

FUNDAMENTALS FOR STARTUPS - FINTECH

Powered by BECU & CoMotion Labs



Fundamentals for Startups winter series continues with BECU-sponsored fintech speakers

Join us Fridays at noon via [YouTube](#) for this lecture series that is open to anyone interested in learning about entrepreneurship and building a startup. Upcoming talks include "Just Do It: Launch Your Product Now!" from [Elin Al](#) co-founder COO Nat Cartwright on January 21st and "Customer-Centricity: The Cornerstone of Culture" from [Remilly](#) CEO Matt Oppenheimer on January 28th.

The series continues in February with a new set of topics – see the lineup below.

- 2/04** | "Falling into Entrepreneurship," Jane Park, CEO and founder, Tokki
- 2/11** | "Venture Capital Due Diligence: A Look Inside the Investment Memo," Tim Porter, managing director, Madrona Venture Group
- 2/18** | "The Art & Science of Achieving Product Market Fit," Shirish Nadkarni, board member at TIE Seattle, author, and serial entrepreneur
- 2/25** | "B2B Sales for Entrepreneurs and Startups," Jessica Klepper, co-founder and COO, Society of Saleswomen

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Top News



Science magazine's 2021 "Breakthrough of the Year" awarded to IPD's AI protein folding prediction discovery

Artificial intelligence discoveries that predict how proteins fold have won Science magazine's "Breakthrough of the Year" award. Developed by researchers at UW's Institute for Protein Design (IPD) and Alphabet's DeepMind, the prestigious award recognizes the year's most significant finding across all scientific fields. Science specifically cited IPD's AI tool [RoseTTAFold](#) that astonished scientists across the physical and life sciences with its speed and accuracy at predicting how proteins form three-dimensional shapes. Learn what Science editor-in-chief and biochemist H. Holden Thorp has to say about the significance of this discovery.

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UW Pharmacy's Drug Interaction Database co-founders win national innovation award

Drs. René Levy and Isabelle Ragueneau-Majlessi, co-founders of the [Drug Interaction Database \(DiDB\)](#), received the [Gary Neill Prize for Innovation in Drug Development](#) for DiDB, which is the core research tool of [UW Drug Interaction Solutions](#). For more than 20 years, the DiDB has maintained and expanded the goal of helping to prevent health complications from adverse drug reactions. DiDB is a good example of the "direct-to-user" commercialization model, where UW innovations are made available as products directly to customers, instead of licensed to others or spun off as a company. Learn more about the DiDB, including how this innovative database supports the growth of personalized medicine.

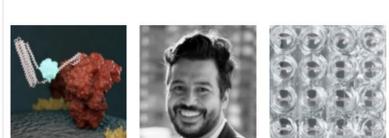
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BattGenie selected for accelerator backed by Shell Global and U.S. Department of Energy

UW energy spinoff [BattGenie](#) was chosen for the Shell GameChanger Accelerator, powered by NREL (National Renewable Energy Laboratory). Also known as [GCAN](#), the accelerator will provide the startup with up to \$250K in non-dilutive funding. BattGenie's software improves the performance of lithium batteries that are used to power electric vehicles, consumer devices, and other electronics by optimizing fast recharging and extending battery life. BattGenie plans to validate their technology for use in the automotive industry, a critical application as the world looks to decrease the use of fossil fuels, particularly in transportation.

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- New Institute for Protein Design biosensor spinoff Monod raises \$6M**
Discover how Monod Bio's light-emitting biosensors can be used to detect viral proteins, antibodies, or other molecules. [LEARN MORE](#)
- Cyrus raises \$18M, acquires a startup developing a COVID-19 therapeutic**
Learn about Cyrus and how they will use IPD's stunning RosettaFold software to fast-track new therapeutics. [LEARN MORE](#)
- Curi Bio raises \$10M for stem-cell-based drug discovery platform**
Read about how Curi Bio plans to use the funding to accelerate development of its "Mantarray" platform (shown above). [LEARN MORE](#)

To learn about biotech trends and challenges in 2022 and to see more news, [visit our News Page](#).

Feature Stories



BECU FinTech Incubator Competition: NOW OPEN

In its fourth year, the BECU FinTech incubator competition has officially launched and is looking for fintech startups in various industry verticals. This opportunity is open to any startup in the pre-seed or seed stage of development with a relevant solution in the fintech space. Winners receive a one-year membership to CoMotion Labs and other exciting benefits. **UW faculty, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, and undergraduate students are encouraged to apply.**

Application deadline: Friday, April 15, 2022
The cohort begins July 1, 2022

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Meet a CoMotion Labs Member: Fresh Grease

Fresh Grease helps cycling retailers convert and retain customers with software tools that enable cyclists to find compatible parts in just seconds using a bike's make, model, and year. The founders, both UW graduates, met at the virtual Career Fair held by CoMotion in the Spring of 2021 and joined the CoMotion Labs technology incubator in October 2021.

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Congratulations

CoMotion-supported researchers' accolades

- UW IPD and computational protein design spinoff [Arzeda](#) received \$1.75M from Codexis and is the first company in the SynBio Innovation Accelerator, [as announced in this press release](#).
- Joshua Smith**, UW professor and co-founder of UW spinoffs Wibotic, Jeeva Wireless, and Proprio was [elected Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors](#) for his innovations in wireless power, communication, sensing, and robotics.
- Luis Ceze**, UW computer science professor, was [named holder of the first Endowed Professorship](#) in Computer Science & Engineering in honor of Edward D. Lazowska.
- Ricky Wang**, UW professor of bioengineering and ophthalmology, and his team [published a scientific article in Nature's Light: Science & Applications](#) about how 3D imaging of collagen helps detect heart attacks and more.
- Jun Shan Wey**, one of our valued mentors, was elected Fellow Member of Optica in the [Optica 2022 Fellows Class](#).
- CoMotion's assistant director of innovation training, [Magali D. Eaton](#) was [elected to the board](#) of Life Science Washington Institute.

Partner Events & Opportunities

WE-REACH - Biomedical Entrepreneurship Fireside Chat (Virtual)
Thursday, January 27, 2:00 - 3:00 PM

As part of their biomedical innovation boot camp, WE-REACH presents the Biomedical Regulatory Strategy and Product Development virtual panel featuring a group of experts discussing FDA requirements and product development.

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UW BUERK CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP Hollomon Health Innovation Challenge (HIC)

Undergraduate and graduate students across the Cascadia Corridor (Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and British Columbia) and Alaska are invited to apply for the 2022 HIC. With the help of local industry experts during the challenge, innovative ideas, prototypes, or research in healthcare technology can take on new life. All competitors will receive valuable feedback and experience. Finalist teams are eligible to win up to \$15,000 in prizes. **Applications are due Monday, January 31st.**

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UW BUERK CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP Alaska Airlines Environmental Innovation Challenge (EIC)

Undergraduate and graduate students across the Cascadia Corridor (Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and British Columbia) and Alaska are invited to apply for the 2022 EIC. In this competition, interdisciplinary student teams define an environmental problem, develop a solution, design and build a prototype, or create a business plan that proves the market potential of their solution. Then, they pitch to 250+ judges at a demo-day event. Finalist teams are also eligible to win up to \$15,000 in prizes. **Applications are due Monday, February 14th.**

[APPLY](#) >

Tip of the month



Can you trademark that?

Did you know that a sound can be trademarked, but an idea cannot? And that a trademark and a trade name are not one and the same? Our tip of the month invites you to explore our Trademarks webpage, which includes definitions, descriptions, and answers to frequently asked questions.

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Meet a CoMotion Team Member



**Mobility Innovation Center Director
Bart Treece**

Bart Treece is the recently hired director of the Mobility Innovation Center (MIC) at CoMotion. The MIC is a multidisciplinary Center bringing together the industry's leading expertise from business, government, non-profit, and academia to help develop new technologies and explore creative solutions to change the way we move people, information, and goods across our transportation network. Before joining the team, Bart spent ten years at the Washington State Department of Transportation working on critical transportation projects, issues, and initiatives. Bart also spent 12 years as a broadcast journalist in the Austin, Phoenix, and Seattle markets. He earned a B.S. in Justice Studies from Arizona State University and holds a Master of Sustainable Transportation from the UW School of Civil & Environmental Engineering. Bart is a certified Professional Transportation Planner® (PTP), and a member of the American Planning Association and the Institute of Transportation Engineers. In his free time, he enjoys watching soccer, cooking, hitting the road to travel, exploring the outdoors, running, and riding his bike. He lives in Seattle with his wife, two sons, and cat. [Find Bart on LinkedIn](#).

About CoMotion



CoMotion's mission is to partner with the UW community on their innovation journey, providing tools, connections, and acumen to transform ideas into economic and societal impact.

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