

W COMOTION
INNOVATION
GAP FUND

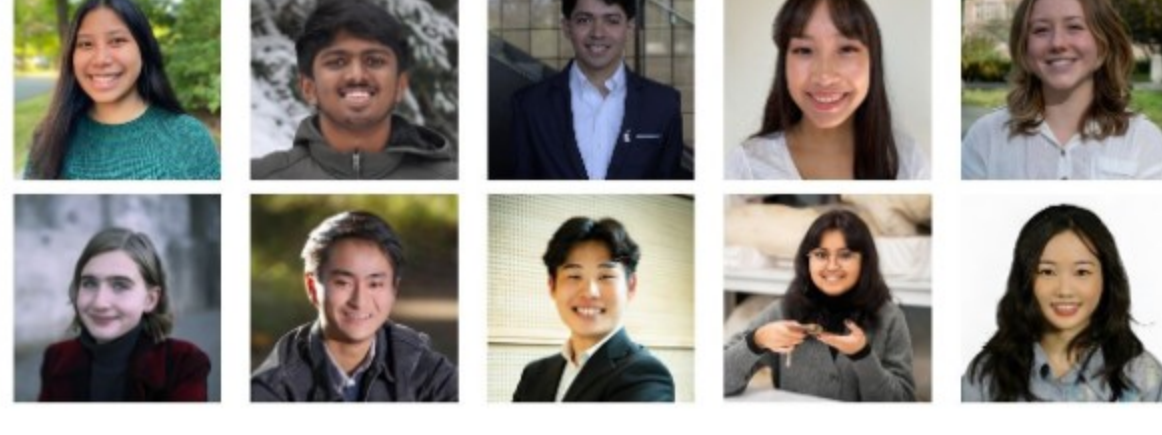
Spring 2023 Winners

Seven project teams receive full \$50K awards in the
CoMotion Innovation Gap Fund's spring cycle

Off the 13 teams that made it to the final pitch round of the [CoMotion Innovation Gap Fund's](#) spring cycle, 11 received full or partial funding: five teams competing in life sciences and engineering received full \$50,000 awards, two teams received \$50,000 Population Health Innovation awards, and four received \$10,000 customer discovery support awards. Funded projects range from SocioLx Solutions, an effort to improve automatic speech recognition, to Juno, an app designed to empower new mothers, and more. Click below to learn more about these teams and their vital work.

READ MORE >

10 undergrads named CoMotion Mary Gates Innovation Scholars



The selected scholars will gain nine weeks of full-time experience as interns with faculty-led initiatives that involve translating university research into real-world impact, and receive a \$5,000 scholarship. This cohort represents seven UW departments, from bioengineering and computer science to public health and environmental science.

MEET THE SCHOLARS >



UW had a strong showing at the 2023 GeekWire awards: [AltPap](#), led by Valerie Daggett of UW Bioengineering, won Health Innovation of the Year, recognizing the startup's progress in developing early tests for Alzheimer's indicators ([watch this conversation](#) between Valerie and Vice Provost for Innovation François Baneyx). Ivan Lachko of Phase Genomics and Luis Ceze of OctoML (also featured in [Venture Beat](#)) were finalists for Startup CEO of the Year and CEO of the Year, respectively, and Zap Energy and Membrion were short-listed for the new category of Sustainable Innovation of the Year. Zap Energy also landed a \$5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy.

Axiom highlighted the medical tech company [Proprio](#), cofounded by Computer Science & Engineering professor Joshua Smith, which has developed the first light-enabled navigation tool for spine surgery to receive FDA clearance. And the *Washington Post* ran a story about how gene-edited cells can move science closer to repairing damaged hearts, which featured Charles Murry of UW Medicine.

BROWSE COMOTION IN THE NEWS >

Ask an innovation manager



Q&A: When to start working with CoMotion

If you're an early-career researcher or just starting your innovation journey at the University of Washington, you might have questions about when and how to start working with CoMotion. We sat down with Judy Bridges, CoMotion's innovation manager for physical sciences and a three-decade veteran at the intersection of business and science, to talk through these frequently asked questions.

LEARN MORE >

Mobility Innovation Center



What can we learn from successful high-speed rail projects?

A [new research report](#) from UW's College of Built Environments examines data on high-speed rail systems around the world to mine key insights on how a similar undertaking could work in the Cascadia region. The report comes as Washington's state legislature has allocated \$150 million to begin planning efforts for a high-speed connection between Oregon and British Columbia. The report, launched by the [Mobility Innovation Center](#) at CoMotion and supported by [Challenge Seattle](#), involved more than 50 hours of interviews with industry experts.

READ THE STORY >

ACCOLADES

CoMotion congratulates UW researchers' recent achievements



- [Jared Silva](#) of BlueDot Photonics and [Kavla Young](#) of Phase Genomics were named to Puget Sound Business Journal's "40 under 40" ([story here](#), subscription required).
- Civil & Environmental Engineering professor Yin Hai Wang, director of PacTrans and on the board of directors of CoMotion Labs member [AI Wayston](#), received the 2023 Francis Turner Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers and was recognized as a Distinguished Member. [Read the story.](#)
- Cole DeForest, professor of chemical engineering and bioengineering, is senior author of a [paper](#) published in Nature Chemistry on light activation techniques for turning on proteins in order to study and control them. [Read the story.](#)
- Jacqueline Padilla-Gamiño of Aquatic & Fishery Sciences and Michelle DiBenedetto of Mechanical Engineering, received separate grants to research marine microplastics. [Read the story.](#)
- UW spinoff NLM Photonics announced the awarding of a U.S. patent for record-setting organic electro-optic materials. [Read the release.](#)
- CathConnect, which received [CoMotion Innovation Gap Fund](#) and [I-Corps](#) awards last year, won both the audience and investor awards at the 2023 [Seattle Angel Conference](#).
- A team from the Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering received the [Test of Time Award](#) at the 20th USENIX [Symposium on Networked Systems Design and Implementation](#) for its comprehensive evaluation of third-party trackers and their intrusion into people's online activities.
- An interview with ThruWave CEO [Claire Watts](#) appeared on the website of Osage University Partners, which provides venture capital for academic innovations.

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

GeekWire
ROOFTOP BBQ + MARINERS DAY

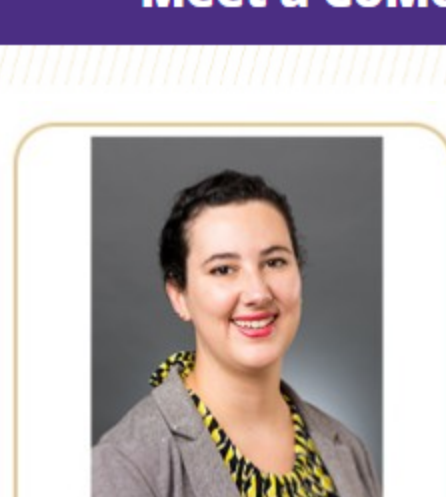
PRESENTED BY: FIRST MODE

AUGUST 9TH | 3:30 PM

Celebrate summer, baseball, and sensational fun at GeekWire's festive rooftop BBQ on Wednesday, August 9, before the Seattle Mariners face the San Diego Padres. The party starts at the Pioneer Square headquarters of [First Mode](#) then moves to T-Mobile Park around 6:40 p.m. Connect with members of the tech community at this fun-filled, 21+ summer party featuring celebrity guests, cool swag, and other surprises. **CoMotion Labs members can use the code "BBQ15" to enjoy a 15% discount.**

REGISTER NOW >

Meet a CoMotion team member



Soraya Bailey
Director,
Innovation Training

Soraya Bailey joined CoMotion in April as director of innovation training. Soraya has been with UW since 2018 as director of the Master of Applied Bioengineering program, where she taught and mentored teams on design thinking and product development. As part of her program, she mentored 18 teams through the Foster School's Holloman Health Innovation Challenge, with three teams placing in the finals. Soraya previously worked as a capstone instructor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Johns Hopkins University, where she mentored and led 100+ teams through capstone experiences. [Connect with Soraya on LinkedIn.](#)

About CoMotion

COMOTION'S INTERCONNECTED SERVICES



CoMotion partners with the UW community on their innovation journey, providing tools, connections, and acumen to transform ideas into economic and societal impact.

JOIN THE JOURNEY >