

Oceanography Seminar

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Wild viruses in the high Arctic

I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Bioinformatics at Université Laval, Quebec City, Canada. The overarching goal of my research program is to gain a deeper understanding of the impact, diversity and dynamics of the wild virus communities in aquatic habitats, and how viral ecology is affected by the rapid and evolving changes due to climate change. The Arctic provides a model environment to pursue these two themes because the region is experiencing some of the most dramatic changes on Earth due to rising temperatures and it harbors a wide diversity of aquatic habitats whose viral communities are largely uncharacterized. My laboratory, the Viral Discovery and Ecology Laboratory (ViDEL) has been working in two locations in the subarctic and High Arctic that exemplify the dynamism of the region attributable to climate change to answer some important first order ecological questions about viruses. In this talk I will give an overview of my research program and discuss some of our most recent