



COLLEGE of
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF MOLECULAR
AND CELLULAR BIOLOGY

MCB Distinguished Speaker Series

2017-2018



Wed. March 21, 2018
SSC 2315 @ 10:30 am

Dr. Leah Cowen

Professor,
Canada Research Chair in Microbial Genomics &
Infectious Disease,
Department of Molecular Genetics,
University of Toronto

“Identifying Vulnerabilities in Fungal Pathogens Through Functional and Chemical Genomic Analyses”

Intrinsic and acquired drug resistance of microbial pathogens poses a grave threat to human health and has enormous economic consequences worldwide. Fungal pathogens present a particular challenge because they are eukaryotes and share many of the same biological processes as the human hosts they infect. The number of drug classes that have distinct targets in fungi is very limited and the usefulness of current antifungal drugs is compromised by dose-limiting host toxicity and the frequent emergence of high-grade resistance. New, non-cross-reactive drugs for the treatment of life-threatening fungal infections are urgently needed. Here, I discuss our recent work that leverages functional and chemical genomic analyses to identify vulnerabilities in fungal pathogens. This work has revealed novel circuitry governing virulence traits such as morphogenesis and immune evasion, as well as new targets for antifungal drug development.

“A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR LEADING RESEARCHERS IN THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY DISCUSS THEIR WORK”

* ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND *

* COFFEE, TEA AND TIMBITS *

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