

Volume 9.40: October 13, 2026

Publications of the Week

CD4 T Cells Convert Transient Responses to KRAS Inhibition To Durable Remissions in Pancreatic Cancer

First Authors: Li Qiang, Megan Hoffman, and Jung-Ho Chun *(pictured)* | Senior Authors: David Baker, Michael Dougan, and Stephanie Dougan
Cell | UW



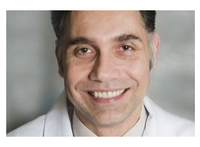
Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma is refractory to most therapies, including immunotherapies. Direct KRAS inhibitors (KRASi) have shown clinical promise, although acquired resistance is common. Here, researchers modeled KRASi response and relapse in mice and demonstrated that, unlike chemotherapy or combinations with checkpoint blockade, an interleukin-21 cytokine mimic induced long-term, durable remissions. **Abstract**

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Awards

Host-Pathogen Interactions in Melioidosis

UW Medicine



Burkholderia pseudomallei, the causative agent of melioidosis, is an environmental pathogen with growing importance to global and U.S. public health. Drs. T. Eoin West and Sina Gharib *(pictured)* are leading a five-year project on host-pathogen interactions in melioidosis. This project is part of a P01 award from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. **Read More**

A Potential Game-Changer in Blood and Marrow Transplantation

Fred Hutch



Blood and marrow transplantation for blood cancers is a medical miracle, but it comes with significant risks. Dr. Marco Mielcarek *(pictured)* has received a five-year, $3.5 million National Institutes of Health U01 collaborative research grant to determine the optimal dosage for a drug used to prevent one of the most common illnesses associated with transplanting stem cells sourced from a donor's bone marrow: graft-vs.-host-disease. **Read More**

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Local News

Healthy Aging in Rural Communities

UW Medicine



Research using medical claims data suggests that individuals living in rural areas have a higher risk of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, but it is unclear why. In 2025, Dr. Justin Miller launched the UW Northwest Rural Brain Health Initiative to study aging in rural communities to better understand brain health and dementia risk. The initiative looks at biomarkers of brain health in blood samples. **Read More**

Making the Smallest Machines of Life Big Enough to Hold in Your Hands

Fred Hutch



Several years ago, donors Mark and Nikki Mahan gave Fred Hutch a 3D printer, and Dr. Matthew Ross *(pictured)* has put it to good use. Dr. Ross, who is the communications liaison for Fred Hutch's Basic Sciences Division, uses the printer to create spare parts, customized equipment and teaching tools for Fred Hutch researchers, including a tissue stabilizer and a 3D model of the COVID-19 virus. **Read More**

Mapping the Motor Cortex – Where Movement Begins

Allen Institute



The brain's motor cortex is as important as it sounds: it plans, controls, and executes voluntary muscle movements. Yet despite extensive study, scientists still haven't created a detailed map of how the mouse motor cortex is internally organized. A new study by researchers at the Allen Institute paints a more precise portrait of the mouse motor cortex, dividing it into sixteen distinct subregions. **Read More**

Introducing UW MolE's 2026 PhD cohort

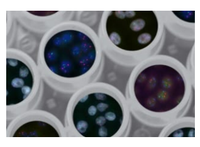
UW Molecular Engineering & Sciences Institue (MolE)



The MolE doctoral program has announced its 2026 PhD cohort. Their fifteen new doctoral students bring a diverse range of academic backgrounds, research interests, and experiences to the program. Among them is Nicole Alizade, whose research focuses on engineering light-responsive protein systems that direct *de novo* DNA synthesis within living cells. **Read More**

HSSA Awards Grant to Seattle-Based Orlance to Fund Growth in Spokane County

The Health Sciences and Services Authority



The Health Sciences and Services Authority (HSSA) of Spokane has announced a $250,000 grant award to Seattle-based Orlance to catalyze their research, development and commercialization efforts, improve health and healthcare, create well-paying jobs, and power future economic growth in Spokane County. Orlance brings with them federal grant dollars. **Read More**

IsoRanker: Finding the Signal in Long-Read RNA Sequencing

Brotman Baty Institute



Long-read RNA sequencing is giving us an increasingly detailed view of the human transcriptome. How do we determine which of the many transcriptomic abnormalities in a patient are actually relevant to disease? A new study from Yong-Han Hank Cheng *(pictured)* and the Stergachis Lab introduces IsoRanker, a computational framework designed to help answer that question. **Read More**

Variant Bio Expands Target Discovery Collaboration with Boehringer Ingelheim into Cardiovascular Disease

Life Science Washington



Variant Bio, a Seattle-based biotech, and Boehringer Ingelheim expanded their multi-year research and license agreement from kidney disease into cardiovascular target discovery in an agreement potentially worth more than $250M. The expanded collaboration will pair Varient's platform and data-driven discovery capabilities with Boehringer's expertise in cardiovascular and kidney disease to identify potential new treatments for cardiovascular disease. **Read More**

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Interesting Articles

Nucleate Activator

Nucleate



Nucleate's Activator is the world's largest open-access, equity-free biotech accelerator for early-stage founders. Their program guides founders through team formation, venture-building workshops, and expert mentorship, culminating in pitch showcases and global community connections. Applications are now open. **Read More**

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Upcoming Events in Seattle

October 20 — 6:30 PM
An Evening with Bill Nye
The 5th Avenue Theatre

October 25-29 — 8:00 AM
2026 Lake Conference – Comparative and Evolutionary Neurobiology
Hyatt Regency Lake Washington

November 17 — 8:00 AM
Immunology to Change Lives
Benaroya Research Institute

November 21 — 7:00 PM
Brewology
Pacific Science Center

Science Jobs in Seattle

Research Associate III, Spatial Biology
Allen Institute

Research Coordinator 2
UW

Laboratory Assistant Technical
CommonSpirit Health

Research Associate
GenScript

Microbiologist 2, Antibiotic Resistance
Washington State Department of Health

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An interview about AI uses in scientific research with César de la Fuente of the University of Pennsylvania.

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