



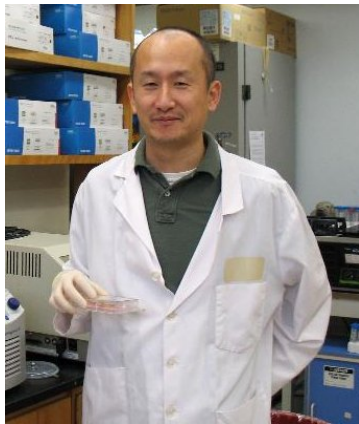
The Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center

Affiliate of The Rockefeller University

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your support of ADARC's mission to find solutions to the HIV/AIDS epidemic through scientific research. We want to share some of the scientific progress taking place in our laboratories, and hope you will enjoy being a part of future breakthroughs.

Congratulations



Masahiro Yamashita, PhD

[Masahiro Yamashita, PhD](#) has been promoted to Assistant Professor. Dr. Yamashita first joined Aaron Diamond as an ADARC Scholar. His work focuses on the molecular basis for HIV replication and how the differences between this virus and other retroviruses are responsible for HIV's pathogenesis. He wants to understand how HIV is able to infect non-dividing cells that serve as key hiding places for the virus in the body, in spite of antiretroviral therapy treatment. His work may identify potential new therapeutic strategies that can better inhibit the virus.

Dr. Yamashita grew up in Osaka, Japan. He got his undergraduate degree in biology at Kobe University, and his PhD in Kyoto, where he started working on HIV-1 and human T-cell leukemia virus (HTLV), another human retrovirus. His thesis project was to understand the origin and past dissemination of HTLV. His postdoctoral training in Seattle, WA was on the molecular biology of HIV-1.

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New grant will support study of cellular defense against HIV-1



Matthew McNatt, PhD

Matthew McNatt, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow in [Dr. Paul Bieniasz's](#) laboratory at ADARC, was recently awarded a grant from [amfAR](#) to support the study of the antiviral protein Tetherin's interaction with the viral protein Vpu.

Human cells are equipped with defenses to protect them from infection by viruses such as HIV-1. Tetherin, a protein [identified by ADARC scientists](#), is one protective strategy that cells use. It works on a [broad spectrum of viruses](#) by [tethering the budding virus to the cell surface](#), preventing it from infecting other cells. HIV-1 has adapted to neutralize Tetherin with its own protein, Vpu. Vpu [interacts with Tetherin via its transmembrane domain](#), preventing it from doing its job and allowing the virus to

spread. Dr. McNatt and his colleagues will study how Vpu antagonizes Tetherin. Their work may generate a new class of antiretroviral drugs to treat people living with HIV.

Academic Seminars

Seminars geared toward the scientific community and held at ADARC on Mondays at 12pm. To attend, please email mbell@adarc.org.

January 31

Richard Wyatt, PhD - [The Scripps Research Institute](#)
HIV-1 Envelope Glycoprotein Immunogenicity and Broadly Neutralizing Antibodies

February 14

Heinrich Gottlinger MD, PhD - [University of Massachusetts Medical School](#)
ESCRTing HIV Release

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