

A newsletter for our community engaged in innovation, entrepreneurship, and commercialization



CHANGEMAKER: NORA DISIS

Q&A with cancer vaccine researcher

Mary "Nora" Disis is director of the Cancer Vaccine Institute at UW Medicine. Her team works to investigate DNA-based vaccines and cellular therapies for common cancers. She's also an entrepreneur, having worked with CoMotion to launch a startup and obtain several patents in targeted cancer therapy. She spoke with CoMotion about her research and gender equity in innovation.

[READ THE Q&A](#)



CoMotion-supported researchers and startups have been in the news since our last issue. *The Wall Street Journal* featured biochemistry professor David Baker, whose Institute for Protein Design uses a combination of new algorithmic and experimental methods to accelerate research in protein design by a factor of 10. And the work of Cancer Vaccine Institute, led by Nora Disis, recently completed the first phase of a ten-year clinical trial that saw reductions in the recurrence of breast cancer; the work was featured in *Gizmodo* and *Insider*.

[BROWSE COMOTION IN THE NEWS](#)

CoMotion events

FUNDAMENTALS FOR STARTUPS

Powered by CoMotion Labs



Clockwise from upper left: Kenny Lee, Marius Cocirion, Scott Tupper and Mark Sincell

Our weekly series continues

Fundamentals for Startups continues this Friday at noon with Kenny Lee, co-founder and CEO of [Align](#). Kenny will explore the important role that startups with a clear sense of purpose play in driving innovation and sustainability.

The following week, career and transition coach [Mark Sincell](#) will share why every startup must include sustainability in its business plan. Other upcoming speakers include CoMotion Labs alum and [Cnda Coffee](#) founder and CEO Scott Tupper sharing insights about the "impact startup" culture and Techstars Seattle director [Marius Cocirion](#), who will share tips on validating an idea without a technical co-founder.

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Mobility Innovation Center news



How commuting and travel is shaping up in the next normal

Three years ago, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted many aspects of our lives, including how we work and travel. Now, with the results of the latest Seattle Commute Survey in hand, we have a clearer understanding of how people are traveling into downtown Seattle and across the city as pandemic restrictions have lifted. The survey, which captured more than 64,000 responses, was a joint project of the Mobility Innovation Center and Commute Seattle, with research led by a UW Urban Design and Planning team. The story was also covered by [The Seattle Times](#), [GeekWire](#), and most local TV and radio stations.

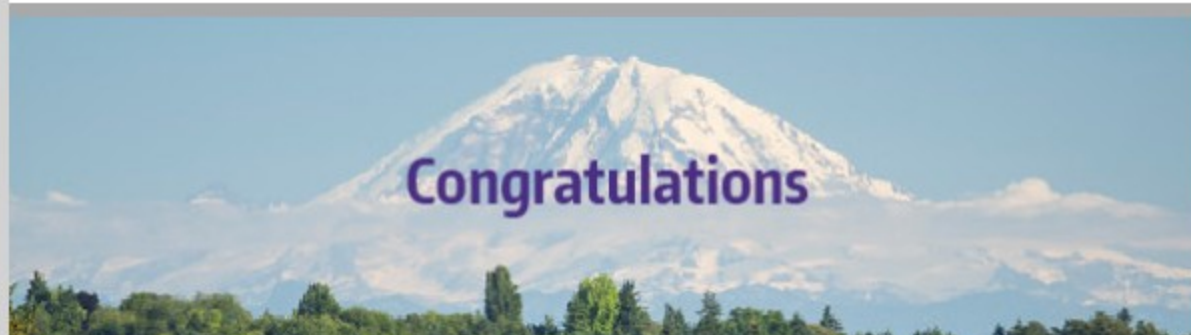
[READ THE STORY](#)



Fintech startups: Apply by April 17!

The annual BECU FinTech Incubator Competition is an effort to support fintech startups and grow the regional fintech ecosystem. The not-for-profit credit union is interested in fintech solutions that have the potential to support members' financial health, improve BECU's data capture and analysis, and make back-office processes more efficient. Solutions could involve payments and settlements, digital lending, open banking, and more. Any startup with a relevant solution is encouraged to apply.

[LEARN MORE & APPLY](#)



CoMotion-supported innovators' accolades

- David Younger, CEO and co-founder of A-Alpha Bio, a biotech company and UW spinoff, was recently included in *Puget Sound Business Journals* "40 under 40." [Read the story](#) (subscription required).
- Fortilin inhibitors was selected for the highly prestigious [Science2Startups](#) symposium, an invitation-only event that features the most innovative startup ideas in therapeutics.
- An interdisciplinary team representing pediatrics and Electrical & Computer Engineering received an Innovation Gap Fund award last year to develop a low-cost, accessible, and accurate IV fluid pump and monitor for newborns and recently published [results](#). [Read more about the project](#).
- The Pacific Northwest Transportation Consortium (PacTrans), which includes CoMotion-supported spinoff AI Waysson, received a \$15 million renewal grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). [Read the full story](#).
- A research team from UW Medicine and the Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering's UbiComp Lab has developed a new smartphone-based screening tool for prediabetes and recently published [results](#). [Read the full story](#).

If you're a UW researcher, learn more about how CoMotion can support your innovation journey by [requesting a consultation](#) with one of our innovation managers (NetID required).

Partner events and opportunities



[Voting has opened](#) for the much-anticipated and hotly contested GeekWire Awards, which celebrate the top innovators, entrepreneurs, and technology leaders in the Pacific Northwest. Hosted live from the Showbox SoDo in Seattle, the event includes a seated dinner, entertainment, fun surprises, and award presentations spanning more than a dozen categories. A limited number of half-table and full-table sponsorships are available; [contact GeekWire](#) for inquiries.

[REGISTER NOW](#)



Life Science Innovation Northwest 2023 April 25-26 | Seattle

Life Science Innovation Northwest is the Pacific Northwest's largest annual life science conference. This day-and-a-half-long event will bring together investors, public and private life science organizations, research institutions, scientists, entrepreneurs, and members of the global health community to discuss some of the most compelling life science breakthroughs of our time.

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](#)

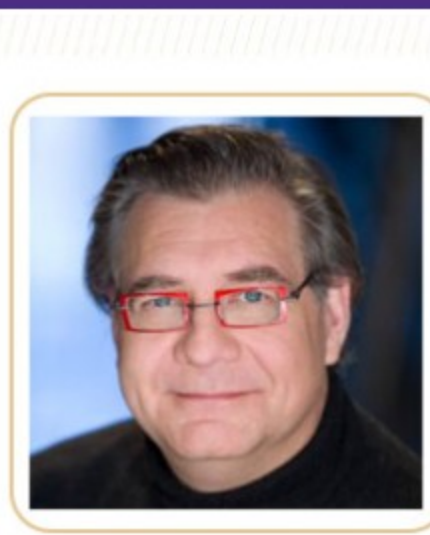
Dempsey Startup Competition Final Round Thursday, May 25, 1-4 p.m. Peek Forum, Founders Hall, 5th floor

The Sweet 16 teams from the UW Dempsey Startup Competition will compete for four spots in the final round in a public event at the Buerk Center that's open to the community. They'll pitch their startups to a panel of distinguished judges as they compete for a grand prize of \$25,000. No registration required.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Meet a CoMotion mentor



George Gosieski Senior Advisor

George Gosieski was named a CoMotion mentor-in-residence last year. He started his corporate career as a janitor at Boeing; 19 years later he was leading the company's global real estate group. He later worked at Capital One, a social-responsibility consulting firm, and Broadcom (a fabless semiconductor company), and was appointed a UN national greenhouse gas expert. A serial entrepreneur, he has launched four startups in various industries; his current project focuses on integrating healthcare, fitness, wellness, and nutrition. [Connect with George on LinkedIn](#).

About CoMotion

COMOTION'S INTERCONNECTED SERVICES



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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