



Publications of the Week

Genome-Wide Association Study Identifies Human Genetic Variants Associated with Fatal Outcome from Lassa Fever

First Authors: Dylan Kotliar (*pictured*), Siddharth Raju, Shervin Tabrizi, and Ikponmwosa Odia | Senior Authors: Christian Happi and Pardis Sabeti
Nature Microbiology | Broad Institute, Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital and MIT



Infection with Lassa virus (LASV) can cause Lassa fever, a haemorrhagic illness with an estimated fatality rate of 29.7%, but causes no or mild symptoms in many individuals. Here, to investigate whether human genetic variation underlies the heterogeneity of LASV infection, researchers carried out genome-wide association studies, seroprevalence surveys, human leukocyte antigen typing, and high-throughput variant functional characterization assays. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

Capivasertib Combines with Docetaxel to Enhance Anti-Tumor Activity Through Inhibition of AKT-Mediated Survival Mechanisms in Prostate Cancer

First Author: Cath Eberlein | Senior Author: Simon Barry (*pictured*)
British Journal of Cancer | AstraZeneca



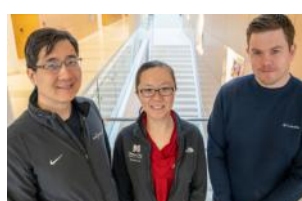
Mechanisms associated with docetaxel capivasertib treatment activity in prostate cancer were examined using a panel of *in vivo* tumour models and cell lines. Here, researchers found that capivasertib can enhance anti-tumor effects of docetaxel by targeting residual docetaxel-persister cells, independent of PTEN status, to induce apoptosis and DNA damage in part through PI3K/AKT pathway effectors GSK3β. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

UMass Chan Researchers Earn PolyBio Foundation Award for Long COVID, Neurodegenerative Disease Study

UMass Chan Medical School



Researchers at UMass Chan Medical School are investigating the potential connection to and impact of long COVID on neurodegenerative disease, thanks to pilot grant funding from the PolyBio Research Foundation. Drs. Rigel Chan (*pictured, left*), Elaine Lim (*center*), and Fiachra Humphries (*right*) are the first UMass Chan recipients of a PolyBio Research Foundation award. [Read More](#)

Dr. Gordon Freeman Recognized with 2024 AACR-Cancer Research Institute Lloyd J. Old Award in Cancer Immunology

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute



Dr. Gordon Freeman (*pictured*) from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute will receive the 2024 AACR-Cancer Research Institute Lloyd J. Old Award in Cancer Immunology from the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR). Dr. Freeman is being recognized for his contributions to the development of immunotherapies for cancer, autoimmune diseases, and transplant rejection. [Read More](#)

Meet the BBJ's Inaugural Innovators in Healthcare

Boston Business Journal



Boston Business Journal (BBJ) Innovators is honoring 15 recipients in seven categories: chief executive leadership, entrepreneur, researcher, health equity champion, community health, nonprofit, and advocacy for their accomplishments in healthcare. Among the honorees is Dr. Lisa Diller (*pictured*), a researcher at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Boston Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center. [Read More](#)

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Local News

When Diagnosis Is Just the First Step: The Brain Gene Registry

Boston Children's Hospital



Dr. Maya Chopra (*pictured*) is leading the Boston Children's portion of the National Brain Gene Registry, a project that's taking research on genetic brain disorders to the next level. Currently encompassing thirteen medical centers, the registry will make newly identified genetic changes, or variants, available to the entire research community — together with detailed clinical data. [Read More](#)

Hitchhiking Cancer Vaccine Makes Progress in the Clinic

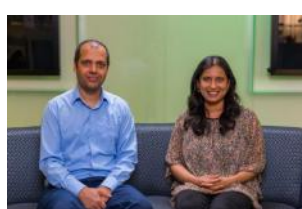
MIT News



Effective cancer vaccines have not materialized, despite decades of research. New hope may now be on the horizon. A vaccine based on a novel approach developed by Dr. Darrell Irvine (*pictured*), colleagues at MIT, and researchers at Elicio Therapeutics, an MIT spinout that Dr. Irvine founded to translate experiments into treatment, is showing promising results in clinical trials. [Read More](#)

Introducing the Wyss Lumineers Class of 2023

Wyss Institute



Since the Wyss Institute's founding in 2009, they have successfully launched more than 50 startup companies. This year, five more startups have joined the ranks, led by Lumineers who are blazing a trail out of academia and into industry. Among the 2023 Lumineers are Drs. Vaskar Gnyawali (*pictured, left*) and Sukanya Punthambaker (*right*), who left the Wyss Institute to begin Project Samri. [Read More](#)

Dr. Bogdan Budnik on Analyzing Proteins to Develop Better Diagnostics and Therapeutics

Wyss Institute



After studying physics for many years, Dr. Bogdan Budnik (*pictured*) realized instead of using his knowledge to generate power, he wanted to use it to empower people with better disease diagnostics and treatments. Dr. Budnik discusses his journey with the Humans of the Wyss series, which features different members of the Wyss community. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Boston

- 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 - 7 8:00 AM **GCPRs Targeted Drug Discovery Summit**
Hilton Boston Back Bay
- March 5 10:00 AM **AI for Protein Structure Prediction**
Gordon Hall

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Visterra
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