



## Department of Biological Sciences Seminar Series

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Coran Watanabe, Ph.D.  
Texas A&M



Monday,  
December 10th

4:10 pm

1220 MRBIII

Tea Time  
3:45  
MRBIII Lobby

### **"Natural Product Biosynthesis: Friend or Foe? From Drug Leads to Disease Causation"**

Secondary metabolites or natural products are compounds that are found only in specific organisms and are an expression of the individuality of species. Investigation of secondary metabolism began with curiosity about the structures of compounds from natural sources. It is the experimental outcome of this curiosity that led to the discovery that many natural products exhibit a wide range of biological activities. In the last few decades, the dissolution of barriers between chemistry and biology and the direct application of genetic strategies to natural products research has revolutionized our ability to study them. A range of topics will be covered that highlight natural products, the role that they play in medicine, and how we have leveraged chemical biology approaches toward their investigation.