



Publications of the Week

### Defining Clinically Useful Biomarkers of Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors in Solid Tumors

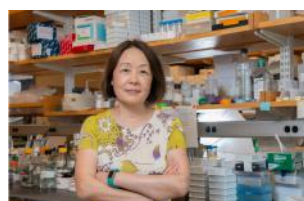
First Author: Ashley Holder | Senior Author: Genevieve Boland *(pictured)*  
Nature Reviews Cancer | Massachusetts General Hospital and Dana Farber Cancer Institute



Although more than a decade has passed since the approval of immune checkpoint inhibitors for the treatment of melanoma and non-small-cell lung, breast, and gastrointestinal cancers, many patients still show limited response. In this perspective, researchers assess the multiple new static, dynamic, and patient-specific biomarkers, highlight the newest consortia and trial efforts, and provide recommendations for future clinical trials. [Abstract](#)

### Cell-Autonomous Role of Leucine-Rich Repeat Kinase in the Protection of Dopaminergic Neuron Survival

First Authors: Jongkyun Kang and Guodong Huang | Senior Author: Jie Shen *(pictured)*  
eLife | Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School



Mutations in leucine-rich repeat kinase 2 (*LRRK2*) are the most common genetic cause of Parkinson's disease. In this study, the authors investigate whether *Lrrk2* and its functional homolog *Lrrk1* play a cell-intrinsic role in dopaminergic (DA) neuron survival through the development of DA neuron-specific *Lrrk* conditional double knockout mice. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

### Dr. Nancy Kanwisher Shares 2024 Kavli Prize in Neuroscience

McGovern Institute



The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters announced the 2024 Kavli Prize Laureates in the fields of astrophysics, nanoscience, and neuroscience. The 2024 Kavli Prize in Neuroscience honors Dr. Nancy Kanwisher *(pictured)* from MIT and the McGovern Institute and her collaborators for their discovery of a highly localized and specialized system for representation of faces in the human and non-human primate neocortex. [Read More](#)

### Pew Biomedical Scholars

Pew



The Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences provides funding to young investigators of outstanding promise in science relevant to the advancement of human health. There are numerous Boston-based researchers among the awardees, including Drs. Evanna Mills *(pictured)*, Meg Younger, Silvi Rouskin, and Sara Prescott. [Read More](#)

### Dr. Anna Berenson Receives 2024 Belamarich Award

Boston University



Dr. Anna Berenson *(pictured)* has been selected as the winner of the 2024 Belamarich Award for her doctoral dissertation in Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, and Biochemistry titled "Paired Yeast One-Hybrid Assays to Detect DNA-Binding Cooperativity and Antagonism Across Transcription Factors." Dr. Berenson is from the Fuxman Bass Lab at Boston University. [Read More](#)

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Local News

### Two Rising Stars in Kidney Genetics: Nina Mann and Amar Majmundar

Boston Children's Hospital



Coming from different paths, Drs. Nina Mann *(pictured, right)* and Amar Majmundar *(left)* met during their nephrology fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital. In 2022, they established and became Co-Directors of the Kidney Genetics Clinic — one of very few in the country at a children's hospital. They work with families to find genetic diagnoses for children with rare kidney disorders and develop custom care plans. [Read More](#)

### Scientists Preserve DNA in an Amber-Like Polymer

MIT News



In the movie "Jurassic Park," scientists extracted DNA that had been preserved in amber for millions of years, and used it to create a population of long-extinct dinosaurs. Inspired partly by that film, MIT researchers have developed a glassy, amber-like polymer that can be used for long-term storage of DNA, whether entire human genomes or digital files such as photos. [Read More](#)

### Reimagining Treatment for Neurological Diseases: Ayush Noori

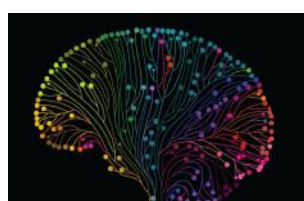
Wyss Institute



Ayush Noori *(pictured)* would reimagine the world with personalized medicine for every patient, so they can live fulfilling lives surrounded by their loved ones. He is inspired by his experiences caring for his grandmother, Munira Brooks, after she was diagnosed with progressive supranuclear palsy. Two years ago, Ayush joined the lab of Dr. George Church and started working on the CircaVent project. [Read More](#)

### Just Thinking About a Location Activates Mental Maps in the Brain

MIT News



New research from MIT has found that mental maps are created and activated when you merely think about sequences of experiences, in the absence of any physical movement or sensory input. In an animal study, the researchers found that the entorhinal cortex harbors a cognitive map of what animals experience while they use a joystick to browse through a sequence of images. [Read More](#)

### Model Predicts Size of Yeast Clusters

Harvard University Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology



Researchers from Dr. Andrew Murray's *(pictured)* lab have recently published a paper in the journal *Current Biology* on a computational model that can predict the size of yeast clusters by considering the physical links that connect a mother cell and her daughter. This surprisingly simple model explains the distribution of yeast cluster sizes. [Read More](#)

### Technologies Enable 3D Imaging of Whole Human Brain Hemispheres at Subcellular Resolution

The Picower Institute



Observing anything and everything within the human brain, no matter how large or small while it is fully intact, has been an out-of-reach dream of neuroscience for decades, but in a new study in *Science*, an MIT-based team describes a technology pipeline that enabled them to finely process, richly label, and sharply image full hemispheres of the brains of two donors — one with Alzheimer's and one without — at high resolution and speed. [Read More](#)

### Simple Test for Flu Could Improve Diagnosis and Surveillance

Broad Institute



Fewer than one percent of people who get the flu every year get tested in part because most tests require trained personnel and expensive equipment. Now researchers from the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard have developed a low-cost paper strip test that could allow more patients to find out which type of flu they have and get the right treatment. [Read More](#)

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### Upcoming Events in Boston

- June 24 - 27 8:00 AM **Arthur and Sandra Irving Cancer Immunology Symposium**  
Boston Harbor Hotel
- June 24 6:00 PM **Liquid Lab Art Workshops**  
MIT Museum
- July 29 - 31 8:00 AM **Psychedelics Bootcamp 2024: Key Topics in Law, Medicine, Research, Regulations, and Advocacy**  
Harvard Medical School
- July 31 12:00 PM **Plotting like a Pro: Data Visualization with ggplot2**  
Online
- August 1 2:00 PM **Biotech in Boston: Leading the Way in Life Sciences**  
The Ritz-Carlton

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### Science Jobs in Boston

- Scientist/Senior Scientist, Immunology**  
LifeMine
- Research Associate II, Molecular Biology**  
Aera Therapeutics
- Associate Scientist, Biology**  
Planet Pharma
- Senior Research Scientist I**  
The Broad Institute
- Research Technician**  
Boston University

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