



# Speaker Series

## Guest Speaker

**“Human (epi)genetic adaptation to pathogens and infectious diseases”**



**Lluís Quintana-Murci, PhD**

**Head of the Human Evolutionary  
Genetics Unit, Pasteur Institute, Paris**

The role played by pathogens in shaping human immune diversity is clearly attested by population genetic studies, indicating that immunity and host defense functions are among those most frequently subject to natural selection, whether purifying, positive or balancing. Notably, we have shown that population adaptation to novel pathogen pressures can be facilitated by the acquisition, via admixture, of advantageous alleles from local "adapted" populations, such as Neanderthals or modern humans. I will also discuss our work on how genetic variation, whether adaptive or not, affects the diversity of molecular phenotypes (i.e., gene expression-eQTL, alternative splicing-sQTL, and DNA methylation-meQTL), and highlight the importance of inferring the causality behind the detected associations between genetic, epigenetic and transcriptional variation.

**Monday, November 19, 2018**

**11:00am – 12:00pm**

**Gonda Building 1st Floor Conference Room, 1357**

*Light snack will be provided*

To meet with Dr. Lluís Quintana-Murci, please contact:  
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To receive seminar notices, contact Charina McDonald ([cmcdonald@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:cmcdonald@mednet.ucla.edu))  
Upcoming speakers, <https://medschool.ucla.edu/human-genetics/seminar-series>