



Publications of the Week

### Genetically Encoded XTEN-Based Hydrogels with Tunable Viscoelasticity and Biodegradability for Injectable Cell Therapies

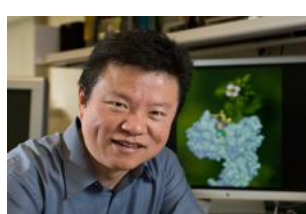
First Author: Jennifer Bennett | Senior Author: Cole DeForest (*pictured*)  
Advanced Science | UW



While direct cell transplantation holds great promise in treating many debilitating diseases, poor cell survival and engraftment following injection have limited effective clinical translation. This study presents an injectable XTEN-based hydrogels that shows promise for both *in vitro* cell culture and *in vivo* cell transplantation applications. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

### Dual Receptor-Sites Reveal the Structural Basis for Hyperactivation of Sodium Channels by Poison-Dart Toxin Batrachotoxin

First Authors: Lige Tonggu, Goragot Wisedchaisri, and Tamer Gamal El-Din | Senior Authors: Ning Zheng (*pictured*) and William Catterall  
Nature Communications | UW



The poison dart toxin batrachotoxin is exceptional for its high potency and toxicity, and for its multifaceted modification of the function of voltage-gated sodium channels. By using cryogenic electron microscopy, researchers identify two homologous nonidentical receptor sites of the cardiac sodium channel that simultaneously bind two molecules of toxin. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

### Postdoctoral Scholar Dr. Karoline May Has Been Awarded a UW Nutrition Obesity Research Center Pilot and Feasibility Research Advance Award

UW Medicine Diabetes Institute



The UW Medicine Diabetes Institute congratulates Dr. Karoline May (*pictured*), a Postdoctoral Scholar who has been awarded a UW Nutrition Obesity Research Center Pilot and Feasibility Research ADVANCE Award, which targets early career scientists from underrepresented groups. Her research investigates the link between gut microbiota and adipocyte metabolism. [Read More](#)

### Dr. Valerie Daggett Receives the University Faculty Lecture Award

UW Department of Bioengineering



Dr. Valerie Daggett (*pictured*), UW Professor of Bioengineering, received the 2023 University Faculty Lecture Award. The distinction honors current or emeriti faculty whose research, scholarship, or art has been widely recognized by their peers and had a substantial impact on their profession, on the research, or performance of others and perhaps on society as a whole. [Read More](#)

### Dr. Toshio Tsukiyama Elected to American Academy of Microbiology

Fred Hutch



Fred Hutch DNA-packaging expert Dr. Toshio Tsukiyama (*pictured*) was elected to the American Academy of Microbiology class of 2024. Members undergo a peer-reviewed election process to join the honorific leadership group within the American Society of Microbiology. Membership recognizes scientific achievement and original contributions that have advanced microbiology. [Read More](#)

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Local News

### Seattle Children's Set to Launch First US CAR T-Cell Clinical Trial for Children with Lupus

Seattle Children's



Seattle Children's has received FDA authorization to launch the first chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell clinical trial in the US for children under 18 with the most common form of lupus. Systemic lupus erythematosus is a chronic autoimmune disorder that affects multiple organ systems, resulting in significant morbidity and mortality. [Read More](#)

### Fred Hutch Announces 2024 Harold M. Weintraub Graduate Student Award Recipients

Fred Hutch



Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center announced 12 recipients of the 2024 Harold M. Weintraub Graduate Student Award, which recognizes exceptional achievement in graduate studies in the biological sciences. The award is named for Dr. Harold "Hal" Weintraub (*pictured*), a molecular biologist who helped found the Basic Sciences Division at Fred Hutch and died of brain cancer in 1995 at age 49. [Read More](#)

### Leading Researchers Join Effort to Support Responsible AI for Biomolecular Design

GeekWire



More than 100 researchers — including a Nobel laureate — have signed on to a call for the scientific community to follow a set of safety and security standards when using artificial intelligence to design synthetic proteins. The statement follows up on an AI safety summit that was convened last October by the Institute for Protein Design at the UW School of Medicine. [Read More](#)

### Clinical Study of a Blood Test Shows 83% Accuracy for Detecting Colorectal Cancer

Fred Hutch



A blood test intended for screening for colorectal cancer in people who are of average risk and not experiencing symptoms correctly detected colorectal cancer in 83% of people confirmed to have the disease, according to a new study. "The results of the study are a promising step toward developing more convenient tools to detect colorectal cancer early while it is more easily treated," said corresponding author Dr. William Grady (*pictured*). [Read More](#)

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Your Voice

### Science Bungalow: A New Way to Approach Science

Emily Stiles



Xavi Guitart (*pictured*), a graduate student at UW, has created a way to make academic research more accessible after experiencing access issues during his own research. He is in the process of launching a new social media platform, Science Bungalow, which allows researchers to upload their research papers through video presentations — making their research more accessible and captivating to a wider audience. [Read More](#)

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### Upcoming Events in Seattle

March 20 12:00 PM	<b>You Can't See the Trees for the Forest: Dissecting the Many Causal Roots Driving Autoimmune Disease Genetic Risk</b> Online
March 27 5:30 PM	<b>Generative AI and Healthcare</b> Sage Bionetworks
April 4 2:00 PM	<b>Biomedical Innovation Fireside Chats: Regulatory Strategy</b> Online
April 9 6:00 PM	<b>Biotech Networks Scientific Speed Networking Seattle Event</b> Stoup Brewing
April 17 - 18 8:00 AM	<b>Life Science Innovation Northwest 2024</b> Seattle Convention Center

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### Science Jobs in Seattle

- Senior Computational Biologist**  
Stealth Life Science Startup
- Scientific Program Manager**  
Allen Institute
- Post-Doctoral Research Fellow**  
Fred Hutch
- Intern, Process Science, Upstream**  
Partner Therapeutics
- Quality Assurance Specialist II, Clinical and Translational Science**  
Seattle Children's

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