MAURY STRAUSS DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC LECTURE

Presented by the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC

How Fluid Flow Shapes the Brain: Cancer and Cognitive Function

Humans are about 60 percent water — so where is it, and why does it matter for cancer, cognitive function, and other conditions? In this talk, Jenny Munson, director of the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute's Cancer Research Center — Roanoke, describes how the Munson Lab maps the currents that move between our cells, known as interstitial fluid flow. In aggressive brain cancers like glioblastoma, these flows create preferred routes for tumor cells to invade and can limit how drugs reach them. By linking data with experiments in the lab and studies in patients, her team is uncovering how fluid's movement between cells shapes the tumor microenvironment and how adjusting therapies to those dynamics could improve outcomes. Because fluid flow also supports normal tissue function, the lab is translating its methods to immunity, aging, women's health, and Alzheimer's disease. You'll leave with a new picture of how fluid movement can change the course of disease and patient outcomes.

JENNIFER MUNSON, Ph.D.,

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Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics
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THURSDAY, OCT. 30, at 5:30 p.m.

(Reception and hors d'oeuvres at 5 p.m.)
Room M203, 2 Riverside Circle

Watch via Zoom: https://FralinBioMed.info/DPL-Join.

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