

Publications of the Week

The Genetic Architecture of Fibromyalgia Across 2.5 Million Individuals

First Author: Isabel Kerrebijn | Senior Authors: Nasa Sinnott-Armstrong (*pictured*), Hanna Ollila, and Michael Wainberg
Nature Medicine | Fred Hutch and UW



Fibromyalgia is a common and debilitating chronic pain syndrome of poorly understood etiology. Here, researchers conduct a multi-ancestry genome-wide association study meta-analysis across 2,563,755 individuals (54,629 cases and 2,509,126 controls) from 11 cohorts, identifying 26 risk loci for fibromyalgia. . The strongest association was with a coding variant in *HTT*. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

Capturing the Dynamics of STAT6 Macrophage Polarization Using Bioluminescence Temporal Signatures

First Author: Shiyuan Zheng | Senior Author: Elizabeth Wayne (*pictured*)
Cell Systems | UW



Signal transducer and activator of transcription 6 (STAT6) signaling is activated by interleukin 4 (IL-4) and IL-13 and drives alternative macrophage polarization, which is pivotal in wound healing, immunosuppression, and tumor progression. Here, researchers developed a STAT6-responsive-element THP-1 reporter to assess STAT6 activation in response to inflammatory stimuli. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Nextstrain Virus-Tracking Platform Moves Into New Phase

Fred Hutch



A \$1.5 million award from the Gates Foundation will support the next phase of Nextstrain, an open-access, open-source, and multi-pathogen platform designed to capitalize on the accelerating wealth of viral genetic data to support public health endeavors and pandemic responses. Fred Hutch genomic epidemiology dr. JT McCrone (*pictured*) is stepping up to lead Nextstrain's new phase. [Read More](#)

Dr. Cole Deforest Receives Renewed Funding From NIH for Studying Biology in 4D

UW Molecular Engineering & Sciences Institute (MoES)



Dr. Cole DeForest (*pictured*), MoES Director of Education and Weyerhaeuser Endowed Professor of Chemical Engineering and Bioengineering, received a funding extension of five years from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The grant will support his lab in developing methods for studying human development and disease progression. [Read More](#)

Dr. Eric Chow Receives Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research Grant

Fred Hutch



Dr. Eric Chow (*pictured*) has been awarded a Rally 20/20: Alumni Visionary Grant from Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research. The Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research was an early supporter of Dr. Chow's work a decade ago, and its renewed support via a Rally 20/20: Alumni Visionary Grant of \$200,000 allows him to explore technologies that weren't readily available when his research started. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Clinical Lab Speeds Detection of Measles, Other Infections

UW Medicine



Just days ago, new measles cases in in the United States rose to a number not seen since 1991. At UW Medicine, new technology is speeding the identification of measles and other highly infectious illnesses. The lab medicine and pathology team led by Dr. Alex Greninger (*pictured*) recently brought online automated instruments that accelerate the diagnostic testing of patient samples sent from across the country. [Read More](#)

“The Science of Working Together” Featuring Dr. Chantelle Leveille and Peyton Lee

Lab Coats & Life



In this episode of the Lab Coats & Life podcast, Dr. Nicole Quinn speaks with scientist Dr. Chantelle Leveille (*pictured, left*) and software engineer Peyton Lee (*right*) from the Allen Institute for Cell Science about the power of interdisciplinary collaboration in modern research. Dr. Leveille shares her journey from biochemistry and biophysics into large-scale imaging data analysis, while Lee discusses his experience in building interactive scientific tools. [Read More](#)

Two Events Showcase BBI's Commitment to Educating Young Scientists

Brotman Baty Institute (BBI)



More than 40 sixth and seventh grade students visited BBI's labs on July 20th to observe staff scientists and post-docs demonstrate DNA extraction from cells and specimens under computer-enhanced microscopes, as well as having an introduction to bioinformatics. The students were part of the Enrichment Summer program of the UW Robinson Center for Young Scholars. [Read More](#)

Q&A: How UW Researchers Are Using AI to Speed up Drug Discovery and Development

UW News



Drug development is among the slowest, most failure-prone processes in modern science. At the UW School of Pharmacy, the Institute for Innovations in Drug Delivery and Disposition brings together experts in AI, drug discovery, pharmacology, data science, and biotechnology like Drs. Gaurav Bhardwaj, Marco Pravetoni, and Nina Isoherranen (*pictured, left to right*) to ease the bottleneck between promising molecules and successful drugs. [Read More](#)

UW Study Identifies Genetic Changes Tied to More Severe Cognitive Symptoms in Schizophrenia

UW News



Schizophrenia affects approximately 23 million people worldwide. Now, researchers at UW led by Dr. Jennifer Forsyth (*pictured*) are investigating how genetic changes impact the severity of schizophrenia symptoms. Their new study supports the idea that deletions in genes that regulate early brain and neuron development are associated with more severe features of schizophrenia spectrum disorders. [Read More](#)

Benaroya Research Institute Appoints New Principal Investigator Dr. Edward Irvine

Benaroya Research Institute



Benaroya Research Institute (BRI), a world leader in human immunology research, welcomed the addition of Dr. Edward Irvine (*pictured*) as Principal Investigator and Assistant Member in the Center for Systems Immunology. The Irvine Lab will combine protein engineering, AI, and immunology to study how antibodies communicate with immune cells. [Read More](#)

Finding Alzheimer's Targets, One Cell Type at a Time

Allen Institute



Dr. Iris Stone (*pictured*) joined the Seattle Alzheimer's Disease Brain Cell Atlas consortium, where she helped develop a deep machine learning method to understand how gene expression changes at the level of specific cell types as Alzheimer's disease progresses. She hopes to publish their findings as an open-source method that researchers can use to identify and validate targets for Alzheimer's. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Seattle

August 13 4:30 PM	Life Science Washington Annual Summer Social 2026 188 E Blaine St
August 15 7:00 PM	SIGNAL: Sazón Seattle Pacific Science Center
Sept. 10 - 11 8:00 AM	Cascadia Mucosal Biology Symposium Allen Institute
Sept. 23 - 25 8:00 AM	Stem Cell & Developmental Biology Early Career Symposium Allen Institute
Sept. 24 - 25 8:00 AM	Dr. E. Donnal Thomas Symposium Fred Hutch

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Science Jobs in Seattle

Scientist, Protein Testing Arzeda
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Project Manager, LNP GenScript
Research Technician II, Cancer Biology Fred Hutch
Research Associate I, <i>In Vivo</i> Electrophysiology & Behavior Allen Institute

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