



UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

**Department of Marine Sciences
Presents a Seminar by**

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**The Genetic Bases of Host Immunity and Disease
Resistance in Endangered Staghorn Corals**

The global rise in coral disease epidemics linked to climate change continue to threaten tropical reef-building corals and the ecosystems that they support. The Caribbean has been especially hard hit by outbreaks of White Band Disease impacting the Staghorn and Elkhorn corals and new diseases like White Plague that impact up to 20 reef building corals. My talk focuses on the genetics of coral host immunity and disease resistance using the now endangered Caribbean staghorn coral (*Acropora cervicornis*) and White Band Disease as a coral host-pathogen system. In this talk, I will present data from transmission experiments and 16s amplicon data aimed at identifying the pathogen causing White Band Disease in Staghorn corals. I will then present data showing that up to 15% of Staghorn corals are resistant to White Band Disease infection and use next-generation RNA sequencing data to identify the genes that allow these corals to resist disease infection.

Host: Catherine Matassa

Time & Date: 11:00 am, Friday, September 20, 2019

Place: Marine Sciences Building, Seminar Room 103

If you are an individual with a disability and need accommodations, please contact 860-405-9152, 860-405-9087, or marinesciencesseminars@uconn.edu.

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