

Biological Sciences Seminar this week: Friday, Feb 26, 2010

“The von Willebrand factor in health and disease: The good, the bad, and the ultra-large.”

The speaker:

Dr. Jose Lopez, Executive Vice President for Research, The Puget Sound Blood Center, Seattle, WA.

The place and time:

EESAT, Room 130 at 2 PM.



Von Willebrand Factor (VWF) is the largest protein in human plasma, and is required for the ability of blood platelets to adhere to the blood vessel wall and form a plug to stop bleeding when a blood vessel is injured. VWF deficiency or dysfunction is responsible for the inherited bleeding disorder von Willebrand disease; VWF hyperfunction accounts for a rare but devastating clotting disease called thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura. Between these two extremes, VWF is involved in several other human conditions, including acute lung injury and sickle cell anemia. This lecture will focus on the characteristics of this fascinating protein that allow it to participate in such a broad range of conditions.