GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE
BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT SEMINAR
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"Enzymatic detachment of bacterial biofilms"

Surface-attached communities of bacteria known as biofilms are the predominant mode of growth for bacteria in most natural environments. Biofilms also contribute to numerous problems in clinical, agricultural, environmental and industrial settings. In many biofilms, extracellular polymeric substances such as capsular polysaccharides help hold the bacterial cells together and attach them to the surface. This talk describes the discovery of a polysaccharide-degrading enzyme (dispersin B) that may have applications as an antibiofilm agent in clinical and agricultural settings.

Reference

Kaplan JB. (2010) Biofilm dispersal: mechanisms, clinical implications, and potential therapeutic uses. *J Dent Res* 89:205-218.
DOI: 10.1177/0022034509359403
Free online at www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20139339

TUESDAY January 27, 2015
3:00-4:15 PM
Johnson Center Room Meeting Room F