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Publications of the Week

Evolution and Heterogeneity of Lethal Metastatic Bladder Cancer Subtypes

First Authors: Pushpa Itagi *(pictured)* and Samantha Schuster | Senior Authors: Omar Mian, Hung-Ming Lam, Andrew Hsieh, and Gavin Ha
Nature | Fred Hutch and UW

Histological variation is a prognostic feature of metastatic urothelial cancer, but its evolutionary trajectory remains poorly defined. Researchers developed a metastatic bladder cancer rapid autopsy programme enriched in histological subtypes to profile individuals with terminal disease. They showed that metastasis-to-metastasis seeding is the dominant pattern of cancer spread and that increased polyclonal migration predicts poor prognosis. **Abstract | Press Release**

Rapid, HIF-1α-Independent, Response of VEGF Secretion to Decreased O_2 in Mouse Retina

First Author: Varun Kamat | Senior Author: Ian Sweet *(pictured)*
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences | EnTox Sciences and UW

Vascular endothelial growth factor-A (VEGF) is a critical determinant of retinopathy due to vascular complications. Its expression is chronically regulated by transcription factors notably hypoxia-inducible factor-1α (HIF-1α) in response to decreased availability of oxygen. Here, researchers considered whether there is a distinct rapid response component of VEGF secretion in response to low O_2, faster than could be achieved by HIF-1α. **Abstract**

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Awards

Recognizing BRI Researcher, Dr. LeAnn Nguyen, for Institute for Translational Immunology Fellowship Award

Benaroya Research Institute (BRI)

BRI postdoctoral researcher, Dr. LeAnn Nguyen *(pictured)*, was recently awarded the competitive Institute for Translational Immunology fellowship through UW. This fellowship aims to prepare postdoctoral candidates for a variety of careers and accelerate basic immunology research to clinic-ready therapies. Dr. Nguyen was selected for her outstanding work addressing the genetic causes of autoimmune disease. **Read More**

New Award, Led by UW's Patrick Stayton, to Support Inhaled Antibiotic Treatment That Will Help Avoid Drug Resistance

UW Department of Bioengineering

Dr. Patrick Stayton *(pictured)* and clinical colleagues Drs. Eoin West and Shawn Skerrett are developing a new means of treating pneumonia. The work is backed by Wellcome Leap's $50 million Focused Antibiotics program, which addresses the grand challenge of delivering antibiotics to treat infections while sparing the gut microbiome and reducing drug resistance. **Read More**

Berndt to Build Redox Sensors With NIH Grant

UW Department of Bioengineering

UW Bioengineering's Professor Andre Berndt *(pictured)* and his team will develop a new generation of biosensors with a Maximizing Investigators' Research Award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). These multiplexed, protein-based sensors will monitor the oxidative pressure and antioxidant capacity of individual cells and quantify intracellular redox states using fluorescence lifetime imaging microscopy. **Read More**

Advanced Retinal Imaging for Kidney Precision Medicine

UW Medicine

Retinal imaging provides a noninvasive window into systemic vascular injury that may facilitate kidney precision medicine. Dr. Ian de Boer *(pictured)* has received funding to determine how advanced noninvasive retinal imaging can be used to understand the mechanisms, subtypes, and outcomes of chronic kidney disease that are common among people with diabetes and hypertension. **Read More**

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Local News

BrainChild Bio Closes $116 Million Series A Financing

BrainChild Bio

BrainChild Bio, a clinical-stage biotechnology company developing CAR T cell therapies to treat tumors in the central nervous system, today announced that the company has closed a $116 million Series A financing. Proceeds from the Series A financing will be used to support the ILLUMINATE Phase 2 study, a pivotal clinical trial the company's investigational B7-H3-targeted autologous CAR T cell therapy. **Read More**

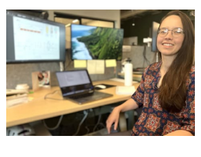
Brain Signals Help Regulate Reward-Seeking

UW Medicine

Researchers have identified how naturally occurring brain chemicals called endocannabinoids help regulate the drive to pursue rewards. "This study represents a first-of-its-kind glimpse into intact neuro-modulatory systems in freely behaving animals, and it gives us a better understanding of the neural underpinnings of reward-seeking," said first author Dr. David Marcus *(pictured)*. **Read More**

SeaBridge Fellow Julie Trolle Turns Unexpected Opportunities into 'Transformative Experiences'

Brotman Baty Institute



Dr. Julie Trolle *(pictured)* is one of eight SeaBridge Fellows working at the biotech venture, The Seattle Hub for Synthetic Biology (Seattle Hub), incorporating cell and genome programming technologies into their individual research projects in laboratories at the UW or Fred Hutch. With funding from the Washington Research Foundation, each fellow receives two years of financial support. **Read More**

New Assay Better Predicts Treatment for Two Cancers

Fred Hutch

Fred Hutch researchers have developed HRDefine, a new clinical test to better serve patients with tubo-ovarian and triple-negative breast cancer. The assay is "much more precise," in that it picks up homologous repair deficiencies (HRD) caused by methylation and other means. "It doesn't just look at a downstream characteristic of HRD but finds the cause of the HRD in cancer," Dr. Elizabeth Swisher *(pictured)* said. **Read More**

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Upcoming Events in Seattle

September 22 6:00 PM	**Organization of Regulatory and Clinical Associates 2026 Reception** Fred Hutch
September 22 6:00 PM	**Nature & Health Community Dinner** Fremont Brewing
Sept. 23 - 25 8:00 AM	**Stem Cell & Developmental Biology Early Career Symposium** Allen Institute
Sept. 24 - 25 8:00 AM	**Dr. E. Donnall Thomas Symposium** Fred Hutch
September 25 4:00 PM	**Early Career Stem Cell & Developmental Biology Networking Social** Dexter Yard

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