

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



Dr. Ruikang "Ricky" Wang, UW professor of Bioengineering and Ophthalmology (left); Felicia Watson, Ph.D. and researcher in UW Department of Laboratory Medicine & Pathology

Celebrating School of Medicine Inventor of the Year and CoMotion Innovator Showcase winner

Last month, the UW School of Medicine and CoMotion celebrated the annual Inventor of the Year Ruikang "Ricky" Wang, professor of bioengineering and ophthalmology, for his groundbreaking work in optical coherence tomography angiography (OCTA). His technique has been a game-changer in clinical ophthalmology, significantly advancing patient care and vision preservation. In addition, seven UW researchers from a range of departments presented cutting-edge projects in a series of dynamic "lightning-round" pitches for the CoMotion Innovator Showcase. Attendees voted for the most compelling pitch and Felicia Watson, a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology working in the Murphy Lab, emerged with the top project.

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Murdock Trust winner



M.J. Murdock
CHARITABLE TRUST

[Eric Seibel](#), UW professor of mechanical engineering, has developed a medical adhesive designed to detach from the skin more easily than standard solutions, reducing the risk of complication and further injury. He was inspired by his young son's early experiences with hospital IVs and sensitive skin. Seibel's team recently completed a successful first clinical trial, led by PhD student [Shawn Swanson](#), demonstrating the safety and effectiveness of [ThermoTape](#) for short-term wear. The project has been selected for the prestigious [CoMotion-Murdock Trust Commercialization Initiation Award](#) to continue its journey toward commercialization.

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COMOTION FUNDAMENTALS FOR STARTUPS

Powered by CoMotion Labs



Our weekly lecture series resumes **Friday, January 5, from 12-1 p.m.**, with [Gaurav Sareen](#), corporate vice president at Microsoft. He will talk about self-leadership, or the mindset that empowers a leader to look within, question assumptions and expectations, and let go of habits and behaviors that don't work. The following Friday, CoMotion digital content innovation manager [Adam Krynicki](#) will share insights on how to find funding for your startup. Next, [Yoko Okano](#), co-founder of First Row Partners, will introduce the basics of fundraising and how to work with angel investors and VCs. See the link below for the full lineup and registration.

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CoMotion-supported researchers and startups have received significant media coverage since our last issue, most recently with the acquisition of [UW spinoff Icosavax](#) by AstraZeneca for \$1.1B. In addition, UW spinoffs Parse Biosciences, Skytap as well as a number of CoMotion-supported companies named in the recent Life Science Washington Institute and Washington State Department of Commerce awards have garnered over \$68M in fundraising.

In other news, several UW innovators were recognized for their achievements: David Younger for the Life Science Washington Institute Entrepreneurial Achievement Award; Brian Pinkard for the Forbes 30 Under 30 in the Energy vertical; and Shwetak Patel in GeekWire's Uncommon Thinker series. Last, 40 UW experts were on the Highly Cited Researchers 2023 List, 70% of whom have worked with CoMotion.

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Mobility Innovation Center News

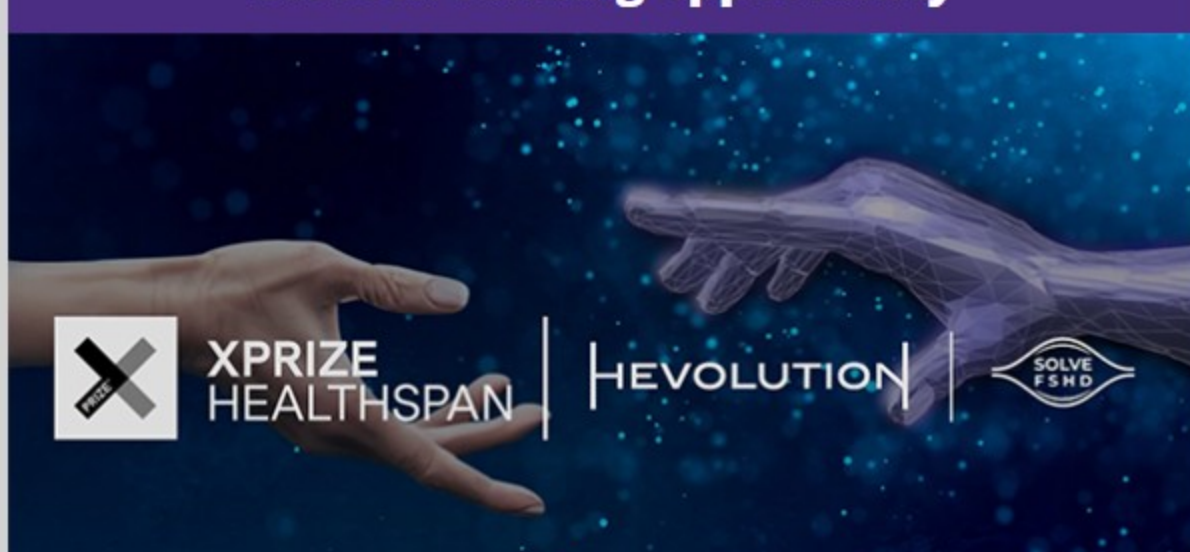


King County Metro sets goal: zero emissions fleet by 2035

To meet their zero emissions goal, [King County Metro](#) bus bases will need to convert for electrical charging. The [Mobility Innovation Center](#) and the UW [Department of Construction Management](#) in the [College of Built Environments](#) partnered with the transit agency on a project that will evaluate if a public-private partnerships model would be more beneficial to bus base conversion than traditional construction delivery methods. This model could reduce upfront capital construction costs for publicly-owned infrastructure projects and accelerate development.

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Biotech funding opportunity



The recently announced XPRIZE Healthspan \$101M seven-year competition is open to biotech companies focused on innovations addressing longevity research. The top prize in the Healthspan competition will go to the team that does the best job of creating a therapy that can be administered in a year or less, leading to the restoration of at least 10 years' worth of muscular function, cognition, and immune function in people aged 65 to 80. Read more about the competition in [GeekWire](#) and register via the link below.

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Meet a CoMotion Team Member



Adam Krynicki
Innovation Manager,
Digital Content
& Database

Adam Krynicki is a CoMotion innovation manager specializing in digital content and databases. With a passion for innovation and entrepreneurship and 20 years of experience in technology, law, and business, Adam has played pivotal roles in launching the Oregon State University-Cascades Innovation Co-Lab, co-founding the Launch Alaska Accelerator, coaching entrepreneurs at the Alaska SBDC, and commercializing intellectual property at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Recognized for his mentoring and community engagement, Adam holds a Juris Doctor degree from Duquesne University and a Bachelor's from Pennsylvania State University. [Connect with Adam 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.

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