Las Positas College For Immediate Release

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Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Las Positas College Continue Seminar Series with Presentation on the Blood-Brain-Barrier

(Livermore, CA) - On April 8, as part of the Ninth Annual Science and Engineering Seminar Series sponsored by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and Las Positas College (LPC), Dr. Tim Carpenter will lead a presentation on the body's blood-brain-barrier (BBB).

Carpenter, a computational biophysicist and deputy group leader of LLNL's Biosciences and Biotechnology Division, will speak on how the protection created by the BBB makes it difficult for therapeutics to reach their target within the brain. His presentation, "A Drug Optimization Pipeline that Spans Binary to Biology," delves into why drugs must be modified in a way that allows them to cross the barrier and enter into the brain where they can be effective. The process of testing brain-altering medicines can be long and expensive, but scientists at LLNL are combining several experimental techniques and computational methods to speed the process of optimizing therapies to safely cross the BBB.

At LLNL, Carpenter is conducting small molecule permeability studies to investigate the energetic barriers associated with crossing a lipid bilayer with a view to developing screening methods to accurately predict BBB permeability in drug design.

Carpenter received his undergraduate, graduate and doctorate degrees in Biochemistry from the University of Oxford. He began his career at LLNL as a postdoctoral researcher in 2009, promoting to a staff scientist in 2012 and a deputy group leader in 2017.

"A Drug Optimization Pipeline that Spans Binary to Biology" is free and open to LPC students, staff, faculty and the community on April 8 from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at in the Main Theater at Las Positas College, Building 4000, 3000 Campus Hill Drive in Livermore.

About Las Positas College

Las Positas College currently enrolls 8,000 students and offers curriculum for students seeking transfer to a four-year college or university, career preparation, or basic skills education. The College provides university transfer classes, retraining classes for those in need of employment or career advancement, a first-time educational opportunity for many adults, enrichment classes for those seeking a broader perspective, and career and technical training for those entering the technical and paraprofessional workforce.

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