

UC Riverside Retirees' and Emeriti Associations
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Present

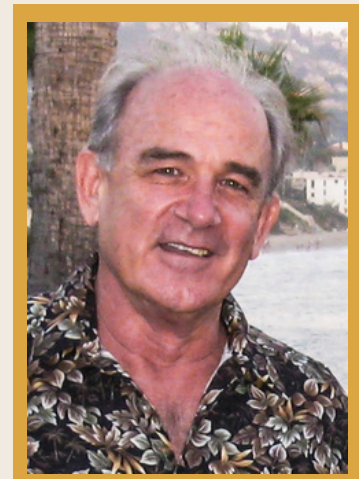
The Edward A. Dickson Emeritus/A Professorship Lecture Series

WASP EVOLUTION TRICKS SCIENTISTS

Tuesday, May 7, 2024
3:00 - 4:30 p.m. with Reception to follow
In-person at University Extension Building 1101
Livestreamed via Zoom

Featuring

Brian A. Federici, PhD
UC Riverside Distinguished Professor of the
Graduate Division
Department of Entomology and
Institute for Integrative Genome Biology



Description

Professor Federici studies viruses, bacteria, and fungi that attack insects, with research funded during his career by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Science Foundation (NSF). Federici's focus has been the biology of natural pathogens, or those genetically engineered, as replacements for chemical insecticides. During the 1970's, Federici became interested in particles female parasitic wasps inject with eggs into caterpillars that help wasp larvae avoid innate immunity and kill their hosts during development. For five decades the particles were considered virions, the infectious agents for viruses known as polydnviruses (PDVs). In papers published in 1991, 2003, and 2010, he argued the particles were not virions, but rather immunosuppressive organelles that evolved from virions. These papers were ignored until 2023 when prominent virologists at NIH also concluded PDV virions were not virions, thus PDVs are not viruses. Federici's Dickson Lecture will focus on this case of scientific tribalism, showing how science can err when research leaders knowingly misinterpret data that contradict their long-held ideas.

Register

Priority seating is given to members of the UCR Retirees' and Emeriti Associations who must register by April 5, 2024 on the [Retirement Center webpage](#).

Registration will open to UCR and the public on April 6, 2024.

Questions may be sent to retirees@ucr.edu.