

Publications of the Week

Monocytic Niches Escape T Cell Surveillance and Promote *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Persistence in Lymph Nodes

First Author: Elya Shamskhov (pictured) | Senior Author: Michael Gerner
Immunity | Seattle Children's Research Institute and UW



Lung-draining mediastinal lymph nodes (medLNs) are critical for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Mtb) pathogenesis, serving both as sites of T cell priming and, paradoxically, reservoirs for long-term bacterial persistence. To understand this dichotomy, researchers examined myeloid and CD4⁺ T cell dynamics in medLNs after aerosol Mtb infection. They found that Mtb persists in medLNs within monocytic niches. [Abstract](#)

Multiple Myeloma and Therapy Reshape the Bone Marrow Niche to Durably Constrain Immune Reconstitution and Vaccine Responsiveness

First Authors: Aishwarya Chander (pictured) and Samir Rachid Zaim | Senior Author: Melinda Angus-Hill
Cell Press Blue | Fred Hutch, Allen Institute, and UW



Researchers performed longitudinal multi-omic profiling of matched bone marrow and peripheral blood from multiple myeloma patients across diagnosis, induction, ASCT, and recovery. They found that the tumor imposes a compartment-specific immune program where the marrow exhibits metabolic and inflammatory changes that bias hematopoiesis and alter cytotoxic effector programs not mirrored in the blood. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Dr. Nora Disis Elected Fellow of the Academy of Immuno-Oncology

UW Medicine



Dr. Mary (Nora) Disis (pictured), Professor of Hematology and Oncology at UW and Director of the Cancer Vaccine Institute, has been selected by the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) as a 2026 Fellow of the Academy of Immuno-Oncology. This recognition highlights scientists who have made groundbreaking contributions in cancer immunotherapy and is one of SITC's most prestigious honors. [Read More](#)

Innovation Fund Spotlight: Pioneering a New Generation of Tetramers

Benaroya Research Institute



Tetramers have allowed researchers to find extremely rare cells and extract them. For years, Dr. Bill Kwok (pictured) has wondered: Can we make even stronger tetramers to find even more types of rare cells? With the funding of a new Innovation Fund grant, Dr. Kwok wants to continue developing second generation tetramers and use them to study the most important T cells in autoimmunity. [Read More](#)

Dr. Lynn Symonds Receives ASCO Career Development Award

Fred Hutch



Fred Hutch's Dr. Lynn Symonds (pictured) has received a prestigious American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Career Development Award for work on a new biomarker for triple-negative breast cancer. Dr. Symonds completed her residency and fellowship at Fred Hutch and UW in 2022, mentoring under breast cancer oncologist and researcher Dr. Jennifer Specht. [Read More](#)

Three Bioengineers Earn Dean's Fellowship

UW Department of Bioengineering



Three bioengineering PhD students have earned a College of Engineering Dean's Fellowship for 2026, which honors top doctoral applicants. This Fellowship will give awardees one year of funding. This year's Dean's Fellows are Annel Andrea Leon Tenorio (pictured) in the Stevens lab, Muyun Hu in the Wan lab, and Yuan-Zhen Yang in the Folch lab. [Read More](#)

Fundamental Research is Paving the Way for New MS Treatments

Benaroya Research Institute



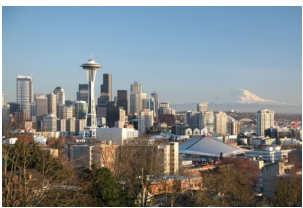
In multiple sclerosis (MS), T cells mistakenly attack the central nervous system, causing inflammation and tissue damage. Research from Dr. Estelle Bettelli's (pictured) lab suggests that a group of cells called tissue resident memory T cells (TRM) may play a role in continued tissue damage. Her new grant from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society will help her explore the role TRMs play in MS. [Read More](#)

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Local News

University of Washington and Seattle Biotech Win \$245M Patent Judgment Against Guardant

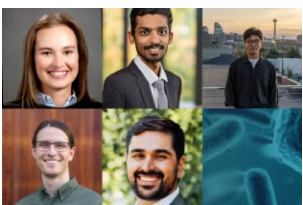
GeekWire



A federal judge has entered a final judgment requiring Guardant Health to pay more than \$245 million to Seattle biotech TwinStrand Biosciences and UW over DNA sequencing technology developed at the university. The technology at the center of the case traces back to research at UW, where scientists, including co-founder Jesse Saik, developed Duplex Sequencing as a way to make DNA sequencing more accurate. [Read More](#)

Washington Research Foundation Welcomes Ninth Cohort of Venture Analysts

Washington Research Foundation (WRF)



Washington Research Foundation has welcomed its ninth cohort of WRF Venture Analysts. The analysts have started their one-year assignments supporting the Foundation's grantmaking and investment activities. The 2026 cohort of WRF Venture Analysts includes Jessica Ayers, Ankit Azad, Nello Gu, Michael Malone, and Dr. Elya Shamskhov (pictured, left to right, top to bottom). [Read More](#)

Fred Hutch Researchers Discover Molecular Switch That Helps Prostate Cancer Quickly Change Its Biology to Evade Therapy

Fred Hutch



Cellular shapeshifting, or lineage plasticity, plays a key role in drug resistance and the spread of cancer to other tissues. Drs. Andrew Hsieh and Rashmi Mishra (pictured) identify a key step in the protein-making process that turns a treatable form of prostate cancer into a more lethal, drug-resistant subtype. Crucially, they also identified a way to switch it back. [Read More](#)

Seattle-Area Biotech Led by Ex-Athira CEO Leen Kawas Raises \$35M for Hepatitis D Drug

GeekWire



A Kirkland, Washington-based biotech company led by former Athira Pharma CEO Leen Kawas has raised \$35 million in a Series A round. The company said the money will support FDA review of Itonafarnib, an oral treatment candidate for chronic hepatitis D, along with manufacturing and commercial preparations, subject to regulatory approval. [Read More](#)

Upcoming Events in Seattle

Sept. 10 - 11 8:00 AM	Cascadia Mucosal Biology Symposium Allen Institute
September 11 7:00 PM	Beyond the Horizon - Emily Calandrelli The Museum of Flight
September 12 6:00 PM	SIGNAL: Modular on the Spot: Seattle Pacific Science Center
Sept. 15 - 16 8:00 AM	Emerging Connectomics of Thalamus and Striatum Workshop Allen Institute
September 22 6:00 PM	Organization of Regulatory and Clinical Associates 2026 Reception Fred Hutch

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Science Jobs in Seattle

- Scientist, Process Analytics**
Pfizer
- Animal Technician I**
Seattle Children's
- Research Associate III I-O**
SystImmune
- Blood and Marrow Transplantation/Immunotherapy Fellow**
Fred Hutch
- Lab Assistant (UFCW)**
Labcorp

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SCIENCE IN SEATTLE
alleninstitute/21

Early Career Networking Social
September 25, 2026 | 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Dexter Yard, Seattle

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