

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY SEMINAR  
Fall 2016

**Katie DeCicco-Skinner, Ph.D.**  
Department of Biology  
American University

***“Inflammation, skin cancer and the paradoxical effect of the tumor progression locus 2 gene”***

Cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (cSCC), a form of non-melanoma skin cancer, is the second most common form of cancer in the United States, with over one million cases diagnosed annually. *Tpl2*, a gene in the mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) family, can function as a tumor suppressor gene in skin cancer. Mice with a *Tpl2* deletion have both an increased incidence of skin carcinogenesis and increased propensity for tumor metastasis. This study investigates whether stromal-epithelial interactions and alterations in c-MET signaling are necessary to drive skin cancer development and progression in *Tpl2*<sup>-/-</sup> mice, thus contributing to our understanding of the mechanisms by which *Tpl2* acts as a tumor suppressor gene in skin cancer.

**TUESDAY November 15, 2016**

**3:00-4:15 PM**

**Innovation Hall Room 131**