

SUTER SCIENCE SEMINARS 2022-23

Multiple Roles for UNC-53/NAV2 in Axonal Guidance, Intracellular Trafficking, and Innate Immunity

Kristopher Schmidt, PhD

*Associate Professor of Biology
Director, MS in Biomedicine Program
Eastern Mennonite University
Harrisonburg, VA*



**Wednesday, January 25, 2023
4 p.m. • Science Center, room 106**

*Previous studies show that the *C. elegans* protein UNC-53 and its vertebrate homolog NAVs are required for the migration of cells and cellular extensions during development in most organisms. While a clear developmental role for UNC-53 has been established, little is known about the role of UNC-53 after development is complete. Dr. Schmidt will discuss how a combination of molecular genetics, cell biology, and genomics identified novel roles for UNC-53 and the NAVs in several post-developmental processes, and their implications for our understanding of important immune related diseases and cancer.*

Dr. Kristopher Schmidt completed his academic training in Canada, studying at Trinity Western University (B.Sc.), the University of British Columbia (M.Sc.) and Simon Fraser University (Ph.D.). He currently serves as an Associate Professor in the Department of Biology and Director of the Biomedicine program at EMU, where he teaches classes in the graduate and undergraduate divisions. His research focuses on UNC-53/NAV2 and its role in axonal guidance and innate immunity. When he's not in the lab or classroom you can probably find him carting his family around hiking trails in the Shenandoah Valley or planning their next trip to Peru.



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