SFB 900

SFB 900 Seminar Series

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TITLE

Making the Switch-Human Cytomegalovirus Latency and Reactivation

SPEAKER

Prof. Felicia Goodrum, Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, The University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, USA

LOCATION

Lecture Hall R, building J06, MHH, Carl-Neuberg-Str.1 Hannover

14.07. 2020

5.00 PM (s.t.)

» Research of Felicia Goodrum

Our research focuses on human cytomegalovirus (CMV) latency. CMV replicates in a variety of cell types, but its genome is uniquely maintained without the production of progeny in hematopoietic cells. This latent state enables the virus to persist for a lifetime in healthy individuals without causing disease. However, reactivation of CMV from latency can cause life-threatening disease in immunocompromised patients such as stem cell and solid organ transplant recipients and AIDS patients. In spite of its critical importance to the infectious cycle and pathogenesis, the mechanisms underlying CMV latency have remained obscure. Recently, we have developed a novel in vitro system for studying hematopoietic progenitor cells giving a great deal of attention to hematopoietic cell biology. Using this system, we have identified a hematopoietic progenitor subpopulation (CD34+/CD38-) that uniquely supports a latent infection when infected in vitro. Our work seeks to identify and characterize viral and cellular determinants of CMV latency using this system.

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