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CAES SEMINAR SERIES

“Sterilizing Viruses as Potential Insect Control Agents”

Dr. John Burand

**Professor, Dept. of Microbiology
University of Massachusetts Amherst**

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Food and coffee will be available at 11:45 a.m.

Jones Auditorium

**The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
123 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT**

Insect pathogenic viruses offer a safe and environmentally sound alternative to chemical insecticides. These naturally occurring agents are quite often specific to particular target insects and do not infect plants or other animals. Research in my laboratory is centered on understanding more about the biology and the molecular biology of the interactions between these viruses and their insect hosts with the idea that this information can be used to improve them as microbial control agents. One research project involves developing a sexually transmitted, sterilizing virus as a microbial insecticide. We are interested in determining what molecular events occur during virus replication in the host, resulting in sterile insects and persistent replication, producing asymptomatic carriers of the virus.