred Hutch/UW/Seattle Children’s Cancer Consortium received another year of funding from the Breast Cancer Research Foundation to pursue research into new therapies, new biomarkers and new vaccines meant to improve outcomes in this deadly disease. This cohort includes Drs. Anne McTiernan, Christopher Li, Hannah Linden, Mary-Claire King, Catherine Duggan, Nora Disis, and Nancy Davidson (*pictured*). [Read More](#)

UW Researchers David Baker and Lih-Yuan Lin Elected to National Academy of Inventors

UW Office of Research



UW researchers Drs. David Baker (*pictured*) and Lih-Yuan Lin have been elected to the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) 2025 class of NAI Fellows. The NAI Fellowship, founded in 2012, is the highest professional distinction awarded to solely to inventors. The 2025 NAI Fellows class includes 169 distinguished academic and institutional inventors in the U.S. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Microsoft, Providence, and UW Create AI That Unlocks Tumor Insights at a Scale Previously Out of Reach

GeekWire



Pacific Northwest tech and cancer researchers are publicly releasing an AI tool, GigaTIME, that can perform sophisticated tumor analysis in a fraction of the time and cost of existing methods, potentially making cutting-edge cancer insights available to far more patients. “GigaTIME is about unlocking insights that were previously out of reach,” said Dr. Carlo Bifulco (*pictured*). [Read More](#)

ISB’s Dr. Mary Brunkow Wins 2025 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

Institute for Systems Biology



The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet has awarded the 2025 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine to Drs. Mary Brunkow (*pictured, right*), Fred Ramsdell (*left*), and Shimon Sakaguchi. The trio was recognized in a ceremony on December 10 for discoveries that revealed how the immune system achieves peripheral immune tolerance. Drs. Brunkow and Ramsdell are are Seattle-based researchers.

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Allen Institute Scientists Igniting Curiosity of Young Minds

Allen Institute



Three weeks of intensive, hands-on neuroscience training by Allen Institute scientists gave students at the University of Puget Sound a glimpse into the future. “We are getting to learn the science that will be in textbooks in a few years,” said Dominique Langevin, a senior at the university. They are part of an advanced neuroscience class being taught, in part, by scientists from the Allen Institute.

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SABCS25: What’s New in Breast Cancer Research?

Fred Hutch



The San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium, the largest breast cancer research meeting in the world, was held December 9-12, 2025. Fred Hutch physician-scientists were featured in a number of poster sessions, oral presentations and main stage talks. Fred Hutch covers the highlights from the conference and the research showcased by Seattle scientists. [Read More](#)

Q&A with Ivan Woo on Paper, “Saturation Genome Editing of BARD1 Resolves VUS and Provides Insight Into BRCA1-BARD1 Tumor Suppression”

Brotman Baty Institute



Ivan Woo (*pictured*), a member of the Starita Lab, is the first author on a new preprint paper contributing to the understanding of how changes in the BARD1 gene affect cancer risk. He discusses the main findings of the paper as well as the next steps for the research in this Q&A. “ With the BARD1 paper, the goal is to take a big chunk out of this [variants of uncertain significance] problem for BARD1,” says Woo. [Read More](#)

Pairing Biomaterials and Designed Protein Technologies Offers Scientists Increased Control of Intracellular Processes

UW Institute for Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine



Over the last several months, Dr. Cole DeForest (*pictured*) and his team have either led or supported multiple research efforts that have showed how hydrogel technology could be used as the basis for innovations in cell transplantation. This includes injecting cells as medicine, and, most recently, for controlling biochemical processes inside living cells. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Seattle

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|--------------------------|--|
| December 31
9:00 PM | Nova—New Year’s Eve at Pacific Science Center
Pacific Science Center |
| January 14
11:00 AM | Neuroscience Cell Types Webinar: Exploring the New Brain Knowledge Platform
Online |
| January 16
7:30 PM | Professor Brian Cox: Emergence
Moore Theatre |
| January 26
8:00 AM | Science on Tap
Ravenna Third Place - Cafe Arta |
| Sept. 23 - 25
8:00 AM | Stem Cell & Developmental Biology Early Career Symposium
Allen Institute |

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Science Jobs in Seattle

- Research Fellow, Neuroscience Research**
Providence Swedish
- Scientist III, Immunologist**
SeaHub Scientific
- Clinical Laboratory Technician 2, Cytogenetics Laboratory**
UW
- Research Scientist IV, Coler Lab**
Seattle Children’s
- Scientist I, Immune Health & Aging, Adaptive Immunity**
Allen Institute

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Advanced Intestinal and Hepatic Organoids
Webinar by Riya Sharma

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