Monday, February 2  
12:30-1:30pm in JBJ 504

"Signal transduction and rickettsial infection of tick cells"

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Ticks serve as both vector and reservoir hosts for spotted fever group *Rickettsia*; however, many questions regarding tick-*Rickettsia* interaction remain unresolved. This presentation will demonstrate the relationship between ticks and *Rickettsia*, specifically the identification and characterization of tick proteins involved in rickettsial infection of tick cells.

As a native of Thailand, a tropical country with many vector-borne diseases, Dr. Petchampai has a deep personal interest in learning more about them. Currently, Dr. Petchampai studies nitrogen metabolism in *Aedes aegypti*, the primary vector of dengue and yellow fever viruses.