

January - May 2021 Accomplishment Highlights - IDS Faculty Meeting

Announcements

- **Sujatha Srinivasan** and **David Fredricks** led the Fred Hutch portion of a collaboration that has officially named a new bacterium in honor of Fred Hutch. [A Fred Hutch News Story](#) announced that *Megasphaera hutchinsoni* is linked to bacterial vaginosis and higher HIV risk and was named in honor of the place where researchers first isolated it and in recognition of the Hutch's longstanding expertise in HIV research.
- **Josh Schiffer** and **Dan Reeves** are part of the team of researchers, working closely with the Washington Department of Health, that have created an [online tool](#) for modeling the COVID-19 pandemic in King County Washington. The interface provides policy makers with a contingent projection of SARS-CoV-2 based on 2 factors: social distancing and vaccination.
- **Hans-Peter Kiem** is scientific co-founder of Ensoma, a newly launched company expanding the curative power of genomic medicine by pioneering a next-generation in vivo approach. The company has launched with \$70 million in Series A financing to develop genome modification technologies via a single injection. Read the [Ensoma press release](#)
- Volunteer enrollment is underway at Harborview for a COVID-19 clinical trial led by site PI **Anna Wald**, evaluating an investigational, second-generation COVID-19 vaccine. The Phase 1 multicenter study will examine safety, tolerability, and immune response for different doses of a two-part, investigational COVID-19 vaccine regimen. The second stage of the study will include vaccines with multiple SARS-CoV-2 proteins, in addition to the components of Spike protein used in the current COVID-19 vaccines given under FDA Emergency Use Authorization. Read more from [UW Medicine Newsroom](#) and watch the KIRO 7 News story "[UW Medicine looking for volunteers for new COVID vaccine trial.](#)"
- **Anna Wald** is co-leading an investigational COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial that began volunteer enrollment in December 2020. The Phase III study will examine whether the Novavax vaccine candidate can protect against SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus responsible for COVID-19. The trial is part of the NIH's newly established COVID-19 Prevention Network formed by NIAID. Read the full story from [UW Medicine Newsroom](#).
- A new study—the Prevent COVID U study—led by **Larry Corey**, seeks to answer the question if vaccinated people can still become infected and spread COVID-19 to others. The study will offer the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to 12,000 college students willing to swab their noses every day for four months during the course of the clinical trial. Answers from this new trial will likely signal whether the much-anticipated vaccines will usher in a return to life where people can safely congregate in crowded, indoor settings without fear, or if the era of masks and social distancing is likely to be with us for a long, long time. Read the full story from [Hutch News](#).

Events of Interest

- The 5th Workshop on Virus Dynamics will be held on October 4-6, 2021 and is co-chaired by **Josh Schiffer**. Watch for details to come soon about this exciting virtual event.

Accolades

- **Leah Yoke, PA-C** was appointed Chief PA at UWMC, effective 1/1/21.
- The 2020 Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) Women of ID campaign has featured **Anna Wald** as one of five women honorees who are leading the way for future generations to come for addressing health disparities in infectious diseases. Read Dr. Wald's story on the [IDSA website](#).
- **Josh Hill** received the 2021 University of Washington Fialkow Scholar Award, awarded annually to recognize the outstanding achievements of junior faculty in medicine in research, teaching, clinical work, and academic citizenship.
- **Jim Boonyaratankornkit** is a 2021 Amy Research Program scholar. The Amy Strelzer Manasevit Research Program for the Study of Post-Transplant Complications (Amy Research Program) is one of the largest and most coveted grants in the field of transplantation and cellular therapy. The grant supports the research endeavors of basic scientists and clinicians early in their careers.
- **Olivia Kates**, Senior Fellow, was selected the winner of the 2019-2020 Debra Mattson Infectious Disease Research Award.

- **Larry Corey** has received the 2021 American Society of Gene and Cell Therapy (ASGCT) [Public Service Award](#). He accepted the award on behalf of the CoVPN team.
- The **HVTN and CoVPN** team [received the 2020 Wyckoff Award](#) that recognizes those employees who go the extra mile to carry out the mission of Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. The team was chosen unanimously to be the T. Evans Wyckoff Award winner.
- **Keith Jerome** and **Alex Greninger** were recognized as the UW Medicine “Innovators of the Year 2020” for their foresight and innovation in developing one of the first tests in the country that detects COVID-19. A monetary award is included along with a letter from the Governor thanking Drs. Jerome (UW’s Clinical Virology Lab Director) and Greninger (Assistant Director of the Clinical Virology Lab) for their timely initiation of the SARS-CoV2 test. Please see the [UW Newsroom article](#) about the award.
- **Anna Wald** and **Seth Cohen** are among those whose work is featured in the [12 most viewed stories](#) from UW Medicine Newsroom, ranked by unique page views:
 - #7 ranked story – “[Plasma donors sought among recovered COVID-19 patients](#)” (**Anna Wald**)
 - #8 ranked story – “[Drive-through COVID-19 tests for UW Medicine employees](#)” (**Seth Cohen**)
- **Anton Sholukh** was invited by the World Health Organization to present at a meeting of their [Solidarity II workgroup](#), a global collaboration that promotes the implementation of serological studies of SARS-CoV-2.
- Ongoing exceptional collaboration between the infectious disease teams at Fred Hutch and the UW have led to the success of both **Michael Boeckh’s** and **David Fredricks’s** T32 Training grants. Both recently submitted competitive renewal applications to the NIH and have received strong impact scores of a ‘10’ for their respective training grant programs: “Infections in the Immunocompromised Host” (Fred Hutch-based) and “The Host Defense Training Grant in Infectious Diseases” (UW-based).
- **Steve Pergam** sat on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee, which reviewed results of last year’s massive clinical trials testing both the safety and efficacy of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines. He voted to endorse their emergency use. Read the full story from [Hutch News](#)
- **Larry Corey** presented “COVID-19 Vaccine” for UW Medicine Grand Rounds on January 22.
- **Josh Hill** presented at the UPenn Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds on January 28.
- **Keith Jerome** is a Member, Endpoints Adjudication Committee, COVID-19 Outbreak, University of Washington.

Funding, Event and Award Opportunities

- **Sujatha Srinivasan** and **Steve Pergam** (Co-PIs) have been awarded a Pathogen-Associated Malignancies Integrated Research Center (PAM IRC)/Microbiome Research Pilot Award for research on the Oral Microbiota and Development of Chronic Graft-versus-Host Disease.
- **Josh Hill** received a Merck MISP (Merck Investigator Studies Program) award for the study "A prospective observational cohort study of the incidence of and risk factors for CMV reactivation after chimeric antigen receptor T cell therapies (CARTx) for B cell malignancies"
- **Hans-Peter Kiem** has received a competitive renewal of his R01 for \$3.3 million over 4 years for his project “Multiplex base/prime editors for in vivo selection of modified HSPCs in hemoglobinopathy.”

Media

- **Larry Corey, Keith Jerome and Martine Aubert** were included in a [Hutch News](#) story that took a look back at scientists in 2020 who applied their diverse expertise to the COVID-19 pandemic and advanced other discoveries and cures.

Larry Corey

- Wrote opinion article “[The Evolving Virus Against the Vaccines](#)” for the *Timmerman Report*.
- Featured in an interview, along with Dr. Anthony Fauci, in “[Meet the Seattle doctor who Dr. Fauci trusted to help develop COVID-19 vaccines](#)” from KING 5 News. He was also interviewed for a *Seattle Times* Q&A story “[New study of students at UW, other colleges, will answer a key question about coronavirus transmission](#)” and a *NPR* story “[Why You Should Still Wear A Mask And Avoid Crowds After Getting The COVID-19 Vaccine](#)”. He was featured in “A year after I first wrote about recovering from COVID-19, here’s how my life has changed” in the *Seattle Times*.

- Quoted numerous times in a Rolling Stone Magazine article "[What the Recent HIV Vaccine Research Findings Really Mean](#)". He has also been quoted by a multitude of media outlets including: "[Second doses not guaranteed at Snohomish County vaccination sites](#)" and "[VERIFY: Length of immunity after getting COVID-19 vaccine remains unclear](#)" from KING 5 News, "[New strains of COVID swiftly moving through the US need careful watch, scientists say](#)" from USA Today, "[The coronavirus is going to stick around forever. Get ready for the new normal](#)" from Insider, "[What Will it Take to Make Covid-19 Vaccines Variant-Proof?](#)" from Wired, and "[Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine could increase immunization access for Washington's rural areas](#)" from KING 5 News
- Appeared on multiple local news programs include KING 5-TV's morning newscast, in which Dr. Corey reflected on the start of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccinations, and KOMO 4-TV's evening newscast for a story about herd immunity, vaccine testing in children and the vaccine scarcity.
- **Larry Corey** and **Josh Schiffer** are quoted in "[UK variant likely to drive new wave of US transmission in spring, experts say](#)" from CNN and "We may never reach herd immunity on coronavirus – but it probably doesn't matter" from the *Seattle Times*.
- **Josh Hill** was interviewed for KIRO 7-TV's evening newscast for a story on whether cancer patients should get the COVID-19 vaccines.
- **Keith Jerome** made multiple invited expert commentator appearances discussing COVID-19 for the *Dave Ross Radio Show*: 2020-April 2021.
- **Catherine Liu** was interviewed in "[Lessons Learned About COVID and Cancer— Applying evidence, acknowledging uncertainty, adapting, moving forward with humility](#)" for *MedPage Today* and was quoted in "[If I Have Cancer, Dementia or MS, Should I Get theCovidVaccine?](#)" for *Kaiser Health News*.
- **Manoj Menon** was quoted in "[Early Use of High-Titer Plasma May Prevent Severe COVID-19](#)" for *Medscape*

Steve Pergam

- Sat on the Advisory Committee for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Vaccines and Related Biological Products, which reviewed results of 2020's massive clinical trials testing both the safety and efficacy of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines. He voted to endorse their emergency use. Read the full story from [Hutch News](#).
- Profiled in a Fred Hutch News story which was highlighted in "[Hutch News Tip Sheet: Summaries of recent Fred Hutch research findings and other news](#)". Fred Hutch also checked in with Dr. Pergam, and other national experts and clinicians, to get some answers about the COVID-19 vaccines and cancer patients. Read the full story from [Hutch News](#).
- Interviewed by CURE in "[NCCN Guidelines Urge Patients With Cancer to Get a COVID-19 Vaccine, Whichever is Available](#)", and by Healio in "[Oncologists can allay COVID-19 vaccination concerns of patients with cancer, survivors](#)".
- Quoted by multiple media outlets including: "[FDA plans to authorize Moderna's coronavirus vaccine quickly](#)" from CNN, "[With COVID-19 vaccine in short supply, confusion abounds over second shots](#)" from the *Seattle Times*, "[In the Vaccine Scramble, Cancer Patients Are Left Behind](#)" and "[As Covid-19 Vaccines Raise Hope, Cold Reality Dawns That Illness Is Likely Here to Stay](#)" from the *New York Times*, "[NCCN Releases Guidelines on COVID-19 Vaccinations in Patients With Cancer](#)" from *Targeted Oncology*, "[Vaccine trials fail to capture representative sample of Americans](#)" from *Axios*.

Joshua Schiffer

- Leading studies that were mentioned in a front-page New York Times article, along with a quote: "[The Coronavirus Is Threatening a Comeback. Here's How to Stop It](#)".
- Talked to National Public Radio for "[Vaccinated College Students Will Help Answer Critical Question About COVID Spread](#)" and "[Washington State Seeing A 4th Wave Of COVID-19 Hospitalizations](#)".
- Quoted on KUOW Radio for "[Is it really time to roll back gathering restrictions? Some experts are optimistic about WA moving to Phase 3](#)", in the *Axios* article "[The race to avoid a possible 'monster' COVID variant](#)", in the *GeekWire* article "[Can vaccinated people still transmit COVID-19? The answer is key for herd immunity, research finds](#)", two LA

Times articles [“Luck is essential for any successful coronavirus variant, study shows”](#) and [“Why easing COVID-19 restrictions too soon could be a boon for coronavirus variants”](#), and two Seattle Times articles [“Washington state finds more than 600 COVID-19 cases caused by closely watched variants”](#) and [“Can a fourth wave of COVID-19 be prevented? Not likely, says Fred Hutch model — but the curve could be flattened”](#).

Anna Wald

- Work was featured in the [“12 most viewed stories in 2020”](#) from *University of Washington Medicine Newsroom*. The article was ranked #7 by unique page and was titled [“Plasma donors sought among recovered COVID-19 patients”](#).
- A *University of Washington Medicine Newsroom* story [“UW Medicine starts Novavax COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial”](#) covered the start of volunteer enrollment for an investigational trial that Dr. Wald is co-leading. The Phase III study is examining whether the Novavax vaccine candidate can protect against SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus responsible for COVID-19. The trial is part of the NIH’s newly established COVID-19 Prevention Network formed by NIAID.
- Talked to *KIRO 7 News* in [“UW Medicine looking for volunteers for new COVID vaccine trial”](#) and was quoted in [“We Just Got One Step Closer To Emergency U.S. Approval For The Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine”](#) from *Refinery29* and [“Do your vaccine side effects predict how you'd react To COVID-19”](#) from *HuffPost*, as well as for *KOMO News* stories: [“Experts concerned people will view Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine as inferior”](#), [“Do COVID-19 survivors still need to get a vaccine?”](#), [“Why aren't teachers more highly prioritized in Washington's COVID-19 vaccine rollout?”](#), [“Washington teens could get Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine as early as Thursday if CDC approves”](#) and [“What common side effects happen after taking COVID-19 vaccine?”](#).