



Publications of the Week

In Vivo Adenine Base Editing Ameliorates Dravet Syndrome Phenotypes in a Mouse Model

First Author: Andrew Nelson | Senior Author: David Liu (pictured)
Science Translational Medicine | Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Harvard University, Broad Institute, and UMass Chan Medical School



Dravet syndrome (DS) is a severe genetic developmental and epileptic encephalopathy usually resulting from mutations in the *SCN1A* (sodium voltage-gated channel alpha subunit 1) gene. Here, researchers used an adenine base editor to directly correct the *SCN1A*^{R613X} recurrent mutation found in some individuals with DS. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

A Tissue-Scale Strategy for Sensing Threats in Barrier Organs

First Author: Diep Nguyen (pictured) | Senior Author: Pulin Li
Cell Systems | Broad Institute, Koch Institute, Whitehead Institute, and MIT



Barrier organs rely on a limited set of pattern recognition receptors to detect diverse immunogenic challenges. How these organs assess threats and adjust immune responses to balance host protection with collateral damage remains unclear. Here, researchers discovered cell-type-specific probabilities of threat sensing: lowest in the epithelia and highest in the stroma. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

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Awards

Dr. Rebecka Sepela Wins Warren Alpert Distinguished Scholar Award in Neuroscience to Study How Microbes Shape Octopus Social Life

Harvard University Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology



Dr. Rebecka Sepela (pictured), a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Bellono lab, has won a 2026 Warren Alpert Distinguished Scholars Fellowship Award in Neuroscience from The Warren Alpert Foundation. The award is given annually to five postdoctoral researchers in the U.S. who demonstrate exceptional creativity in neuroscience, with the goal of facilitating their transition to faculty positions. [Read More](#)

NIH Awards \$50 Million to UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science

UMass Chan Medical School



The UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) has been awarded a seven-year, \$50 million renewal of its Clinical and Translational Sciences Award, along with an associated K12 Scholar program, from the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The UMCCTS was founded in 2006 to enhance clinical and translational research. [Read More](#)

UMass Chan Scientist Receives \$1.6 Million from National Institute of General Medical Sciences to Refine Gene Therapy Vectors

UMass Chan Medical School



Dr. Phillip Tai (pictured) has received a \$1.6 million grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences to investigate the basic mechanisms of adeno-associated viral vectors using high-resolution DNA sequencing technology. These findings could potentially lead to new vector designs that improve the safety of gene therapy treatments. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Understanding and Exploiting *Tuberculosis* Superspreading

Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine



In a new perspective piece in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, Dr. Karen Jacobson (pictured) and researchers from Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian examine both historical and contemporary evidence in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (TB) superspreading. They argue it represents not only a critical challenge for global TB control, but also a potential opportunity for innovative prevention strategies. [Read More](#)

Materializing Safe, On-Demand Living Therapeutics

Wyss Institute



A research team led by Dr. David Mooney (pictured) has developed an “Implantable Living Materials” (ILM) platform. ILM is a living therapeutic that uses an optimized hydrogel to safely contain synthetically engineered bacteria that are able to sense a pathogenic stimulus and respond to it by secreting a therapeutic protein within living organisms. [Read More](#)

“Decoding Blood Stem Cells” Featuring Dr. Vijay Sankaran

The Stem Cell Podcast



Dr. Vijay Sankaran (pictured) is a Professor at Harvard Medical School and Investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. In the latest episode of the Stem Cell Podcast, he discusses how his lab uses human genetics and stem cell biology to uncover mechanisms regulating hematopoiesis and blood disease, including the discovery of key regulators such as BCL11A and HOTSCRAMBL. [Read More](#)

From Blueprint to Beating: How 3D Bioprinting Is Advancing Heart Research at Mass General Brigham

Bench Press



Once the stuff of science fiction, the emerging field of 3D bioprinting has advanced rapidly, with researchers at Mass General Brigham now using the technology to create living heart tissues that could transform how we understand disease, test new therapies, and repair the human heart. For the past few years, Postdoctoral researcher Dr. Joshua Gershlak (pictured) and his colleagues have been working on this ambitious goal. [Read More](#)

Can Humans Age Healthier? Researchers See Promising Paths

Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health



At a recent seminar titled *Aging Reframed: Bridging Disciplines for Healthy Aging*, three faculty members from different fields—Drs. William Mair, Courtney Peterson, and Laura Kubzansky (pictured)—spoke about their efforts to better understand aging, how to mitigate its health impacts, and opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration. [Read More](#)

HSCI Announces New Co-Director

Harvard Stem Cell Institute



Dr. Lee Rubin (pictured), Professor of Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology and leading scholar of neurodegenerative disease, has been named the next faculty Co-Director of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute (HSCI). Dr. Rubin’s research explores how the nervous system can change due to aging or disease, as well as how it interacts with the rest of the body. [Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events in Boston

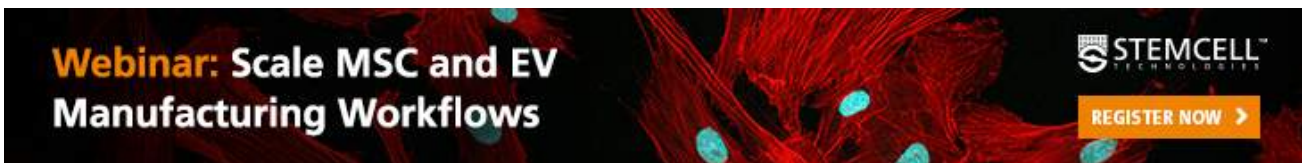
June 3 8:30 AM	Better Together: A Pharma & Biotech EHS Forum Museum of Science
June 9 9:00 AM	RareNet 2026: Accelerating Discovery to Treatment in Rare Brain Disorders Singleton Auditorium
June 16 4:00 PM	2026 Edward M. Scolnick Prize Lecture in Neuroscience with Liquin Luo Singleton Auditorium
June 18 9:00 AM	Koch Institute Symposium 2026 Huntington Hall
October 6 9:00 AM	FASI 10: Catalyst for a Cure – The Food Allergy Science Innovation Summit Broad Institute

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Science Jobs in Boston

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