

The True Lab at Washington University School of Medicine in the Department of Cell Biology and Physiology is interested in the biological consequences of yeast prions - in both their capacity to function as a novel epigenetic elements, as well as in their utility to serve as a tractable model for the analysis of protein misfolding and aggregation that mimics important events in several neurodegenerative disorders. We are interested in how prions in yeast impact survival and adaptation. The lab is also interested in understanding what other prions exist and how broadly prions affect cellular physiology. We are also using prions in yeast to understand how the environment influences protein misfolding and aggregation, a question that has been difficult to address with current model systems of several neurodegenerative disorders.

We are looking to fill an upcoming research position (starting in 2010) with an undergraduate researcher. This work is a collaborative project with Dr. Joanna Masel at the University of Arizona. We are interested in how naturally occurring prions influence survival of the organism. We intend to begin this particular research project with wet lab experimentation and data collection at Wash U and end with modeling at the University of Arizona. We are looking for a student with a strong interest in evolutionary biology and mathematical/computer modeling of biological systems. The research will entail 1-2 full summers and one school year's worth of work (part time, flexible hours during the school year). This is a paid position and we hope to identify the appropriate student researcher soon. Experience not required but relevant coursework desired and a strong work ethic essential.

Please visit our lab website [www.truelab.wustl.edu](http://www.truelab.wustl.edu) for more information on current research and email your resume and statement of interest to [htrue@cellbiology.wustl.edu](mailto:htrue@cellbiology.wustl.edu)