

**Friday, September 26, 11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

*"Discovery, characterization and exploitation of novel viruses"*

David Wang, Ph.D.

Washington University School of Medicine in Saint Louis [davewang@wusm.wustl.edu](mailto:davewang@wusm.wustl.edu)

We have developed and applied Next Generation Sequencing based approaches for viral discovery. Application to human, animal, plant and environmental specimens has led to the discovery of many novel viruses. Strikingly, nematodes are among the most abundant animals on Earth; however, until recently, no viruses of nematodes have been molecularly characterized. Here I will discuss the discovery of Orsay virus, the first molecularly characterized nematode virus and also the first virus capable of infecting the nematode model organism *C. elegans*, and efforts to exploit this experimental system to dissect fundamental aspects of host-virus interactions in metazoan organisms.