



Donnelly Centre
for Cellular + Biomolecular Research
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



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Donnelly Seminar Series

“Fishing in other people’s data”



Casey S. Greene, PhD

Assistant Professor

Department of Systems Pharmacology
and Translational Therapeutics
Perelman School of Medicine
University of Pennsylvania

Abstract:

Our understanding of the world, and specific maladies, improves when scientists metaphorically go fishing. However, the term "fishing expedition" is primarily used as a pejorative when applied to scientific projects. I'll provide my perspective on why science could become more accurate and efficient once we rescue this term. Scientific fishing expeditions are valuable because they can take research in new directions. Looking at other people’s data can provide researchers with a new perspective on their area of study. But analyzing individual experiments from other labs is difficult. Instead of single datasets, our lab builds "nets" that we and other scientists can use to go fishing in large collections of public data comprised of many experiments. We've put these to the test on a few recent expeditions, and I'll share one or two stories from our own work. Finally, I'll discuss why I think large collections of public data are a uniquely valuable resource for the process of scientific discovery.

Thursday, September 21, 2017 | 11:00 am
James D. Friesen | Cecil C. Yip Red Seminar Room

Host: Quaid Morris, PhD