The Ninth iCeMS SEMINAR

Lecturer: **Jack Taunton, Ph. D.**

Associate Professor
Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Department of Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology
University of California, San Francisco

Signal amplification by an actin-based diffusion trap

Date & Time: **September 8, 2008, 16:00-17:00**
Refreshments will be served from 15:40.
Please come a little earlier before the seminar.

Venue: **Roof Terrace**
Institute for Frontier Medical Sciences, 5F of the East Building

Cells employ complex feedback circuits to polarize membrane and cytoskeletal components in response to extracellular cues. Dr. Taunton's group has recently revealed two such feedback mechanisms for actin assembly and local membrane protrusion: (1) reversible, rate-limiting delivery of Cdc42 from its cytosolic chaperone, RhoGDI, to the membrane, and (2) direct binding of N-WASP to nascent actin filaments, resulting in an increased local density of N-WASP, and hence, of new actin filaments, near the plasma membrane.

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