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Salty Genetics

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Propositions associated with the thesis

Salty Genetics

A genetic toolbox for the study of haloarchaea and their viruses

By Colin Tittes

1. Regulation and modification of cell surface structures is a form of antiviral defense. (Chapter 1)
2. The lack of model systems is a major bottleneck for the study of archaeal virus-host interactions.
3. While viral entry mechanisms are highly host specific, viral replication and egress are not.
4. The ability to generate synthetic viruses independent of their host organisms paves the way for major new discoveries in virology. (Chapter 4)
5. *Haloferax* species provide part of their own genetic toolbox in the form of homologous recombination and genome homogenization machineries. (Chapter 3)
6. A reliable selection marker is a good alternative to months of screening. (Chapter 3)
7. Fame must not replace thorough review.
8. PhD candidates are in a uniquely vulnerable position and require strong systems of support and advocacy.
9. Discussing if viruses are alive is a wonderful philosophical pastime with no scientific implications or applications.
10. Academia is still hobbled by its origin as a rich nobleman's hobby.