

Publications of the Week

Protein Overabundance Is Driven by Growth Robustness

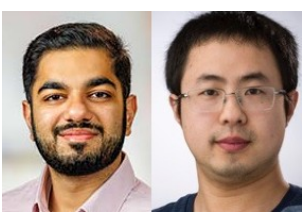
First Author: James Choi | Senior Author: Paul Wiggins (*pictured*)
Science Advances | UW



Protein expression levels optimize cell fitness. The trade-off between over- and under-expression of proteins naïvely predicts that cells maximize their fitness by sufficiency, expressing just enough of each essential protein for function. Researchers test this prediction in the naturally competent bacterium *Acinetobacter baylyi* by characterizing the proliferation dynamics of essential-gene knockouts at a single-cell scale as well as at a genome-wide scale. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

Comprehensive Profiling of Clinically Approved Kinase Inhibitors Reveals Mutation-Specific Inhibitors and Opportunities for Drug Repurposing

First Author: Mehiam Saifudeen (*pictured, left*), Songli Zhu (*right*), and Shuguang Liang | Senior Author: Taranjit Gujral
Nature Biotechnology | Fred Hutch and UW



Protein kinases are central to cell signaling and key drug targets in cancer. To inform potential repurposing of kinase inhibitors, researchers profiled 86 of the ~100 approved kinase inhibitors against 758 kinases, including 409 wild-type and 349 oncogenic variants using a biochemical kinase assay. Their results increase the number of druggable kinases from 89 to 235. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

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Awards

The Husky 100

UW



Each year, the Husky 100 recognizes 100 undergraduate, graduate and professional students from the UW Bothell, Seattle, and Tacoma campuses in all areas of study who are making the most of their time at the University of Washington. Among this year's cohort is Kristin Weinstein, Sarah D'Souza, and Shubham Bansal (*pictured*). [Read More](#)

Dr. Liz Kiernan Receives American Kidney Fund Grant

UW Medicine



Dr. Liz Kiernan (*pictured*) is a 2026 awardee of a research grant from the American Kidney Fund's prestigious Clinical Scientist in Nephrology Program, which funds early-career nephrologists dedicated to improving diagnosis, treatment and outcomes for people living with chronic kidney disease. Dr. Kiernan will investigate endothelial cell signaling using kidney biopsies from patients with diabetes and acute kidney injury. [Read More](#)

Dr. Rachel Issaka Receives Two Prestigious Awards From the American Gastroenterological Society

UW Medicine



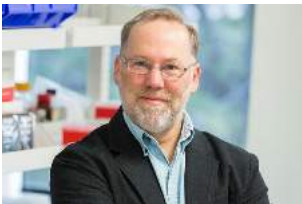
Dr. Rachel Issaka (*pictured*), Associate Professor of Gastroenterology, is the 2026 recipient of two prestigious awards from the American Gastroenterological Society. She is recognized for her work addressing inequities in gastrointestinal health and advancing equitable access to colorectal cancer screening, particularly for medically underserved populations. [Read More](#)

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Local News

From the ‘Scurfy’ Mouse to the Nobel Prize: How a Seattle Biotech Pioneer’s Long Game Paid Off

GeekWire



The biotech industry is increasingly shaped by computer-designed drugs and investor pressure to move fast and show commercial traction. Nobel laureate Dr. Fred Ramsdell (*pictured*) took a different path — one built on cell-based therapies, philanthropic funding and patient investing. Dr. Ramsdell recounted his journey at Life Science Washington's annual conference, tracing the unlikely origins of the discovery back to the Cold War. [Read More](#)

MoIES’ Scientific Exchange Sparks Microbial Engineering Collaborations

University of Washington Molecular Engineering and Sciences Institute



On April 8, the University of Washington Molecular Engineering and Sciences (MoIES) Institute hosted a Scientific Exchange on Microbial Engineering to catalyze new collaborations, share tools and expertise, and seed pilot projects. Held in Foege Hall, the event convened 20 scientists from the Fred Hutch, Institute for Systems Biology, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, and UW. [Read More](#)

Wayfinder Biosciences Advances Collaboration With Daiichi Sankyo on Key Neurodegeneration Target To Second Phase

PR Newswire



Wayfinder Biosciences, a biotechnology company using small molecules to target undruggable proteins at the RNA level, announced the advancement to the second phase of its research collaboration with Daiichi Sankyo. The decision follows the successful completion of the initial research phase, which was focused on discovering novel RNA-targeting small molecules against a key neurodegeneration target. [Read More](#)

Umbilical Cord Blood Transplant With Pooled Stem Cell Product Shows 96% Survival and No Graft-Versus-Host-Disease in Leukemia Patients

Fred Hutch



A new way of using umbilical cord blood for treating blood diseases could make the treatment more accessible to patients who need a stem cell transplant. A phase 2 clinical trial of patients undergoing a cord blood transplant plus a stem cell product derived from pooled cord blood units showed that 27 of 28 patients (96%) with leukemias and myelodysplastic syndrome survived at least one year and none of the patients experienced graft-versus-host disease. [Read More](#)

Clinical Trial Seeks to Recruit Adults With Type 1 Diabetes

UW Medicine



Researchers at UW Medicine in Seattle are seeking adults recently diagnosed with type 1 diabetes for a clinical trial of an investigational drug that may protect insulin-producing cells from destruction. They plan to test the drug CNP-103, which may help preserve the pancreas' ability to make insulin. The drug targets T cells, immune cells, that are mistakenly attacking the pancreas. [Read More](#)

How the Body Ages: Exploring Frailty, Menopause, and the Biology of Healthspan

Institute for Systems Biology (ISB)



At a recent ISB Research Roundtable, Assistant Professor Dr. Alice Kane (*pictured*) shared new insights into one of the most fundamental questions in biology: why do some people age in good health while others experience earlier decline? Dr. Kane outlined a growing body of evidence that aging is not simply the passage of time but a complex biological process that can vary dramatically from person to person. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Seattle

May 5
8:00 AM

Seattle DROP: Discover Research Opportunities for Postdocs

Online

May 5
8:00 AM

BRI Immunology Symposium: New Horizons in Immunity and Disease

Bell Harbor International Conference Center

May 5
8:30 AM

Stuart and Molly Sloan Precision Oncology Institute Symposium on Drugging the Undruggable

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

May 7
5:30 PM

2026 GeekWire Awards

Showbox SoDo

May 8
11:30 AM

Discovery Series, Dr. Cyrus Ghjar, Professor, Fred Hutch

Perkins Coie LLP

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Science Jobs in Seattle

Research Scientist/Engineer 3, Genome Evolution in Yeast

UW

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Campbell Lab

Benaroya Research Institute

Clinical Research Coordinator I

Velocity Clinical Research

Sr. Lab Assistant

Labcorp

Clinical Research Coordinator II

Seattle Children's

[View 90 Other Science Jobs](#) | [Submit a Job](#)

THIRD ANNUAL
BRI IMMUNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM
New Horizons in Immunity and Disease

May 5, 2026 | 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Bell Harbor International Conference Center

Benaroya Research Institute
Virginia Mason Franciscan Health

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