



Discovery Science Emerging Scholars Lecture

“THE HOST STRIKES BACK: STRATEGIES FOR EVOLUTIONARY WARFARE WITH VIRUSES”



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Antiviral restriction factors are engaged in evolutionary warfare with viruses, in which viruses mutate to evade restriction factor recognition, and restriction factors then mutate to regain defense. These arms races drive rapid germline evolution of restriction factors, including the retroviral restriction factor TRIM5. Nevertheless, it is unclear how host restriction factors successfully compete in these arms races, given that viruses evolve much faster than their hosts. I explore the hypothesis that antiviral proteins evolve within highly permissive evolutionary landscapes, such that many possible mutations are adaptive in these arms races, thus favoring host participation in such conflicts.

Friday, May 19th

11:00 am CT, 214 Light Hall

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