



Publications of the Week

Direct Reprogramming of Non-Limb Fibroblasts to Cells with Properties of Limb Progenitors

First Authors: Yuji Atsuta, ChangHee Lee, and Alan Rodrigues | Senior Authors: Olivier Pourquié (pictured) and Clifford Tabin
Developmental Cell | Harvard Medical School



The early limb bud consists of mesenchymal limb progenitors derived from the lateral plate mesoderm. Taking advantage of a direct reprogramming approach, researchers find a set of factors (Prdm16, Zbtb16, and Lin28a) normally expressed in the early limb bud and capable of imparting limb progenitor-like properties to mouse non-limb fibroblasts. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

Enhancing Cancer Immunotherapy via Inhibition of Soluble Epoxide Hydrolase

First Authors: Abigail Kelly (pictured), Weicang Wang, Eva Rothenberger, Jun Yang, and Molly Gilligan | Senior Authors: Haixia Yang, Bruce Hammock, and Dipak Panigrahy
The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences | Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School



While immunotherapy is a front-line cancer treatment, unresolved chronic inflammation and toxicities often limit its anti-tumor activity. Here, researchers demonstrate that immune checkpoint inhibitors induce the expression of soluble epoxide hydrolase, which degrades the anti-inflammatory and pro-resolving epoxy-fatty acids in the tumor microenvironment. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Postdoc Rebecca Beiter's Neurodegenerative Research Funded by Kirschstein Award

UMass Chan Medical School



Dr. Rebecca Beiter (pictured) has received a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Service Award Individual Postdoctoral Fellowship from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. Dr. Beiter will use the funding to analyze the role a type of glia called oligodendrocyte precursor cells play in neurodegenerative diseases. [Read More](#)

Dr. Cathy Wu Wins Prestigious Sjöberg Prize for Cancer Vaccine Research

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute



Dr. Catherine Wu (pictured) of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute has been awarded the Sjöberg Prize for her pioneering research in the field of personalized vaccines to treat cancer. Established in 2017, the Sjöberg Prize is awarded annually by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and the Sjöberg Foundation for decisive contributions to cancer research. [Read More](#)

Clafin Awards Help Moms Thrive in Science and Medicine at Mass General

Bench Press



To provide extra support during the challenges of managing the dual demands of work and home while raising a family, the Women in Academic Medicine Committee at Mass General established the Clafin Distinguished Scholar Awards in 1993. Mass General has announced eight new Clafin Distinguished Scholars including Dr. Alicia Martin (pictured). [Read More](#)

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Local News

Clinical Trial of New Targeted Agent a Boon for Patient with AML

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute



Research into the basic workings of certain leukemias in the laboratory of Dr. Scott Armstrong (pictured) has been crucial for the development of a new drug. The agent, dubbed revumenib, targets a protein called menin that drives the development of leukemias with an abnormality in the gene *KMT2A* and has exhibited positive results over the last two years in a clinical trial at Dana-Farber. [Read More](#)

Scientists Develop a Low-Cost Device to Make Cell Therapy Safer

MIT News



A tiny device built by scientists at MIT and the Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology could be used to improve the safety and effectiveness of cell therapy treatments for patients suffering from spinal cord injuries. This plastic microfluidic chip can remove some risky cells that could potentially become tumors before they are implanted in a patient. [Read More](#)

A New Test Could Predict How Heart Attack Patients Will Respond to Mechanical Pumps

MIT News



Many cardiogenic shock patients receive help from a mechanical pump that can temporarily help the heart pump blood until it recovers enough to function on its own. However, often the extra help leads to an imbalance between the left and right ventricles, which can pose danger to the patient. A new test could predict how heart attack patients will respond to mechanical pumps. [Read More](#)

Researchers Uncover Possible Cause for Higher Frequency of Autoimmune Diseases in Women

Science in the News



Autoimmune diseases, like multiple sclerosis and lupus, occur when your immune system goes haywire and starts targeting your own body. These diseases affect women at much higher rates than men. Up to now, the reason why has been a mystery. A group of scientists from Stanford, including Dr. Diana Dou (pictured), recently found that the cause may lie in the X chromosome, with a molecule called Xist. [Read More](#)

Intracellular Lipid Droplets Help Bacteria "Survive the Winter"

ADA Forsyth



ADA Forsyth scientists have spent decades investigating every order, genus, and species of bacteria living in the human oral cavity. A newly published study from ADA Forsyth rising star Dr. Pu-Ting Dong (pictured), in collaboration with her advisor Dr. Xuesong He, illuminates an interaction between two strains of oral bacteria that produces an uncommon result. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Boston

- February 23 9:00 AM **Keynote Series on Genomics: Drew Weissman, 2023 Nobel Laureate**
Joseph B. Martin Conference Center
- February 28 2:00 PM **Postdoc Career Talk Series: Understanding and Navigating K99/R00 Application**
Marshall A. Wolf Conference Center
- February 29 1:00 PM **Better Together Dialogue: Maladies of Empire: How Colonialism, Slavery, and War Transformed Medicine**
Online
- March 4 1:00 PM **McGovern-MEGIN Symposium: MEGnificent Brain Discoveries**
Singleton Auditorium
- March 5 10:00 AM **AI for Protein Structure Prediction**
Gordon Hall

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Science Jobs in Boston

- Summer Internship, Laboratory**
New England Biolabs
- Principal Scientist**
Syntis Bio
- Analytical Science and Technology Senior Scientist**
Vertex
- Principal Scientist, Research**
Visterra, Inc.
- Early Career Researchers, Computational Associate I**
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