

Publications of the Week

Interaction Specificity of Clustered Protocadherins Inferred from Sequence Covariation and Structural Analysis

First Author: John Nicoloudis | Senior Author: Rachelle Gaudet (pictured)
PNAS | Harvard University



Clustered protocadherins, a large family of paralogous proteins that play important roles in neuronal development, provide an important case study of interaction specificity in a large eukaryotic protein family. To understand how specificity is achieved between the numerous paralogs, the authors used a combination of structural and computational approaches. [Abstract](#)

Effect of Continuing Olanzapine vs Placebo on Relapse Among Patients With Psychotic Depression in Remission

First Author: Alastair Flint | Senior Author: Anthony Rothschild (pictured)
JAMA | UMass Medical School



Psychotic depression is a severely disabling and potentially lethal disorder. Little is known about the efficacy and tolerability of continuing antipsychotic medication for patients with psychotic depression in remission. The authors determined the clinical effects of continuing antipsychotic medication once an episode of psychotic depression had responded to combination treatment with an antidepressant and antipsychotic agent. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Lewina Lee, PhD, Awarded NIH Grant to Study Adverse Childhood Experiences, Later Life Health Outcomes

BU School of Medicine



Dr. Lewina Lee (pictured), Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Clinical Research Psychologist at the National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder at VA Boston, has received a five-year, \$3.5 million, R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health's National Institute on Aging to establish the Boston Early Adversity and Mortality Study. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Bioethics Discussions Grow at the Broad

Broad Institute



Genomics is increasingly grappling with complex issues, and a new group has formed at the Broad Institute to talk about them. Bioethics discussions have become more common among the Broad community, as the institute's scientists study and debate topics like the genetics of psychiatric disease in populations in Africa, the need for greater diversity in genetic datasets, and the appropriate use of gene-editing technologies. [Read More](#)

Can Pomegranate Juice Protect the Infant Brain?

Brigham and Women's Hospital



When it comes to protecting the newborn brain, taking steps to mitigate risk before birth may be critical. Being able to intervene before birth to aid in protecting the newborn brain may prevent the often-devastating effects of brain injury. A study led by Dr. Terrie Inder (pictured) at Brigham and Women's Hospital that used pomegranate juice has revealed the potential neuroprotective effects of polyphenols in at-risk newborns, such as those with hypoxic-ischemic injury. [Read More](#)

Hope for Dogs with Bone Cancer

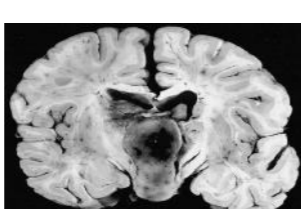
TuftsNow



Clinical trials at Cummings School seek to improve the treatments and prognosis for pets—and hopefully someday children—battling osteosarcoma. These clinical trials are evaluating the effectiveness of two new immunotherapies, given in combination with chemotherapy, in treating osteosarcoma that has spread to dogs' lungs. The researchers hope to discover drug combinations that either stop or shrink the growth of metastatic osteosarcoma. [Read More](#)

Exploring Targeted Treatments for Children with Low-Grade Brain Tumors

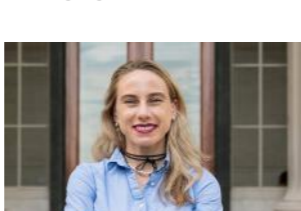
Boston Children's Hospital



Children diagnosed with low-grade astrocytomas, the most common type of pediatric brain tumor, have more than a 90 percent chance of being cured. Researchers at Dana-Farber and Boston Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center recently led an in-depth exploration into the genetic makeup of the individual brain tumor cells with the hope that the findings will lead to new treatments to minimize or avoid ill effects for young patients. [Read More](#)

A New Way to Deliver Drugs with Pinpoint Targeting

MIT News



Most pharmaceuticals must either be ingested or injected into the body to do their work. Researchers at MIT and elsewhere, led by Dr. Polina Anikeeva (pictured), have developed a system to deliver medical treatments that can be released at precise times, minimally-invasively, and that ultimately could also deliver those drugs to specifically targeted areas such as a specific group of neurons in the brain. [Read More](#)

Lighting Up Proteins with Immuno-SABER

Wyss Institute



A team led by Dr. Peng Yin (pictured) at Harvard's Wyss Institute for Biological Engineering and Harvard Medical School has discovered a new DNA-nanotechnology-based approach called Immuno-SABER, short for Immunostaining with Signal Amplification By Exchange Reaction. The method combines the protein targeting specificity of commonly available antibodies with a DNA-based signal-amplification strategy. [Read More](#)

New Preventive Genomics Clinic Launches at the Brigham

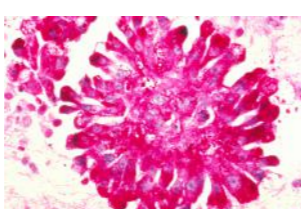
Brigham and Women's Hospital



Building upon two decades of cutting-edge research, geneticists and genetic counselors at Brigham and Women's Hospital have launched the Preventive Genomics Clinic, the first academically affiliated clinical service to provide comprehensive DNA sequencing, interpretation and reporting of disease-associated genes for healthy adults and their children who are seeking to understand and mitigate their risk of future disease. [Read More](#)

Chemical Screening Suggests a Two-Pronged Treatment for Pediatric Ewing Sarcoma

Boston Children's Hospital



For children with Ewing sarcoma, an aggressive bone cancer, a combination of two different classes of drugs may work synergistically to turn off the drivers fueling this disease. It was found that combining FAK inhibitors with drugs targeting a protein required for cells to divide, aurora kinase B, resulted in more Ewing sarcoma cell death and significantly inhibited tumor progression more than either treatment did on its own. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Boston

- September 3 10:00 AM **Bridging the Gap Symposium**
GSAS Harvard Biotech Club
- September 5 5:00 PM **STEMCELL Career Open House**
STEMCELL Cambridge
- September 6 8:30 AM **2nd Annual Dana-Farber Chemical Biology Symposium**
Jimmy Fund Auditorium
- September 9 7:00 AM **AI Applications for Drug Discovery and Development**
Boston Convention and Exhibition Center
- September 10 11:45 AM **From Bedside to Bench—Streamlined Workflow for Disease-Modeling Using Patient-Specific iPSC-Derived Neurons**
STEMCELL Cambridge

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