Molecular and Cell Biology Seminar Series: Important roles in shaping host immunity and physiology

Dr. Eric Dang

Tenure-track Investigator, Laboratory of Host Immunity and Microbiome, NIAID

Date:

01/28/2025

Time:

01:30PM-02:45 PM

Location:

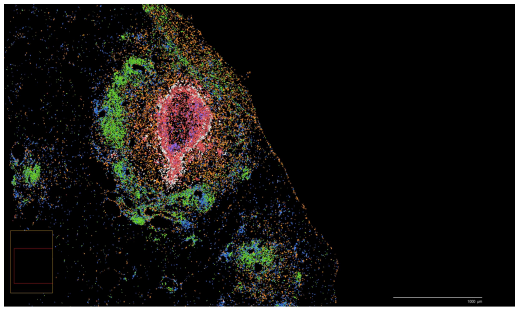
COB1 - 116

About The Speaker:

Dr. Dang received his undergraduate degree in Public Health Studies from Johns Hopkins University in 2010, where he studied T cell differentiation in the lab of Dr. Drew Pardoll. After college, he spent a year in London working in Dr. Anne O'Garra's lab at the National Institute for Medical Research in Mill Hill. After a brief stint in medical school, he performed his graduate thesis work at the University of California, San Francisco in the laboratory of Dr. Jason Cyster. There he studied the role of oxysterols and cholesterol metabolism in regulating macrophage inflammatory responses. After receiving his Ph.D. in 2018, Dr. Dang joined the laboratory of Dr. Hiten Madhani at UCSF for his postdoctoral work. There he used forward genetic approaches to study mechanisms of immune system manipulation by the fungal pathogen Cryptococcus neoformans. Dr. Dang was hired as a tenure-track investigator in the NIAID Laboratory of Host Immunity and Microbiome in 2022. His group focuses on understanding the crosstalk between fungal pathogens/commensals and mammalian hosts.

Abstract:

Mammalian barrier tissues are colonized by a plethora of microbial species that play important roles in shaping host immunity and physiology. While most research has thus far focused on bacteria, fungi are increasingly recognized as important components of our commensal flora. In addition to commensals, there are a number of pathogenic fungal species that cause a high human disease burden, leading to 300 million infections and up to 2 million deaths per year globally. These infections are difficult to treat, due to a lack of effective drugs and the increased emergence of drug-resistant pathogens. The Dang laboratory operates at the intersection of microbiology and immunology to understand the factors that dictate the outcome of fungal exposure at barrier tissues.



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