

Volume 9.45: November 16, 2026

Publications of the Week

Prognostic Impact of Age and MDS-Associated Mutations in *NPM1*-Mutated AML

First Author: Vivian Liu *(pictured)* | Senior Author: Derek Stirewalt
Blood Neoplasia | Institute for Systems Biology, Veterans Affairs Puget Sound Health Care System, Fred Hutch, and UW



Nucleophosmin-1 (*NPM1*) mutations define a major molecular subtype of acute myeloid leukemia (AML). However, the impact of myelodysplastic syndrome–associated mutations (MDS^{m+}) on patient outcomes within this subgroup remains uncertain. Researchers retrospectively analyzed 271 patients with *NPM1*-mutated AML to assess the prognostic significance of MDS^{m+} and its interaction with age. **Abstract**

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Awards

Fred Hutch Researchers Optimize a Radioimmunotherapy Drug, Examine How Regulatory T Cells Influence Immune Memory

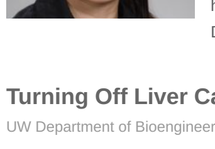
Fred Hutch



Two Fred Hutch scientists recently received R01 from the National Institutes of Health to support major projects with well-defined goals and compelling potential to benefit public health. Dr. Roland Walter *(pictured, left)* received a five-year, $3.52 million award from the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Jennifer Lund *(right)* received a five-year, $4.4 million award from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease. **Read More**

Uncommon Thinkers: Curiosity Led Mary Brunkow to an Immune Breakthrough — and a Nobel Prize

GeekWire



Dr. Mary Brunkow *(pictured)* has been awarded GeekWire's 2026 Uncommon Thinkers Award. This honor recognizes Seattle area's boldest innovators scientists, technologists, and entrepreneurs transforming industries and driving positive change in the world. In 2025, Dr. Brunkow would shared the Nobel Prize in Medicine with Drs. Fred Ramsdell and Shimon Sakaguchi for discoveries explaining how the immune system avoids attacking the body's own tissues. **Read More**

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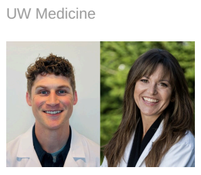
Local News

New Approach to Gene Therapy Shows Promise for Muscular Dystrophy Treatments

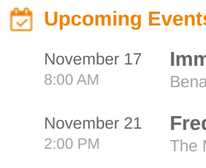
UW Department of Bioengineering



A recent study by UW Bioengineering's Dr. Hichem Tasfaout *(pictured)* and colleagues introduced a new approach to gene therapy that may someday improve treatment of dysferlinopathy. Dysferlinopathy, a set of related forms of muscular dystrophy, is caused by a genetic mutation that prevents the body from producing a key protein needed to repair damaged muscle tissue known as dysferlin. **Read More**

EpiSignaLR: An Open Resource for Genome-wide Episignature Analysis from Methylation-aware Short-and Long-Read Sequencing

Brotman Baty Institute



Sophia Gibson *(pictured)*, a Ph.D. Candidate in the Miller lab, is the first author on the recently released preprint paper, "EpiSignaLR: an open resource for genome-wide episignature analysis from methylation-aware short- and long-read sequencing.' She summarizes the findings, which suggested that episignatures can be discovered directly from sequencing data, capture signals that arrays miss, and carry over across sequencing platforms. **Read More**

New Clinical Lab Technology Is US Academic First

UW Medicine



UW Medicine has become the first academic laboratory in the U.S. to bring the automated mass spectrometry platform into clinical use. "Mass spectrometry plays an essential role in clinical diagnostics, but traditional mass spectrometry testing can be challenging to bring into routine laboratory practice because it often requires highly specialized expertise, complex workflows and significant hands-on time," said Dr. Joyce Liao *(pictured)*. **Read More**

Turning Off Liver Cancer's Lights

UW Department of Bioengineering



Current methods of diagnosing liver cancer come with "lots of maybes," according to Dr. Mike Averkiou *(pictured) from UW*. And those "maybes" about the existence, type, and size of a tumor come at a price. A recent study in the journal *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology* showed that late detection of liver cancer significantly limits treatment options for patients. **Read More**

Population Health Initiative Funds Study of Respiratory Health and Changing Patterns of Drug Use

UW Medicine

Drs. Jason Castaneda *(pictured, left)* and Tessa Steel *(right)* have received a $24,889 Tier 1 Pilot Research Grant from the UW Population Health Initiative. This project will establish the foundation for future research on the respiratory health impacts of changing drug-use patterns. Inhalational drug use may present new and underrecognized risks for acute and chronic lung disease. **Read More**

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Upcoming Events in Seattle

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

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

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

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