THE WINIFRED MASTERTON BURKE MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

WEEKLY COLLOQUIUM

TUESDAY, 12/06/2011, 12:30 PM
ROSEDALE CONFERENCE ROOM
BILLINGS BUILDING

ORGANIZATION OF THE CELL CORTEX DURING MORPHOGENESIS AND TUMORIGENESIS

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Research Summary

The vast array of forms and functions exhibited by different cell types is made possible by the organization of specialized domains within the cell cortex. The overarching goal of our laboratory is to understand how the organization of protein complexes at the cell cortex contributes to morphogenesis and tumorigenesis/metastasis. Cortical protein complexes position membrane receptors, control their abundance/activity and link them to the cytoskeleton, thereby serving both regulatory and architectural functions. Our studies are focused on the NF2 tumor suppressor, Merlin and the closely related ERM proteins (Ezrin, Radixin and Moesin) that link membrane proteins to the cortical actin cytoskeleton and are key architects of the cell cortex.

Recent Publications

