

# SBS Seminar Announcement

**Professor Peter Kroth  
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## **Living in a Glass House: The Peculiar Biology of Diatoms**

### **Abstract**

Diatoms, unicellular algae, are fascinating organisms for several reasons. They are ecologically very important, they live inside of ornate silicified cell walls and they evolved by secondary endocytobiosis, a process in which a eukaryotic alga was incorporated into a eukaryotic host cell, followed by transformation of the endosymbiont into a plastid. Especially this evolutionary process resulted in various differences with respect to the physiology and cell biology of these algae when compared to green algae and land plants. As the molecular biology of diatoms is still poorly understood, the recent progress in genome sequencing of diatoms and the development of molecular tools to study diatoms opened up numerous new possibilities to study the biology of diatoms. Here I will present some of our results regarding the metabolic reactions of diatoms as well as the interactions between diatoms and bacteria in biofilms.

**Tuesday, 27 January 2015 4.00pm to 5.00pm SBS Classroom 2 (SBS-01n-22)**

**Host: Asst/Prof Oliver Mueller-Cajar**