

CoMotion at the University of Washington is the collaborative innovation hub dedicated to expanding the global economic and societal impact of the UW community.

CORONAVIRUS NEWS

Dr. Deborah Fuller, UW Professor, Microbiology and her team race towards a vaccine against COVID-19



photo: Sarah Hoffman/Crosscut

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SPECIAL FEATURE: UW INNOVATION ACCELERATES IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

François Baneix shares his message of encouragement

CoMotion HQ might be empty but our Innovation Managers are handling a record number of disclosures, while intellectual property filings and license negotiations are proceeding at a fast clip. I predict that science and tech startups will make a real difference in these trying times and I know that we will all come out on the other side stronger than ever. [Read more in this blog post](#)



IP ADVISING, PROTECTION & LICENSING



University of Washington healthcare IT and tech spinoffs

This month, we highlight four UW healthcare IT and tech spinoffs whose work ranges from COVID-19 screening and tracking tool enhancements to harnessing the power of machine learning and computer vision to help surgeons navigate in 3D. [Read about these CoMotion-supported innovations in healthcare IT and tech](#)

New webpage for UW researchers

Our new *For UW Researchers* webpage was designed to improve access to important forms and resources for UW faculty, grad students and postdocs. Here researchers are just a click away to request for a consultation, filing a record of innovation, connecting with an innovation manager and more. [Check out our webpage for UW researchers](#)



INNOVATION TRAINING



NFS I-Corps Summer/Fall 2020 offered through CoMotion

Are you a UW faculty, researcher, postdoc, staff or student with an idea that you think has commercial potential? Through NSF I-Corps Site Program, teams have the chance to receive \$2,500 to gain firsthand feedback from potential customers. Participants learn key skills to take ideas to market, interview potential customers and key stakeholders, and receive feedback. They may receive funds to travel to perform additional customer and stakeholder interviews. This program is great preparation for anyone looking to participate in the Foster School of Business competitions or the CoMotion Innovation Gap Fund. Application closes May 8, 2020. [Learn more about I-Corps](#)

"Modern Mentorship and the Art of Storytelling"

Sarah Haggard, Tribute Founder and CEO, shares how you can learn how to use your personal stories and life experiences to mentor others. [View the video](#) here. [Check out our events calendar for upcoming "Fundamentals for Startups"](#)



FUNDING & PARTNERSHIPS



BECU FinTech Incubator competition DEADLINE EXTENDED

BECU partnered with CoMotion last year to launch the BECU FinTech Incubator at CoMotion Labs. For the second time since the launch of the partnership, a competition will be held to identify fintech startups with promising technologies. Winners receive sponsored seats and membership in the BECU Fintech Incubator for one year, including training, mentorship, and networking. Deadline to apply is April 15th. [Learn more and apply today](#)

Past Amazon Catalyst winner Slightly Robot creates smartband to address COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 virus, Slightly Robot, founded by UW students Matthew Toles and Justin Ith along with Joseph Toles, have developed a smartband that tracks a user's personal movements and sensitivity, vibrating when a hand enters a pre-calibrated position on the face. This innovation is based on an Amazon Catalyst award-winning device that was designed to address fingernail biting, hair pulling and other compulsive behaviors. [Read more about Immutouch on GeekWire](#) and [read more about Amazon Catalyst past winners](#)



WRF Technology Commercialization Grant Pre-Proposal

The Washington Research Foundation supports STEM research at nonprofit institutions in Washington state, with a focus on life sciences and enabling technologies. The purpose of WRF's Technology Commercialization Grants is to move technologies towards the marketplace to create new value and address public needs. [Learn more about the WRF Technology Commercialization Grant Pre-Proposal](#)

STARTUPS & INCUBATION



Takeda acquires Pvp Biologics

Following the results of a phase 1 study of TAK-062 (kuma062) for the treatment of celiac disease, biopharmaceutical leader Takeda acquired CoMotion-supported UW spinoff Pvp Biologics. [Learn more on the Takeda website](#)

Membrion raises \$6M in series A funding round

University of Washington and CoMotion-supported clean water spinout Membrion has announced their recent fundraising of \$6M in a series A round led by Bellingham Angel Investors with participation from WRF Capital and SeaChange Fund. The startup makes membranes which are components in machines that turn certain types of salty water into fresh water. [Read more about Membrion on GeekWire](#)



NEWS



UW spinoffs and CoMotion-supported startups make headlines

- **TransformativeMed (T4M)** teams with MDMatrix to provide a free COVID-19 tracking and screening tool (photo [GeekWire/James Thorne](#)). [Read more on GeekWire](#)
- **Dr. Jay Shendure, UW Professor of Genome Sciences**, receives the 2020 Leaders in Health Care Gold Award Winner for Achievement in Medical Research via Seattle Business Magazine. [Read more on the Seattle Business Magazine website](#)
- **CoMotion-supported AeroSpec** is among the startups in the [Buerk Center's Jones + Foster Accelerator program](#), designed to help early-stage student startups grow their vision into sustainable companies. [Read more on UW College of Engineering News](#)

- **UW's startup culture nurtures a growing number of students**, proving that an idea, some energy and valuable mentoring can bring business success. [Read more on University of Washington Magazine](#)
- **The University of Washington-developed data tool, LegEx**, tracks the state legislative process from first draft to final law. [Read more on UW News](#)
- **UW CoMotion Labs' Brady Ryan presents at Retail Business Bootcamp**: UW teams up with Greater Grays Harbor Inc. to help local small businesses boost their performance and online presence. [Read more on the Daily World](#)



[MORE NEWS](#)

EVENTS

Nearly all CoMotion events are free and open to everyone. Feel inspired to pursue a great idea? Want to meet other entrepreneurs? Join us!



4/17

BANKERS ARE FROM MARS, FINTECHS ARE FROM VENUS (VIA ZOOM)

JP Nichols, co-founder of FinTech Forge and Alloy Labs Alliance, shares lessons learned and best practices developed for balancing creativity with compliance. This lecture is applicable well beyond fintech—it's for any entrepreneur seeking to sell to and collaborate with more conservative corporate partners.

Fundamentals for Startups, noon
[Click here to sign up for the Zoom meeting](#)



4/24

BUILDING YOUR CULTURE AS YOU SCALE YOUR BUSINESS (VIA ZOOM)

La'Kita Williams, founder of CoCreate Work, will share the steps you can take to build strong team communication, collaboration, and stay connected as you scale your business. While there is no single strategy for creating a successful culture, there are concrete steps you can take to build a better company on purpose.

Fundamentals for Startups, noon
[Click here to sign up for the Zoom meeting](#)

[LINK TO STARTUP TRAINING VIDEOS](#)

PARTNER EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Sign up for the Husky AI Hackathon by April 13

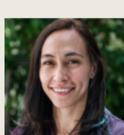
The [Husky AI Hackathon](#) is going virtual—now UW students can hack from wherever they may be! Foster Tech Club, in association with the Buerk Center for Entrepreneurship, will now host its annual Husky AI Hackathon from May 8th-10th this spring virtually on Zoom. The Hackathon will be an exciting 48 hours of building prototypes, presenting prototypes to investors, and creating businesses—teams will experience the entire life cycle of building a product. Leaders and mentors from top technology companies in Seattle—Amazon, Google, Microsoft, Facebook, and more—will be available to virtually engage and support teams. Applicants will also have access to exclusive immersive workshops conducted by industry experts. Students interested in design thinking, software development, statistics and mathematics, product management, marketing and sales, infrastructure, data science, graphic design, and business modeling are encouraged to apply. Applications are [live here](#) and will close on April 13th, 2020 (11:59 PM). For more information, check out [HuskyHackathon.com](#).

[MORE EVENTS](#)

MEET A COMOTION TEAM MEMBER

ANDREA VALLADAO

Andrea Valladao, Technology Manager, Life Sciences, joined CoMotion in March 2016, focusing on innovations in the life sciences and managing the Biological Materials portfolio. While completing her graduate studies, Andrea served as a Technology Licensing fellow at CoMotion where she evaluated the patentability of academic technologies. Andrea received her PhD in immunology from the University of Washington, where she studied the allergic airway responses to fungal pathogens. Prior to graduate school, she worked as a research associate at Roche Palo Alto and MedImmune studying the immune mechanisms governing the development of obstructive pulmonary disorders and protection to influenza. Andrea earned a BS in microbiology from the University of Texas at El Paso. "I enjoy being involved in the development of exciting new technologies and helping researchers bring their high-impact innovations to market," Andrea says. Find Andrea [on LinkedIn](#)



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