

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

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Loyola University Maryland**

***“Tasting in the Colon: How Nutrients Affect
Colonic Motility”***

The same cell membrane proteins that help us sense taste are also located throughout the entire gastrointestinal tract. One type of nutrient molecule sensed by these receptor proteins are amino acids. Our research focuses on how the amino acid glutamate, in the form of the food additive MSG, affects movement of fecal material. We are also interested in how the signal of MSG being present in the colon leads to the change in colonic motility. Our hypothesis is that taste receptors that sense amino acids cause release of gastrointestinal hormones from endocrine cells within the intestinal wall that then affect muscle function in the colon.

TUESDAY September 20, 2016

3:00-4:15 PM

Innovation Hall Room 131