Bioastronautics Speaker Seminar Series

Directed evolution of radiation resistance in Escherichia coli

Michael M. Cox, Ph.D.
Professor of Biochemistry, University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin
Editor-in-Chief, Critical Reviews in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Monday, May 21, 2007
Seminar, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Discussion period, 10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

Lecture Hall, Center for Advanced Space Studies
3600 Bay Area Boulevard at Middlebrook Drive, Houston, Texas

Three extremely radioresistant strains of *Escherichia coli* K12 were independently derived from MG1655 following repeated exposure to high dose ionizing radiation. Complete genome re-sequencing revealed that each strain acquired its radioresistance through completely different sets of genetic changes. The results do not highlight a particular strategy for the acquisition of radiation resistance nor reinforce any current idea about the mechanisms underlying the radiation resistance of species such as *Deinococcus radiodurans*. Instead, radiation resistance appears to be a complex phenotype with more than one component. In nature, multiple paths of evolutionary innovation can give rise to radioresistance even within a single species. Link to Cox publications:
http://www.biochem.wisc.edu/faculty/cox/pub_list.html

Following the seminar, members of the audience may wish to stay for an optional discussion period from 10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

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