FASEB
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

Science Research Conferences

The Microbial Pathogenesis Conference

Organizer Bio: Ken Campellone, PhD

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Ken Campellone's research goals are to determine (1) how the cytoskeleton controls the organization, shape, and movement of cells, and (2) how cytoskeleton-driven membrane remodeling is altered during the pathogenesis of infectious diseases, genetic disorders, and aging. His interests in the cytoskeleton and disease began as a PhD student at the University of Massachusetts Medical School where he characterized how pathogenic *E.coli* reorganize actin into 'pedestals' during infection of host epithelial cells. That work continued as part of an international postdoctoral collaboration between the University of Massachusetts and the University of Cambridge. Subsequently, as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California, Berkeley, Campellone's research featured an increased focus on actin, microtubule, and membrane dynamics in uninfected cells. In 2011, he started his own lab at the University of Connecticut.

Campellone's lab is studying cytoskeletal functions in healthy cells, in response to infection with Enteropathogenic and Enterohemorrhagic *E.coli* (EPEC and EHEC), in the context of inherited diseases and during aging. He fosters a diverse and inclusive training environment for PhD, MS, undergraduate, and high school researchers, including those from underrepresented populations, with disabilities, and from disadvantaged or first-generation backgrounds. As a former "first-gen" college student he is especially active in mentoring fellow first-gen researchers.

Dating back to his time as a PhD student through his current role as a professor, Campellone participated in more than half of the FASEB *Microbial Pathogenesis: Mechanisms of Infectious Disease* Science Research Conferences. His previous meeting organizing experience includes multiple activities with the American Society for Cell Biology, where he served on mentoring panels and performed mini-symposium co-chair duties.

Most relevant to this FASEB meeting is his research expertise in host-pathogen interactions, professional experience in seminar and conference organization, and complementary activities in promoting trainee career development.