

11th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Webinar



Dr. Karine Gibbs

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Micro-crowdsourcing: how swarming bacteria integrate signals to build communities

Abstract: Organisms can achieve greater actions as a group than as individuals. Population movement and territoriality in ants, birds, and wolves are examples of collective behaviors. Bacteria can also perform these behaviors. In this seminar, I will discuss how bacteria use a local sense of identity to assemble and move as a community. Our unconventional organism, *Proteus mirabilis*, lives in human and animal intestines and the environment. These bacteria cause disease after moving to the bladder. My research asks how an organism's identity, communication, and local environment influence collectivity.

Friday January 21st from 12:00-1:00pm; followed by Q&A
<https://viriniatech.zoom.us/j/81458701257>

Dr. Gibbs is a Jamaican American microbiologist with an AB from Harvard and PhD from Stanford. Her research merges the fields of sociomicrobiology and bacterial cell biology. In 2020, she was recognized by Cell Press as one of the top 100 Inspiring Black Scientists in America.

For more info go to:

https://www.biol.vt.edu/Diversity/Annual_Dr_MLK_Jr_Webinar.html

Host: Biological Sciences Diversity Committee

Co-sponsors: VT Life Sciences Seminar; Department of Biological Sciences; College of Science Diversity Committee; College of Natural Resources and Environment; Women and Minority Artists and Scholars Lecture Series; Global Change Center; Office of Inclusion and Diversity; Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior Seminar; College of Veterinary Medicine; Fralin Life Sciences Institute.

