Computational Biology Seminar

Monday, November 7 @ 11 am
O'Mack Symposium Suite (Hybrid Talk)

Gytis Dudas, PhD.
Principal Investigator, Vilnius University Life Sciences Center

The RNA virus research revolution
slumbering in accumulated
metagenomic data

"Gytis Dudas' PhD with Andrew Rambaut (University of Edinburgh) and postdoc with Trevor Bedford (Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, Seattle) happened to coincide with the pre-pandemic maturation of phylodynamics and genomic epidemiology - two fields aiming to understand evolutionary and ecological processes that shape the genetic diversity of rapidly evolving pathogens. Gytis' previous work covered notable outbreaks and epidemics of the last decade - Ebola in West Africa, MERS-CoV in Arabian peninsula, and Zika in Americas. Since 2018, Gytis has been collaborating with CZ Biohub on the Californian mosquito virome project, an extensive dataset with remarkable resolution, in a bid to put all the virus detective skills gained earlier towards becoming a virus discoverer.

In 2021 November Gytis Dudas established a lab at Vilnius University's Life Sciences Center in Lithuania with the goal of continuing the exploration of RNA virus diversity. Gytis' current interests include genome evolution, progress of virus discovery efforts, and evolution of host tropism as inferred from viral membrane surface proteins, in the RNA virus family Orthomyxoviridae that includes influenza and other significant viruses."

Please contact Carlyn Fausto (cfausto@fredhutch.org) for more information