

Dr. Yuan-Po Tu Honored as a Seattle Mariners Hometown All-Star!

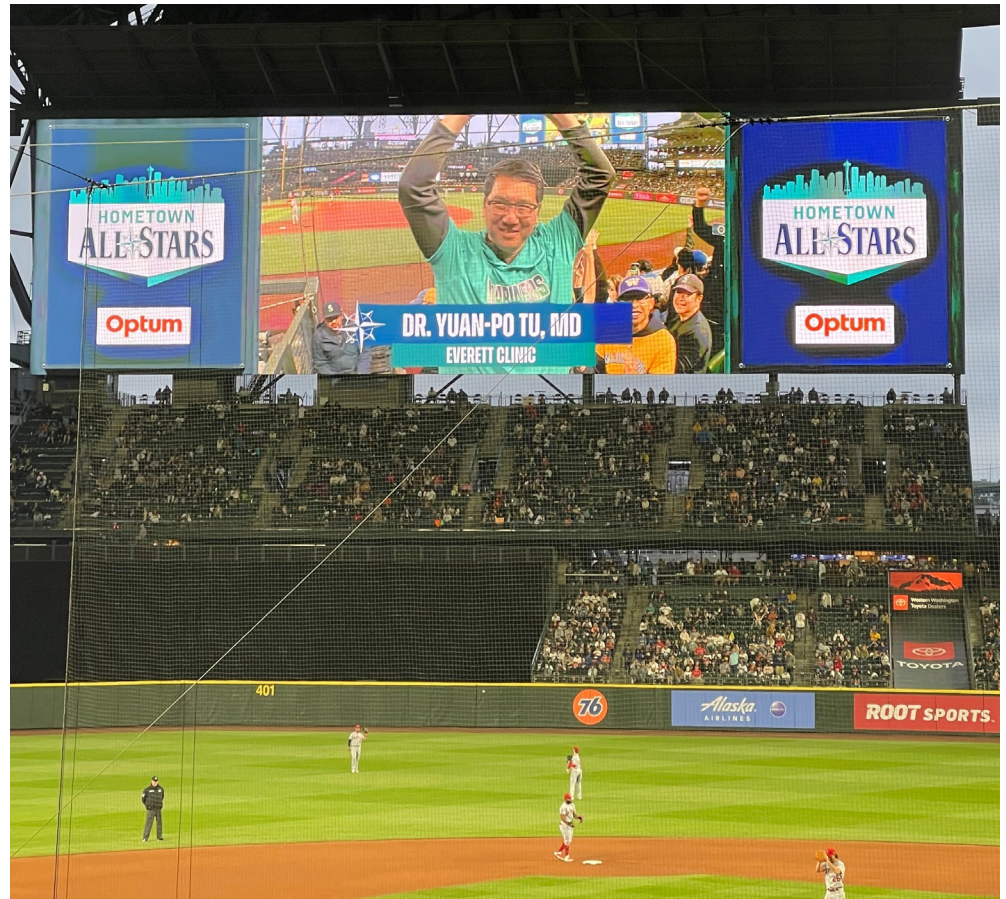
This MLB season, the Seattle Mariners are honoring the region's most impactful members; the Hometown All-Stars program recognizes "those in our greater Pacific Northwest area who have distinguished themselves by selflessly working to improve the communities in which they live and serve." Honorees are recognized at select games throughout the season.

The Jumbotron at the June 17 Mariners game featured Dr. Yuan-Po Tu from The Everett Clinic. The Arnerich Massena community may recognize him as a voice that helped guide us through the pandemic by joining us for **two webinars** in which he offered first-hand knowledge from the medical front lines. He provided valuable information and insight that kept our entire community informed during some of the most difficult periods of uncertainty.

Dr. Tu was there from the very beginning, caring for the first COVID-19 patients in the United States. He was named as a Hometown All-Star thanks to the vital role he played in developing testing procedures for COVID-19. Dr. Tu's research validated the usage of nasal swabs as a reliable method for detecting the presence of SARS-CoV-2, making home rapid tests possible.

Anyone who had one of the deep nasopharyngeal swabs done knows just how uncomfortable it can be. The depth of the swab also increases the risk of transmission to healthcare workers, Dr. Tu says, as it generates a cloud of viral particles. And healthcare workers know how challenging it can be to swab a small child.

Dr. Yuan-Po Tu was the lead author on a paper published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in July 2020, "**Swabs Collected by Patients or Health Care Workers for SARS-CoV-2 Testing,**" which demonstrated the validity of plain nasal swabs and made home testing possible.



"We allowed people to obtain samples relatively painlessly by validating nasal swabs," he explains, "and that allowed testing to be done at home." The paper is highly cited, serving as the basis for continuing research.

Dr. Tu, known in research circles as "the diagnostic guy," has done diagnostic studies in collaboration with several companies, including **Abbott**, which produced one of the earliest rapid point of care tests, **ID NOW**. He is currently working on groundbreaking research that may help people determine when someone is infectious versus not contagious.

The Seattle community honored Dr. Yuan-Po Tu at the Mariners game as a Hometown All Star, a well-deserved recognition of his contribution to healthcare during this time and the impact it's had. We are deeply grateful to Dr. Po Tu for his dedication to health, his focused work on pandemic solutions, and the guidance he has provided to us. Congratulations on being a Hometown All-Star!

