



Joan Wood Lecture Series

Celebrating Women in Science. Showcasing Careers in Biology.

The Joan Wood Lecture Series provides a forum for undergraduates to interact with women in science-related careers. Designed to encourage undergraduate women to pursue advanced degrees in science, the series showcases the many career opportunities available to science majors.

Joan Wood, Ph.D., M.D., a medical geneticist, was a strong advocate of women in the sciences. She remained active in educational programs within the IU Department of Biology, where she earned three degrees. Memorial contributions made in her honor helped establish this lecture series.

Wednesday, March 11, 2015 • 4:00 p.m. • Myers Hall 130

Rotavirus interactions with its host cell: An arms race

Susana López, Ph.D.

Professor of Genetics and Molecular Biology
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Rotaviruses are the most important cause of acute gastroenteritis in childhood, causing an estimated 400,000 deaths per year in the world. During the infection, rotaviruses trigger an antiviral response in their host cells. We are interested in learning how these viruses deal with the different branches of this response that are turned on upon infection. As obligate parasites, viruses depend on the synthetic machinery of the cell to translate their proteins and on the cell energy and building blocks to replicate their genomes. Cells respond to these virus invasions by eliciting diverse responses to eliminate the incoming parasitic agents. In turn, to establish a successful infection, viruses have developed different strategies to take over the cellular metabolic machinery and to cope with the defense mechanisms of the cell. The characterization of these battles has allowed the discovery of the different elements viruses and cells have developed in the attempt to overcome the enemy. In this talk, Dr. López will discuss what she and her lab have learned from this war, and some of the methodologies they have used in their research.



The Indiana University Department of Biology, a unit of the College of Arts and Sciences, administers the Joan Wood Lecture Series. Visit www.bio.indiana.edu/alumni/support/wood.shtml for more information on Dr. Wood, the lecture series, or to support the lectures.

