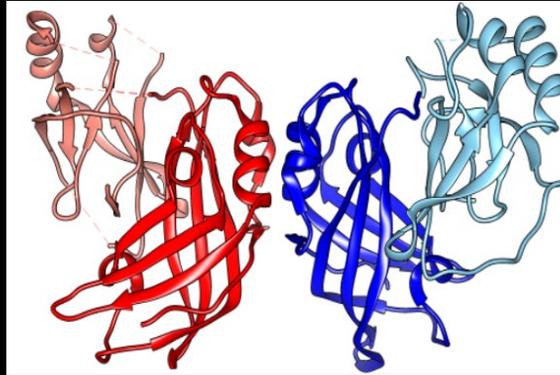


# The Purdue Institute of Inflammation, Immunology and Infectious Disease

Presents:



## THE PURDUE LECTURE HALL SERIES

Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 @ 7pm

Purdue University, MRGN 121

(812 W. State St, West Lafayette, IN 47907)

**Featuring: A Scientist's Journey—How Reading “The Hot Zone” in  
High School Lead to Studying Ebola**

**Guest Speaker: Julia Beck, Postdoctoral Research Associate**



Richard Preston's "The Hot Zone" chronicles the thrilling story of how Ebola, a deadly virus, travels from a rain forest in central Africa to just miles away from downtown Washington, D.C. Ebola has only a 30-50% survival rate. It causes hemorrhagic fever which can lead to bleeding, organ failure, and even death. The most widespread outbreak in history occurred in 2014, killing over 11 thousand people. In Dr. Stahelin's lab, I study a protein made by the virus (VP40) that allows the virus to leave and infect another cell. When VP40 binds to itself is it able to change the shape of the plasma membrane of cells. The goal of this project is to prevent VP40 from binding to itself thereby preventing the virus from infecting other cells.

**Background:** Julia is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at Purdue University where she researches in Dr. Robert Stahelin's lab. From an early age, science piqued her interest. It began by observing different conditions for mold growth on bread at home, to preventing bacterial growth using household chemicals bacterial growth, to now understanding protein interactions. Julia received her B.A. in Biochemistry and DePauw Univeristy and earned her Ph.D. in Biochemistry at the University of Notre Dame.