

## Research Interests

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### ***Eric Witze Ph.D.***

Dr. Witze's group studies cell polarity which is required for virtually all aspects of cell behavior including morphology, cell motility important for asymmetric division. His group is interested in how oncogenic viruses can perturb these changes in normal cells to lead to initiation of oncogenesis. Wnt5a a Wnt ligand, regulates cell polarity in cancer cells and he uses imaging strategies that will allow for determination of the mechanisms through which HCMV and KSHV can affect Wnt5a regulated cell polarity important for cell invasion and metastasis. How are these viral factors disrupting normal cellular functions of Wnt5a to induce the cancer phenotype?

*Interactions with other trainers:* Dr. Witze is a superb colleague and trainer since appointment to the program. He interacts with Drs. Robertson, Yang, Fuchs, and Feldser. He has served on many thesis committees of our pre-doc trainees as well as provide advice to some of our post-docs during our program meetings and symposium where he actively engages students.