



VIRTUAL BIOLOGY COLLOQUIUM

Friday, 1 Oct 2021 | 4 pm | Online Zoom Session

Hosted by A/P Liou Yih-Cherng

MTCH2

By **Atan Gross**

Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel



About the Speaker

Born in Philadelphia, Prof. Atan Gross received his BSc in biology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (1987) and his MSc and PhD degrees in biochemistry in 1990 and 1995. From 1996 to 1998, he was a postdoctoral fellow at Washington University (St. Louis, Missouri). He continued his postdoctoral studies at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute of Harvard Medical School. Prof. Gross joined the Weizmann Institute in 2000. Prof. Gross investigates the biology of mitochondria, the power houses of our cells that play a major role in regulating our metabolism and the fate of our cells. Prof. Gross received the 2006 Lindner Prize of the Israel Endocrine Society, and the Sir William Dunn Visiting Scholar at the MRC in Cambridge UK in 2010. Prof. Gross has two sons, Gil (21) and Eyal (19). Outside the lab, Gross enjoys practicing movement and contact improvisation, the GaGa modern dance and Feldenkrais methods, and mindfulness.

Mitochondria are highly dynamic organelles that play fundamental roles in pivotal cellular processes including energy production/metabolism, calcium homeostasis, and apoptosis. In our lab we are specifically interested in understanding how these different mitochondrial processes are regulated/coordinated to determine the fate of our cells. Many of our studies are focused on a fascinating mitochondrial protein named mitochondrial carrier homolog 2 (MTCH2), that acts as a receptor for the pro-apoptotic BID protein. Interestingly, conditional knockout of MTCH2 in several different mouse tissues results in significant alterations to mitochondria function and structure leading to changes in cell fate and disease outcome. A better understanding of MTCH2's mechanism of action will likely uncover hidden connections between the many functions of mitochondria.

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