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MOLECULAR MECHANISM OF CELL-CELL FUSION IN YEAST MATING

Cell membrane fusion is the first physical step initiating the conception of every human life. Astonishingly, we lack fundamental knowledge of the proteins which mediate gamete cells to fuse during fertilization in Fungi and vertebrates. In our research group, we aim to identify and characterize the proteins that mediate and regulate cell fusion in the mating of baker's yeast. In this talk, I will summarize our progress in tackling this problem which we have approached from two different angles: 1) a proteomics-centered approach where we have identified new pheromone-regulated proteins using SILAC-based mass spectrometry, and 2) a functional approach making use of the yeast knockout collection to screen for mutants defective in cell fusion.

Host: Nicole Tischler, PhD.

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**JUEVES 22 DE AGOSTO 2019 - 09:00 HRS | AUDITORIO 4º PISO
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