



Speaker Profile

Speaker **Nicholas C. Wu**

Designation Assistant Professor
Dept. of Biochemistry, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA.

Title Influenza and SARS-CoV-2: from virus evolution to vaccine design

Abstract In this talk, Asst. Prof. Nicholas will cover three major research questions : 1) What are the constraints of virus evolution? 2) Can we predict antibody specificity? and 3) Can we improve the quality and speed of vaccine design? Asst. Prof. Wu's lab addresses these questions in the context of influenza virus and SARS-CoV-2.

Biography Dr. Wu is an Assistant Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Wu received his BSc (Biochemistry) from University of Virginia in 2010 and his PhD (Molecular Biology) from UCLA in 2015. Dr. Wu then completed his postdoctoral training at Scripps Research before starting his own lab in 2020. Dr. Wu's research, which mainly focuses on virus evolution and antibody response, has been recognized by multiple awards, including the NIH New Innovator Award, the Searle Scholar award, and the Michelson Prize.

Research interests

- Infectious Diseases (influenza virus, SARS-CoV-2), Immunology, Molecular evolution and Bioinformatics.
- Molecular virology, protein biochemistry and structure (x-ray crystallography, cryo-EM), next-generation sequencing, high-throughput assays, and machine learning.

E-mail nicwu@illinois.edu