



Publications of the Week

Non-Genotoxic Transplantation and *In Vivo* Selection Through Epitope Editing

First Authors: Gabriele Casirati (*pictured*) and Andrea Cosentino | Senior Author: Pietro Genovese
Nature | Boston Children's Hospital, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and Harvard University



The short-term and long-term effects of genotoxic pre-transplant conditioning remain barriers to the broader application of hematopoietic stem/progenitor cell (HSPC) transplantation and gene therapies. Here, researchers identified amino acid changes in the extracellular domain of KIT that disrupt the binding of two therapeutic monoclonal antibodies, which impair stem cell factor-mediated signalling without affecting KIT expression or functionality. [Profile](#) | [Abstract](#)

CDK8 Inhibition Releases the Muscle Differentiation Block in Fusion-Driven Alveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma

First Author: Sus Zhang | Senior Author: Kimberly Stegmaier (*pictured*)
Cancer Discovery | Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Massachusetts General Hospital, and the Broad Institute



Alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma (aRMS) is a fusion-driven pediatric cancer with poor survival and limited therapeutic options. To uncover novel vulnerabilities, researchers employed complex-based analysis of the DepMap functional genomic data, identifying CDK8 as a dependency in aRMS. Both CDK8 knockout and pharmacologic inhibition impaired tumor cell growth. [Abstract](#) | [Press Release](#)

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Awards

Wyss Institute Receives Massachusetts Life Science Center Award to Advance Metabolomics and Lipidomics Research Across Massachusetts Ecosystem

Wyss Institute



The Wyss Institute at Harvard University has received an award from the Massachusetts Life Science Center, enabling it to host a next-generation metabolomics and lipidomics analytical platform. The platform, co-drafted by Dr. Alex Pauer (*pictured*), will allow researchers to creatively pursue new approaches to biomarker and drug discovery across multiple health challenges. [Read More](#)

Dr. Rebecka Sepela Receives NIH K99 Award to Investigate How Microbes Shape Animal Sensing

Harvard University Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology



Dr. Rebecka Sepela (*pictured*), a postdoctoral researcher in the Bellono lab, has received an National Institutes of Health (NIH) Pathway to Independence (K99/R00) Award to study how animals derive information from their external microbial environment. "By coating nearly every surface and secreting metabolites in a growth- and environment-dependent manner, microbes constitute a living interface with the physical world," Sepela said. [Read More](#)

AI Researcher Receives \$745K Bits to Bytes Award from Massachusetts Life Sciences Center to Create the World's Largest Annotated Spleen Ultrasound Dataset

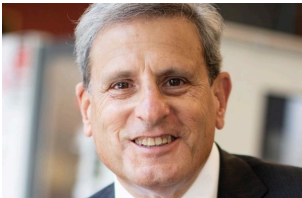
UMass Boston



Recently, the SPLEEN-US project received a three-year award of \$745k from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center Bits to Bytes program. Bits to Bytes, led by Dr. Daniel Haehn (*pictured, center right*) provides grants for scientific projects that generate and analyze large datasets using AI to answer pressing life science questions, and to attract and train data scientists in the Commonwealth. [Read More](#)

NSF Awards Boston University \$20 Million to Help Create National "Cloud Lab" Network

The Brink



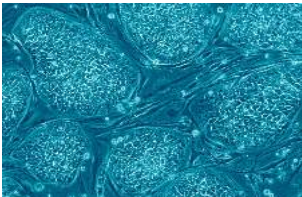
The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded Boston University \$20 million to help create a national network of cloud labs, artificial intelligence-infused research facilities that can remotely run science and engineering studies. The network, led by Dr. Kenneth Lutchen (*pictured*), will allow researchers from anywhere in the country to request complex experiments and tests that they don't have the equipment or expertise to do themselves. [Read More](#)

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Local News

Broad Institute, Boston Children's Hospital, and the Jackson Laboratory Launch the Center for Therapeutic Genetics, a Non-Profit Effort to Develop Genetic Medicines for Rare and Ultra-Rare Diseases

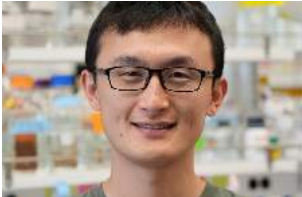
Broad Institute



Broad Institute, Boston Children's Hospital, and The Jackson Laboratory announced the Center for Therapeutic Genetics. This collaboration will develop genetic medicines and treat patients for rare disease not as one-off breakthroughs but as a repeatable practice, and share the methods, data, and training so others can do the same. [Read More](#)

Immunologist and Computational Protein Designer Bingxu Liu, PhD, to Join Ragon Faculty in 2027

Ragon Institute



The Ragon Institute is welcoming its newest faculty member, Dr. Bingxu Liu (*pictured*). Liu will be a Core Member at the Ragon and will have a joint appointment as an Assistant Professor in the Harvard Medical School Department of Immunology. Dr. Liu endeavors to understand natural responses and engineer them to expand their capabilities for modern challenges. [Read More](#)

What Is Cyclosporiasis and Why Are Cases on the Rise?

Tufts Now



If you had never heard of cyclospora until this summer, you're not alone. Cases of cyclosporiasis have been recorded in 34 states so far, with numbers consistently ticking upward. Dr. Jeffrey Griffiths (*pictured*) explains where cyclospora comes from, the common signs and symptoms of cyclosporiasis, as well as means of prevention and treatment. [Read More](#)

Testosterone's Role in Gut Motility Could Open the Door to Targeting Treatments for IBS and More

Boston Children's



Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) and other motility disorders can be challenging to treat, with current therapies focused mainly on easing symptoms. Now, recent research led by Dr. Meenakshi Rao (*pictured*) has identified a remarkable way that gut microbes and sex hormones regulate gut motility. The findings could point to new targets for treating motility disorders. [Read More](#)

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📅 Upcoming Events in Boston

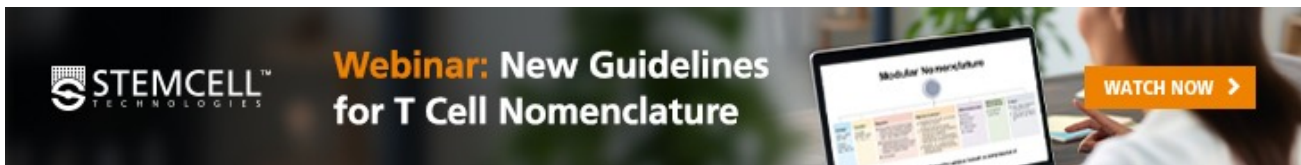
August 13 7:00 PM	Poetry Night – Where Science Speaks in Verse Museum of Science
August 17 9:00 AM	Exploring Cell Types with the Allen Institute McGovern Institute for Brain Research at MIT
October 6 - 7 9:00 AM	FASI 10: Catalyst for a Cure – The Food Allergy Science Innovation Summit Broad Institute
October 18 - 21 8:00 AM	The Medtech Conference 2026 Boston Convention and Exhibition Center
November 4 9:00 AM	Comparative Neuroscience: Lessons from Biodiversity Singleton Auditorium

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🏢 Science Jobs in Boston

- Research Assistant II, Fluid Biomarker Diagnostics**
Harvard University
- Research Assistant I**
Tufts Medicine
- Research Lab Technician II**
Mass General Brigham
- Research Technician, Sethi Lab**
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- Research Technician I**
Boston University

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