

# IBIOL Seminar Series



**26 November 2025**



**12:15-13:30 PM**



**ROOM F200**

Come for cool science,  
stay for cookies and  
coffee!



**Angelo Guadagno**

## **Immune system challenge and its impact on brain and cognition**

Mounting an immune response is an energetically demanding process, yet its consequences for expensive tissues like the brain remain largely unexplored. We investigated in a cichlid fish species whether sustained stimulation of the immune system leads to energy trade-offs affecting brain morphology, and whether this in turn alters cognitive abilities. This work aims to understand if chronic immune challenge can influence neural investment and cognitive performance.

TALK n°1



**Akshay Bharadwaj**

## **A global analyses of bird 'eponyms': a networks approach**

Eponyms are organisms which carry in their names the names of people — for example, Mrs. Gould's Sunbird. Their continued usage in taxonomy, from birds to fungi, is being debated and discussed widely across scientific societies today. Here, we use open-source historical and taxonomic datasets to present a quantitative overview of bird eponyms worldwide.

TALK n°2



**Emilie Favre**

## **Diversity and endemism of springtails on nunataks in the Valais Alps.**

Springtails are key soil arthropods. Their distribution and diversity has most likely been shaped by Quaternary glaciation cycles through repeated isolation promoting endemism. We studied springtail communities on isolated ice-free refugia called nunatak, using morphological and molecular identifications. Seven nunataks revealed distinct communities with several unique, likely endemic species. Our work confirmed the existence of endemism in the alpine soil mesofauna and showed the need for integrative taxonomy to document diversity in these alpine ecosystems.

TALK n°3