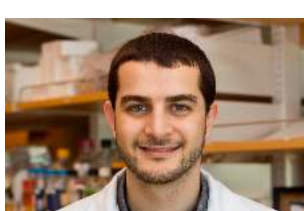




Publications of the Week

A CAR Enhancer Increases the Activity and Persistence of CAR T Cells

First Author: Taha Rakhshandehroo (*pictured*) | Senior Author: Mohammad Rashidian
Nature Biotechnology | Boston University, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Harvard Medical School



Although chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cell therapies have demonstrated promising clinical outcomes, durable remissions remain limited. To extend the efficacy of CAR T cells, researchers have developed a CAR enhancer, comprising a CAR T cell antigen fused to an immunomodulatory molecule. Here, researchers demonstrate this strategy using B cell maturation antigen CAR T cells for the treatment of multiple myeloma. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

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Awards

National Academy Elects Pfeffer and Schiffer

ASBMB Today



The National Academy of Sciences recently elected 144 new members, including UMass Chan Medical School's Dr. Celia Schiffer (*pictured*). These scientists are being recognized for their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. Dr. Schiffer is a Professor and the Chair of Biochemistry and Molecular Biotechnology and the Director of the Institute for Drug Resistance at the UMass Chan Medical School. [Read More](#)

Ndhlovu Lab Postdoc Wins Prestigious IAS/ANRS Lange/van Tongeren Prize for Young Investigators

Ragon Institute



The Ragon Institute has recognized Dr. Merantha Moodley (*pictured*), a postdoctoral fellow in the Ndhlovu lab, as one of six recipients of the IAS/ANRS Lange/van Tongeren Prize for Young Investigators. Her exceptional work has earned her this honor at AIDS 2024, the 25th International AIDS Conference, held in Munich, Germany. [Read More](#)

Congratulations to the 2024 Winners of the Clafin Distinguished Scholar Awards

Bench Press



To provide extra support to women in science, the Women in Academic Medicine Committee at Mass General established the Clafin Distinguished Scholar Awards in 1993. In 2024, Mass General announced eight new Clafin Distinguished Scholars, including Dr. Julie Miller (*pictured*). Dr. Miller investigates the genetic and molecular mechanisms driving the development and progression of primary brain tumors. [Read More](#)

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Local News

FDA Approves New Therapy for Glioma Patients for First Time in Decades

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute



Vorasidenib has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for patients with Grade 2 gliomas with IDH1 or IDH2 mutations. This is based on evidence from the INDIGO clinical trial. "The INDIGO trial shows that IDH inhibitors can work in low grade gliomas with the IDH mutation," says Dr. Patrick Wen (*pictured*), one of the trial's three study chairs. [Read More](#)

Q&A: How a Stem Cell Bank Is Helping Scientists Understand Psychiatric Disorders

Broad Institute



When Dr. Ralda Nehme (*pictured*), a cell biologist and neuroscientist, first started her lab at the Broad Institute, she realized a gap in the field. She was adept at growing stem cells in the lab and using those cells to study the effects of genetic mutations linked to schizophrenia. But she soon realized that to truly capture the complexity of human disease, she would need to study a large number of cells from many people with different genetic backgrounds. [Read More](#)

In Immune Cells, X Marks the Spot(s)

Whitehead Institute



There are many known sex differences in health and disease: cases in which either men or women are more likely to get a disease, experience a symptom, or have a certain drug side effect. Often, the specific factors contributing to a sex difference are hard to tease apart; there may not be a simple way to tell what is caused by sex chromosomes versus sex hormones versus environment. [Read More](#)

Machine Learning Approach Helps Researchers Design Better Gene-Delivery Vehicles for Gene Therapy

Broad Institute



Gene therapy could potentially cure genetic diseases but it remains a challenge to package and deliver new genes to specific cells safely and effectively. Now, researchers led by Dr. Ben Deverman (*pictured*) at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard have developed a machine-learning approach that promises to speed up adeno-associated viruses engineering for gene therapy. [Read More](#)

New Method Enables Fast, Accurate Estimates of Cardiovascular State to Inform Blood Pressure Management

MIT News



If patients receiving intensive care or undergoing major surgery develop excessively high or low blood pressures, they could suffer severe organ dysfunction. It's not enough for their care team to know that pressure is abnormal. To choose the correct drug to treat the problem, doctors must know why blood pressure has changed. A new MIT study presents the mathematical framework needed to derive that crucial information accurately and in real time. [Read More](#)

The Art of the Enzyme

MIT Chemistry



Bioengineer and artist David Kastner (*pictured*) seeks to unlock the secrets of catalysis and improve science communication through eye-catching visuals. While working on metalloenzymes in the Kulik and White Labs, Kastner produces beautiful 3D illustrations of molecular systems that help make his research more accessible to a wider audience. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Boston

- August 19 - 22 **The Bioprocessing Summit 2024**
8:00 AM Sheraton Hotel
- September 18 **The 2025 Aging Brain Initiative Symposium: The Neuro-Immune Axis and the Aging Brain**
8:30 AM Singleton Auditorium
- September 23 **2024 Rosamund Stone Zander Translational Neuroscience Center Symposium**
8:00 AM Joseph B. Martin Conference Center
- September 23 - 25 **The Biotech Event Accelerating Fresh Ideas, Partnerships, and Opportunities**
9:00 AM Hynes Convention and Exhibition Center
- September 24 - 25 **Kuggie Vallee Distinguished Lectures and Workshops**
9:00 AM Singleton Auditorium

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Science Jobs in Boston

- Assistant Professor of Immunology**
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School
- Research Fellow, Hidden Hearing Loss Research**
Massachusetts Eye & Ear
- Senior Scientist, Global Biologics**
Takeda
- Principal Scientist, Discovery Biology**
Prologue Medicines
- Reserch Technician III**
Boston University

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