



Publications of the Week

Macrophages Protect Against Sensory Axon Loss in Peripheral Neuropathy

First Author: Sara Hakim | Senior Author: Clifford Woolf *(pictured)*
Nature | Boston Children's Hospital, and Harvard Medical School



Peripheral neuropathy is a common complication of type 2 diabetes, which is strongly associated with obesity, causing sensory loss and, in some patients, neuropathic pain. Here, researchers used a high-fat, high-fructose diet, which induces obesity and prediabetic metabolic changes, to study the onset of peripheral neuropathy. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

A Window-of-Opportunity Trial Reveals Mechanisms of Response and Resistance to Navtemadlin in Patients With Recurrent Glioblastoma

First Authors: Veronica Rendo *(pictured)* and Eudocia Lee | Senior Authors: Patrick Wen, Keith Ligon, and Rameen Beroukhim
Science Translational Medicine | Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School, Broad Institute, and Brigham and Women's Hospital



Inhibitors of murine double minute homolog 2 (MDM2) represent a promising therapeutic approach for TP53 wild-type glioblastomas (GBMs), reactivating p53 signaling to induce cancer cell death. Researchers conducted a surgical window-of-opportunity trial of the MDM2 inhibitor navtemadlin in 21 patients with TP53 wild-type recurrent GBM to determine achievable drug concentrations within tumor tissues and biological mechanisms of response and resistance. [Abstract](#)

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Awards

Human Immunome Project and Michelson Medical Research Foundation Award \$150,000 Grants to Three Early-Career Scientists Advancing Immunology and Vaccines

Human Immunome Project



The Human Immunome Project and Michelson Medical Research Foundation have awarded Dr. Omar Abudayyeh *(pictured)* from Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School the Michelson Prize: Next Generation Grant. The \$150,000 research grants are awarded annually to support early-career scientists advancing human immunology, vaccine discovery, and immunotherapy research for major global diseases. [Read More](#)

BU Biologist Receives 2025 Sloan Research Fellowship

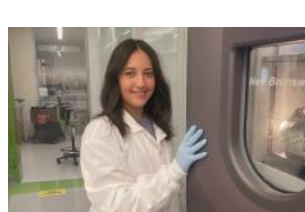
The Brink



In support of her quest to understand the inner workings of brain cells, Boston University's (BU) Dr. Lynne Chantranupong *(pictured)* has been named a 2025 Sloan Research Fellow. She is among the 126 scientists from the United States and Canada who received the highly competitive prize. With the honor, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation recognizes standout young scientists whose work is promising and innovative. [Read More](#)

"Creating Lasting International Collaboration" — An Interview with MIT Ibn Khaldun Fellow Deemah Dabbagh

Ragon Institute



Dr. Deemah Dabbagh *(pictured)*, a junior faculty member at King Saud University in Saudi Arabia, has spent years studying infectious diseases, with a particular focus on HIV. Through the MIT Ibn Khaldun Fellowship for Saudi Arabian Women, she is now working in the Ragon's DeKosky Lab where she is learning advanced techniques in yeast display and immune engineering. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Alex Rives Joins Faculty of Broad Institute and MIT

Broad Institute



The Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard has appointed Dr. Alex Rives *(pictured)*, a leading computer scientist and pioneering artificial intelligence researcher, as a core institute member. Dr. Rives is a Co-Founder and Chief Scientist at EvolutionaryScale, a public-benefit startup dedicated to developing AI to accelerate scientific discovery. [Read More](#)

How Nature Organizes Itself, From Brain Cells to Ecosystems

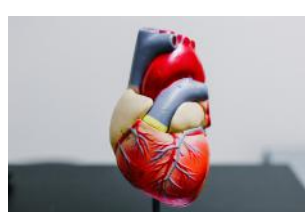
McGovern Institute



How does organization in nature arise? Does it follow a detailed genetic blueprint, or can these structures emerge on their own? A new study from McGovern Associate Investigator Dr. Ila Fiete *(pictured)* suggests a surprising answer. She reports that a mathematical model called peak selection can explain how modules emerge without strict genetic instructions. [Read More](#)

Taking the Pulse of Sex Differences in the Heart

Whitehead Institute



Heart disease is the number one killer of men and women, but it often presents differently depending on sex. Researchers from the Page lab at the Whitehead Institute have now identified some of these underlying biological differences in healthy male and female hearts, which may contribute to the observed differences in disease. [Read More](#)

New Imaging Technique Illuminates Bacterial Gene Activity

Harvard Medical School



Researchers have created a novel imaging-technology combination that can capture gene activity in individual bacteria in their complex local environments, opening new avenues to investigate bacterial interaction, virulence, and antibiotic resistance. The studies also captured spatial data, revealing how spatial factors influence the genes bacteria turn on. [Read More](#)

Research by UMass Chan Scientists Upends Scientific Understanding of How Anticancer Drugs Kill Cancer

UMass Chan Medical School



Research by UMass Chan Medical School scientists Drs. Sharon Cantor *(pictured)* and Jenna Whalen poses a new explanation for how cancer-fighting drugs attack and destroy BRCA1 and BRCA2 tumor cells. Their work illustrates how a small DNA nick—a break in one strand of the DNA—can expand into a large single-stranded DNA gap, killing BRCA mutant cancer cells, including drug-resistant breast cancer cells. [Read More](#)

Healey & AMG Center for ALS Launches ALS MyMatch: An Early Phase Biomarker Driven Trial Program

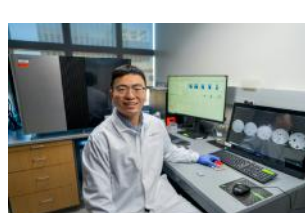
The Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS



The Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) has announced the launch of their newest initiative, ALS MyMatch, an innovative, early phase, biomarker-driven clinical trial network program. The ALS MyMatch initiative will develop a patient-centered, efficient approach for screening experimental therapeutics and repurposed drugs in early-phase biomarker driven (Phase 1b/2a) clinical trials in ALS. [Read More](#)

Dr. Yunhao Zhai on Modeling and Understanding the Immune System

Wyss Institute



When Dr. Yunhao Zhai *(pictured)* was in school, he learned that the 21st century would be the century of biology—and for his journey, that's certainly right. He joined the Wyss four years ago, after studying biochemistry, molecular biology, and immunology in China and France, with the aim of addressing an unmet need for human *in vitro* models of the immune system. Now, he's using these models to screen potential therapeutics at the Wyss Institute. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Boston

- March 11 - 12 8:00 AM **OPT Congress: Oligonucleotides & mRNA Therapeutics**
Seaport Hotel Boston
- March 30 8:00 AM **The New England Science Symposium**
Harvard Medical School
- April 2 - 4 8:00 AM **Bio-IT World Conference & Expo**
Omni Hotel Boston at the Seaport
- May 4 - 7 8:00 AM **2025 AAPS National Biotechnology Conference**
The Westin Boston Seaport District
- May 12 - 14 8:00 AM **PEGS Protein & Antibody Engineering Summit**
Omni Hotel Boston at the Seaport


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Science Jobs in Boston

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- Postdoctoral Associate, Fishell Lab**
The Broad Institute
- Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Freeman Lab**
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- Postdoctoral Associate**
MIT
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