

Volume 8.44: November 9, 2026

Publications of the Week

Insights Into Early-Onset Colorectal Cancer From a Single-Nucleus RNA-Seq Atlas of Colorectal Cancer Across the Age Continuum

First Author: Caroline Porter | Senior Author: Ramnik Xavier, Ana Anderson, and Kimmie Ng *(pictured)*
Nature Medicine | Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital, and the Broad Institute



The incidence of early-onset colorectal cancer (EO-CRC) is increasing worldwide. Although current data indicate that EO-CRC may be biologically distinct from average-onset CRC, molecular differences remain poorly defined. To address this knowledge gap, researchers generated a single-nucleus RNA sequencing atlas from 189 primary CRC tumors spanning eight decades of life, with at least 20 tumors in most age decades. **Abstract | Press Release**

Identification of Candidate Markers for the Isolation of Neuron-Specific Extracellular Vesicles

First Author: Dmitry Ter-Ovanesyan *(pictured)* | Senior Author: Aviv Regev, George Church, and David Walt
Nature Neuroscience | Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Wyss Institute, Broad Institute, and MIT



Extracellular vesicles (EVs) are present in biofluids and may be useful biomarkers to non-invasively monitor brain cells, but isolating cell type-specific EVs remains challenging. Here, researchers introduce an approach to immuno-isolate EVs from neurons and glia based on protein surface markers. They first selected transmembrane proteins suitable as cell type-specific EV markers based on gene expression and EV proteomic data. **Abstract | Press Release**

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Awards

UMass Chan Researchers Study Whether Metal Exposure Influences Alzheimer's Disease Risk

UMass Chan Medical School



Could exposure to metals impact a person's risk of developing Alzheimer's disease or cognitive aging? Researchers at UMass Chan Medical School are hoping to answer that question through a $4.1 million grant from the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Honghuang Lin *(pictured)* is leading the study. Dr. Lin and his colleagues will analyze blood samples and health data from more than 3,000 participants in the long-term Framingham Heart Study. **Read More**

Seven MIT Affiliates Elected to the National Academy of Medicine for 2026

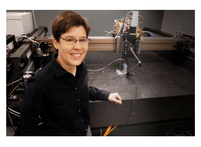
MIT News



The National Academy of Medicine announced the election of 100 new members, including Dr. Michael Yaffe *(pictured)*. Election to the academy is considered one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine and recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service. Dr. Yaffe is the founding Director of the MIT Center for Precision Cancer Medicine. **Read More**

Wyss Institute Core Faculty Member Jennifer Lewis Elected to the National Academy of Medicine

Wyss Institute



The Wyss Institute has announced that Core Faculty Member Dr. Jennifer Lewis *(pictured)* was elected to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM). NAM membership is considered one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine and is awarded to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and commitment to science. **Read More**

Whitehead Institute Member Zuri Sullivan Is Named a Finalist for the Eppendorf & Science Prize for Neurobiology

Whitehead Institute



Whitehead Institute Member Dr. Zuri Sullivan *(pictured)* has been named a finalist for the 2026 Eppendorf & Science Prize for Neurobiology, an international award recognizing promising early-career scientists whose research is advancing understanding of the brain and nervous system. Each year, the prize recognizes one winner and up to three finalists, whose essays describing their research are published in the journal *Science*. **Read More**

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Local News

Abnormal Neurons Are Surprisingly Common in the Developing Brain, Study Finds

Harvard Medical School



During fetal development, the human brain generates an excess of neurons, most of which are eliminated shortly before and after birth. New research from Harvard Medical School and Boston Children's Hospital suggests that this is a critical quality control mechanism. A study by Dr. Diane Shao *(pictured)* and colleagues shows that neurons with multiple copy number variants are surprisingly widespread in the developing brain. **Read More**

Bay Area Lyme Foundation Supports Wyss Institute Researchers' Quest To Restore Patients' Ability To Fight Back Against Lyme Disease

Wyss Institute



A year of generous funding by the Bay Area Lyme Foundation enabled a Wyss Institute project that aims to identify novel therapeutic strategies for acute and chronic Lyme disease to proceed into new and potentially therapeutic territory. Dr. Girija Goyal *(pictured)*, Director of Bioinspired Therapeutics at the Wyss Institute, and her team were honored at the recent Foundation's annual gala event with a presentation of their breakthroughs. **Read More**

BU Scientists Help Map Mitochondria, the Cell's Power Plants, in Five Parasites; Research Could Inspire New Medicines

The Brink



After four years of collaboration, a consortium of 25 Boston-area scientists has mapped the proteins in the mitochondria of five disease-causing parasites. The researchers say the results, which were recently published across nine papers in *Cell* and related journals, have the potential to inspire new medicines, known as pan-parasitic drugs, to treat multiple neglected diseases. **Read More**

Biological Mechanism Underlying Huntington's Disease May Be More Widespread in the Brain Than Previously Thought

Broad Institute



In 2025, a team of scientists revealed some unexpected findings about how the inherited DNA repeat associated with Huntington's disease causes the illness – by slowly expanding throughout a person's life, then becoming toxic after enlarging to several times its original length. Now, the research team, led by Dr. Steve McCarroll *(pictured)*, has found that the same mechanism is indeed at play in another brain region damaged in Huntington's. **Read More**

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Upcoming Events in Boston

November 12 — 6:00 PM — **After Dark: Decoding Whales and Dolphins** — MIT Museum

November 17-18 — 80:00 AM — **AI in Healthcare & Pharma Summit** — The Hilton Boston Park Plaza

November 17 — 5:30 PM — **The Boston Debate Showcase: The Great AI Debates** — Laugh Boston

November 18 — 8:00 PM — **A Pox on Fools** — MIT Museum

November 19-20 — 8:00 AM — **Pharma Partnering US Summit** — Hilton Boston Logan Airport

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Science Jobs in Boston

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