



# Speaker Series

## Guest Speaker

**“The more things change, the more they stay the same: a study of great ape mutation spectrum variation”**



**Kelley Harris, PhD**

**Assistant Professor of Genome Sciences  
University of Washington**

Although the germline mutation rate is classically regarded as a fixed parameter of the evolutionary process, recent studies of human and ape genetic variation have shown that the mutation rate and spectrum can evolve rapidly. The relative mutation rates of different three-base-pair genomic motifs differ significantly among great ape species, suggesting the recent fixation of unknown modifiers of DNA replication fidelity. Using genetic diversity data from 79 great apes, we measured the covariation of mutational spectra between compartments and species, finding evidence of compartment-specific mutational processes that are robustly conserved across the ape phylogeny. Our results suggest that rapidly evolving mutation rate modifiers tend to act broadly in trans across the whole genome, whereas cis regulators of mutation in specific genomic compartments are highly conserved between species.

**Monday, June 10, 2019**

**11:00am – 12:00pm**

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

*Light snack will be provided*

To meet with Dr. Kelley Harris, please contact:  
Host: Arun Durvasula, [arun.durvasula@gmail.com](mailto:arun.durvasula@gmail.com)