



## SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES QSB SEMINAR SERIES 291

### IL-6: A Target and A Therapy

#### Dr. Mercedes Rincon

Professor of Medicine  
Department of Medicine/Immunobiology Program  
University of Vermont

Date: 2/3/17

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: COB2 170

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#### ABSTRACT

Dr. Rincon is one of the leaders studying the role of IL-6 in CD4 T cell differentiation and cytokine production (since 1996) and has provided a number of important contributions. Her group has shown the role of IL-6 in Th2 and Th1 differentiation, and more recently on IL-21 production by CD4 and CD8 T cells, and its implication on antibody production on B cells. Dr. Rincon's studies on IL-6 expand from in vitro in primary mouse and human T cells to in vivo mouse models (e.g. IL-6 in influenza virus vaccines and infection, IL-6 on allergic airway inflammation) and further to bench site (IL-6 in asthmatic patients and IL-6 on rheumatoid arthritis patients).

#### BIO:

She is a full Professor in Department of Medicine at the University of Vermont. Dr. Rincon received her Ph.D. from the University Autonoma of Madrid, trained as a postdoctoral fellow at Yale University School of Medicine, and joined the University of Vermont in 1996 as an Assistant Professor initially, Associate Professor with tenure later, and full Professor in Medicine since 2009. She has over 145 publications, many in top journals such as Science, Cell, Immunity, J. Exp. Med. She has served in a number of review panels from the National Institute of Health (NIH), and is currently Chair of CMI-A. She is member of Associate Editorial Board of several journals. Dr. Rincon is the primary inventor of two issued patents and three additional filed patents. She has established the SPARK-VT program at the University of Vermont and I-Trep program to foster entrepreneurship in academic environments. She is a recognized immunologist with expertise in broad areas of research such as signaling pathways, allergy/asthma, arthritis and influenza infection. In addition, she has also been working for many years in molecular mechanisms of multidrug resistance in breast cancer, an area that brought her to the identification of MCJ as a key molecule in mitochondria function, and its role regulating chemotherapy response and metabolism. Her research has been well-funded for more than twenty years.

