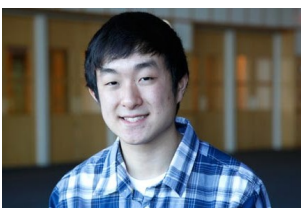




Publications of the Week

Human and Bacterial Genetic Variation Shape Oral Microbiomes and Health

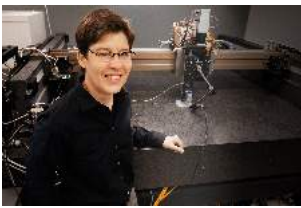
First Author: Nolan Kamitaki (*pictured*) | Senior Author: Po-Ru Loh  
Nature | Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and the Broad Institute



Human genetic variation influences all aspects of our biology, including the oral cavity, through which nutrients and microbes enter the body. Yet it is largely unknown which human genetic variants shape a person's oral microbiome and potentially promote its dysbiosis. Here, researchers characterized the oral microbiomes of 12,519 people by re-analyzing whole-genome sequencing reads from previously sequenced saliva-derived DNA. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

Perfusable 3D Models of Ureteric Bud and Collecting Duct Tubules

First Authors: Kayla Wolfand Ronald van Gaal | Senior Author: Jennifer Lewis (*pictured*)  
Cell Biomaterials | Wyss Institute and Harvard University



Recapitulating the complex architecture and function of human kidneys remains a major challenge in tissue engineering. Here, researchers leverage recent advances in generating ureteric bud (UB) and collecting duct organoids from human induced pluripotent stem cells to generate perfusable UB tubules that respond to luminal flow and exhibit budding reminiscent of early branching morphogenesis.

[Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

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Awards

Dr. Bongmin (Min) Bae Awarded New American Heart Association Postdoctoral Fellowship

Harvard University Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology



Dr. Bongmin (Min) Bae (*pictured*) has been awarded a new postdoctoral fellowship from the American Heart Association. The two-year award will support Dr. Bae's research on how epigenetic mechanisms regulate gene expression in the mammalian brain. Dr. Bae's work focuses on genomic imprinting, a specialized form of gene regulation in which only one parental copy of a gene is expressed, while the other is silenced. [Read More](#)

Two MCB-Affiliated Postdoctoral Fellows Awarded Harvard Brain Initiative Fellowships

Harvard University Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology (NCB)



Two postdoctoral researchers affiliated with MCB have been awarded highly competitive Postdoctoral Pioneer Fellowships from the Harvard Brain Initiative (HBI), recognizing innovative projects that span disciplines, model systems, and approaches to fundamental biological questions. Drs. Rishav Mitra (*pictured, right*) and Sanket Walujkar (*left*) will each use their HBI fellowships to advance research at the frontiers of molecular biology and neuroscience. [Read More](#)

Scientific Director Dr. Facundo Batista Selected for Prestigious AAI-BioLegend Herzenberg Award

Ragon Institute



Dr. Facundo Batista (*pictured*), Scientific Director of the Ragon Institute, has been named the 2026 recipient of the AAI-BioLegend Herzenberg Award by the American Association of Immunologists. The award recognizes investigators who have made outstanding contributions to the field of B cell biology and is among the most distinguished honors in B cell research. [Read More](#)

Harvard College Seniors Nominated to Phi Beta Kappa

Harvard University Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology (MCB)



MCB has announced that eight seniors have been nominated for membership in Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest academic honor society, recognizing excellence in the liberal arts and sciences. These eight seniors are Henry Chen, Frank Liu, Nicole Lu, Alex Chou, Rae Trainer, William Leung, Maria Alejandra Cuervo, and Austin Wang (*pictured, left to right*). [Read More](#)

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Local News

Addition of CDK 4/6 Inhibitor Benefits Patients with HR<sup>+</sup>, HER2<sup>+</sup> Metastatic Breast Cancer, New Study Shows

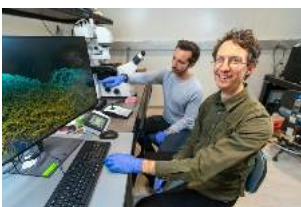
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute



The addition of a CDK 4/6 inhibitor to standard therapy in patients with "double-positive" metastatic breast cancer significantly extended the time the disease did not progress according to data published by Dana-Farber researchers. "This publication in the *New England Journal of Medicine* underscores the importance of these findings for the global breast cancer community," said Dr. Otto Metzger (*pictured*), the study's lead investigator. [Read More](#)

Russell Gould on Using Data to Solve Problems

Wyss Institute



Russell Gould is figuring out how the various types of biological data generated at the Wyss Institute can be used in a practical, predictive model to solve problems. One current application is drug repurposing. He's expanding upon an existing Wyss model to predict therapeutics for novel diseases by combining multiple data types, which can be applied across various projects. [Read More](#)

How Can We Ensure Science Is a Force for Good?

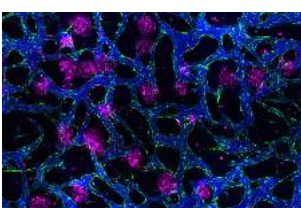
The Brink



Dr. Muhammad Zaman's (*pictured*) latest book, *Infected: How Power, Politics, and Privilege Use Science Against the World's Most Vulnerable*, was almost seven years in the making. He started writing well before COVID-19 struck, shutting down the world and putting a harsh spotlight on the scientific process. He calls the book a "living document" of how his thoughts evolved throughout lockdown and beyond. [Read More](#)

New Tissue Models Could Help Researchers Develop Drugs for Liver Disease

MIT News



More than 100 million people in the United States suffer from metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease, characterized by a buildup of fat in the liver. In hopes of discovering new treatments for these liver diseases, MIT engineers have designed a new type of tissue model that more accurately mimics the architecture of the liver, including blood vessels and immune cells. [Read More](#)

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📅 Upcoming Events in Boston

|                        |                                                                                              |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| February 19<br>7:00 PM | <b>Ending HIV: The Journey to a Vaccine</b><br>Museum of Science                             |
| February 25<br>8:30 AM | <b>Better Together: A Pharma &amp; Biotech EHS Forum</b><br>Museum of Science                |
| February 25<br>1:30 PM | <b>11<sup>th</sup> Annual Rare Disease Day Event</b><br>Broad Institute                      |
| February 26<br>7:00 PM | <b>The Collective Cure: Upstream Solutions for Better Public Health</b><br>Museum of Science |
| February 28<br>1:00 PM | <b>SpaceTime TeaTime</b><br>MIT Museum                                                       |

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📁 Science Jobs in Boston

**Scientific Editor**  
Elsevier

**Scientist I**  
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

**Grant Writer**  
MIT

**Research Assistant I**  
Harvard University

**Clinical Laboratory Process Development Associate I**  
Broad Institute

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