

MEETING LINK: [CLICK TO JOIN MEETING](#)

Dear Faculty, Postdocs, Students, and Friends:

*You are cordially invited to attend a special seminar presented by the
Institute for Integrative Genome Biology*



Dr. Lea Starita
*Department of Genome Sciences
University of Washington*

Title:
“Getting to community surveillance for COVID-19”

DATE: Friday, November 6, 2020

TIME: 12:00 pm

MEETING ID: 929 1247 4758

PASSCODE: 644865

Host: Dr. Morris Maduro

Abstract: The Seattle Flu Study (SFS) is a city-wide respiratory pathogen surveillance platform that launched in 2018, with the goal of preparing for precisely the situation that we now find ourselves in. The SFS integrates innovative sample collection mechanisms, large scale molecular screening and sequencing pipelines, and predictive modeling and genetic epidemiology. In the 2018-19 influenza season, a major weather event ("Snowpocalypse") allowed us to quantify the impact of social distancing on the transmission of respiratory viral pathogens. We also established the "swab and send" mechanism by which SFS participants collected and shipped their own nasal swab specimens³. In the middle of the SFS's second year, the outbreak of COVID-19 led us to rapidly pivot the study to add SARS-COV2 screening and sequencing to the SFS pipeline, which resulted in our identification of what was at the time the first documented case of community transmission of COVID-19 in the United States, accelerating the introduction of public health mitigation measures. The SFS team has partnered with Public Health Seattle King County to create a community surveillance platform (the greater Seattle Coronavirus Assessment Network or SCAN). We are also developing alternative methods to enable more rapid scaling of SARS-COV2 testing for the US population.