



Wednesday, March 14, 2018

LSC 3 | 12:00 - 1:00PM

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“B cell activation in space and time”

Activated B cells secrete antibodies that protect against infection but which can also contribute to autoimmune diseases. Hence, the ability to modulate B cell activation, based on an understanding of the underlying mechanisms, has significant implications for health and disease. B cell activation is initiated by the binding of antigens to the B cell antigen receptor (BCR). The current focus of our lab is understanding how the cytoskeleton controls BCR mobility and spatial organization within the plasma membrane, and how that modulates BCR signaling and B cell activation. In particular, when B cells encounter antigens displayed on the surface of another cell, they form an immune synapse, a specialized membrane domain that amplifies BCR signaling. Our recent work has focused on identifying key regulators of immune synapse formation and function.

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