

**Smithsonian Initiative in Biodiversity Genomics Lectures**

Friday, 30 September 2011

**Two lectures in Baird Auditorium, National Museum of Natural History by:**

**Dr. Antonis Rokas**

Department of Biological Sciences  
Vanderbilt University

**“Increasing the Genomic Depth of the Tree of Life”**

**12:00 noon**

Introduced by Dr. John Kress, Director, Consortium for Understanding and Sustaining a Biodiverse Planet

**“Harnessing Genomics for Evolutionary Insights”**

**3:00 p.m.**

Introduced by Dr. Eva Pell, Under Secretary for Science, Smithsonian Institution

**A reception in the Executive Conference Room, NMNH, will follow the conclusion of the lecture at 4:00 p.m.**

Dr. Antonis Rokas is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Vanderbilt University. He received his Ph.D. in 2001 from Edinburgh University for research on the evolutionary ecology of oak-feeding gallwasps. Before joining Vanderbilt, he worked at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard as a Research Scientist, and at the University of Wisconsin-Madison as a postdoctoral fellow, where he employed genomic data to address long-standing questions in the study of evolutionary trees and animal evolution. Dr. Rokas is a 2008 Searle Scholar and the recipient of one of the 2011 Chancellor's Award for Research at Vanderbilt University. Research in the Rokas lab combines computational and experimental approaches to investigate the factors influencing phylogenetic accuracy, the molecular origins of multicellularity in fungi and animals, and the molecular foundations of the fungal lifestyle. Further information is available at <http://as.vanderbilt.edu/rokaslab/>

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**These events are free of charge, and no registration or RSVP is required.**

Contact: Rob Fleischer ([fleischerr@si.edu](mailto:fleischerr@si.edu)) and/or Sean Brady ([bradys@si.edu](mailto:bradys@si.edu)) for additional information.