

INVITATION

CMMC SEMINAR

Chris A. Benedict, Ph.D.

Center for Infectious Disease and Vaccine Research, Center
for Autoimmunity and Inflammation
La Jolla Institute for Immunology - USA



What is cytomegalovirus teaching us about immunity?

Prof. Chris A. Benedict is an immunologist studying how viruses, particularly Cytomegalovirus (CMV), evade the immune system. His research has advanced our understanding of immune modulation and its implications for viral persistence, immune responses, and therapeutic development.

In his talk, Prof. Benedict will discuss how CMV uses ~50% of its genome to manipulate host immunity, promoting persistent replication and lifelong latency. He will share his team's findings on CMV proteins that restrict TNF-family signaling and are incorporated into the virion envelope through interactions with glycoprotein H. He will also demonstrate how type I interferon differentially regulates tissue-resident versus conventional immune cells. Finally, Prof. Benedict will present work on repurposing CMV-specific T cells to target tumors in a pancreatic cancer model, highlighting new therapeutic strategies for viral and cancer-related diseases.

July 18, 2025
02.00 p.m.

TRIO Seminar Room
CMMC Research Building
Robert-Koch-Str. 21, 50931 Cologne

Host:
Prof. Dr. Holger Winkels
Clinic III of Internal Medicine
Experimental Cardiology and CMMC



Information