Cindy Thomas-Charles  
*Ph.D. Candidate in the Graduate Program in Genetics*

**De-bugging the Liver: Interactions between F. tularensis and Hepatocytes**

**Synopsis:** *F. tularensis* is a highly virulent bacterial pathogen and the agent of tularemia. This organism is capable of replicating in a number of host cells including immune cells and hepatocytes, which make up the majority of the liver. My work investigates the mechanisms that facilitate the uptake and replication of *F. tularensis* in hepatocytes, and the subsequent response of those cells to the infection.

**Biography:** Cindy earned undergraduate degrees at Nassau Community College and Stony Brook University before joining the Graduate program in Genetics in 2008. She entered graduate school as an NIH Bridges to the Doctorate fellow and was recently awarded the Dr. W. Burghardt Turner Dissertation Fellowship. Cindy will defend her dissertation in November 2013.

---

**Thursday October 10, 2013 at 12:30pm**
Center for Inclusive Education—2401 Computer Science Building

Please RSVP using this link: [http://ow.ly/pqkUl](http://ow.ly/pqkUl)

Lunch will be provided.

For a disability related accommodation, please call 2-1387.