

Volume 9.44: November 9, 2026

Publications of the Week

T and B Cells Recognize Splicing-Derived Neutrophil Neoantigens in Lupus

First Author: Rayan Najjar *(pictured)* | Senior Author: Tomas Mustelin
Nature | Fred Hutch and UW



Proteome diversity is generated through alternative mRNA splicing. Here, researchers report that neutrophils from patients with systemic lupus erythematosus, unlike neutrophils from healthy donors or patients with rheumatoid arthritis, contain many aberrantly spliced gene transcripts. Translation of these gene transcripts was predicted to result in novel amino acid sequences that are absent in normal splice variants or any other proteins. **Abstract | Press Release**

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Awards

WRF Awards $274,849 to Washington State University's Dr. Jon Oatley to Advance Nonhormonal Male Contraceptive

Washington Research Foundation



Washington Research Foundation (WRF) has awarded a $274,849 Phase II technology commercialization grant to Dr. Jon Oatley *(pictured)*. The funding will advance Dr. Oatley's work on a first-in-class, nonhormonal, and reversible male contraceptive. This grant builds on a $100,000 WRF Phase I grant in 2023 that helped Dr. Oatley's lab lay the groundwork for Alphatide, a novel short peptide that the lab is developing as its lead candidate. **Read More**

Fred Hutch Awarded Research Funds from the American Cancer Society

Fred Hutch



Three Fred Hutch scientists—Drs. Lucas Sullivan, Liberalis "Debraj" Boila, Sita Kugel *(pictured)*—were awarded research grants from the American Cancer Society, the largest private nonprofit entity funding cancer research in the United States. The awards will fund projects examining mutations in cell metabolism, drugs that inhibit cellular transcription, and protein regulation in liver cancer cells. **Read More**

Society for Neuroscience 2026 Early Career Awards

Society for Neuroscience



The Society for Neuroscience has announced this year's Early Career Awards to ten neuroscientists whose discoveries have already transformed the field. The Jennifer N. Bourne Prize in Neuronal and Synaptic Structure and Function was awarded to Dr. Leila Elabbady *(pictured)*, a research scientist at the Allen Institute, in recognition for her work bridging advanced machine learning with large-scale connectomics.
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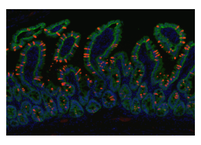
Local News

New Spokane Alliance Drives Life Science Growth

Journal of Business



A new alliance between Life Science Washington, Greater Spokane Incorporated, LaunchPad INW, and the Health Sciences & Services Authority of Spokane County will expand access to mentorship, funding, and commercialization resources for life science entrepreneurs across Eastern Washington. The alliance was officially announced on October 6, 2026, at the annual East West Life Science Summit.
Read More

New Facility at Washington National Lab Will Give Researchers Free Access to Automated Tools

GeekWire



A first-of-its-kind autonomous research facility is taking shape in central Washington and will provide free access to scientists studying bacteria, yeast and other microorganisms. The Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) broke ground on the lab, which will open in 2029. PNNL leaders said it will be "one of the world's largest and most fully autonomous biosciences laboratories" and the first to offer public access. **Read More**

Gut *E. coli* Profiles Help Predict, Prepare for Future UTIs

UW Medicine



New research from the lab of Dr. Evgeni Sokurenko *(pictured)* examines whether profiling the *E. coli* bacteria in the gut of women 50 and older could predict their risk of a future urinary tract infection (UTI). In an era of fast-rising antibiotic resistance, the researchers also examined whether fecal testing could predict which drugs would prove effective in UTI treatment for the patient up to 18 months later.
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Invisible Changes in Our Cells May Shape Health and Disease

Brotman Baty Institute



A group of papers examines new approaches to detect and analyze somatic mosaicism in people. The keynote paper is a report from the Somatic Mosaicism across Human Tissues Network, a National Institutes of Health-funded initiative. The network's latest published resource, "Comprehensive benchmarking of somatic mutation detection by the SMaHT Network," credits more than 200 authors, among them a team led by Dr. Andrew B. Stergachis *(pictured)*. **Read More**

'Not a New AI Center': Seattle Children's Launches $10M Pediatric Innovation Institute

GeekWire



Seattle Children's is announcing the launch of its Institute for Pediatric Innovation, a $10 million initiative with eight focus areas. The hospital is positioning the institute as the "core engine" driving its strategic plan. CEO Dr. Christopher Longhurst *(pictured)* has specific health challenges in mind where he hopes today's technology could quickly improve care for pediatric patients. **Read More**

Long-Read Sequencing Symposium Explores New Insights and Examines Potential Clinical Applications

Brotman Baty Institute



More than 150 researchers, faculty, and staff gleaned new insights into the effectiveness and potential clinical application of long-read sequencing at the fourth annual symposium organized by the UW Medicine Brotman Baty Institute. It was held on October 26 at the Seattle Children's Research Institute. Dr. Harriet Dashnow *(pictured)* was the keynote speaker. **Read More**

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Upcoming Events in Seattle

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

November 21
7:00 PM
Brewology
Pacific Science Center

December 9
8:30 AM
2026 ISB Frontiers in Computational Biology Symposium
Institute for Systems Biology

November 21
2:00 PM
Fred Haise in Air & Space
The Museum of Flight

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Science Jobs in Seattle

Clinical Research Coordinator I, Myeloma
Fred Hutch

Associate Clinical Research Analyst, Tumor Research Institute
Providence Swedish

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Zymeworks

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Allen Institute

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