



# 2023 Tri-I Molecular Mycology and Pathogenesis Training Program Symposium Schedule

August 18, 2023

At the French Family Science Auditorium, Duke University

8:30-8:45AM Coffee and light refreshments, Outside of Bonk Auditorium, 2231 French Family Science Center  
Catered by Nosh

8:45-9:00AM Welcome by Lotus Lofgren

## Talk Session 1: Ecology of Fungi

Chaired by Lotus Lofgren



9:00-9:45AM Keynote: Evolution and distribution of isocyanides, a new class of fungal natural products promoting fungal fitness in copper scarce environments  
Dr. Nancy Keller, University of Wisconsin - Madison

9:45-10:15AM Deciphering mycorrhiza-mediated plant potassium nutrition  
Dr. Kevin Garcia, NC State University



10:15-10:30AM Deciphering the switchgrass microbiome using nestedness and cross-domain co-occurrence  
Rachel Hammer, NC State University

10:30-10:45AM *Suillus* as a model genus for ectomycorrhizal ecology  
Dr. Lotus Lofgren, Duke University

10:45-11:05AM Coffee Break, outside of Bonk Auditorium

## Talk Session 2: Fungi as Model Systems

Chaired by Catherine Denning-Jannace



11:05-11:50AM Keynote: Targeting the *Aspergillus fumigatus* hypoxia response for therapeutic development  
Dr. Robb Cramer, Dartmouth

11:50-12:20PM *Histoplasma* species complex: Genetic divergence and virulence strategies  
Dr. Victoria Sepulveda, UNC- Chapel Hill

12:20-12:35PM Evaluating the sensitivity of microbial proteins to Cu-induced misfolding  
Amy Robison, Duke University



- 12:35-12:55PM      **Quantifying genome dynamics in *Candida* populations during adaptation to antifungal drugs**  
Dr. Anna Selmecki, University of Minnesota
- 1:00-2:15PM      Lunch, outside of Bonk Auditorium, catered by Parker & Otis

### **Talk Session 3: Medical Mycology/Natural Products from Fungi**

Chaired by Brianna Almeida

- 2:15-3:00PM      **Keynote: Natural variation in *Candida albicans* biofilm regulatory network**  
Dr. Aaron Mitchell, University of Georgia
- 3:00-3:15PM      **Developing natural product ligands of FKBP12 as antifungal agents**  
Angela Rivera, Duke University
- 3:15-3:30PM      **Functional characterization of the STRIPAK complex in *Cryptococcus neoformans***  
Dr. Patricia Peterson, Duke University
- 3:30-4:00PM      **Recombination rate variation and evolution in *Saccharomyces* yeast**  
Dr. Caiti Heil, NC State University
- 4:00-4:15PM      **Yeast species emergence and adaptation to extreme environmental stressors**  
Dr. Emmanuel Nnadi, Plateau State University, Nigeria
- 4:15-4:20 PM      Closing remarks - Dr. Joe Heitman
- 5:00-8:00PM      After Party at Dirty Bull Brewing Company catered by Sitar Indian Cuisine & Locopops  
Address: 206 Broadway St #104, Durham, NC 27701

Support provided by Duke Department of Molecular Genetics & Microbiology,  
Center for Host-Microbial Interactions and Canadian Institute for Advanced  
Research

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://duke.zoom.us/j/99307492165?pwd=b1RleXlrVHh5YzFLaEY2bkRxBUN3Zz09>**

**Meeting ID: 993 0749 2165**

**Passcode: mycology**