

**“Colonial *Phaeocystis antarctica*: a Marvelous Model Microbiome System”**

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**1:30 – 2:30pm**

**Clark Lab 507, Quissett Campus, WHOI**

**Summary**

*Phaeocystis Antarctica* is an important phytoplankton species in the coastal waters surrounding the Antarctica continent, where it dominates the early season bloom and is a major contributor to carbon export. *Phaeocystis* also has a complex life cycle that includes single cell flagellate and spherical colonial stages, the latter of which can grow up to several millimeters in size. The microbiome found within the colonies contains bacteria that are hypothesized to be critical to the ecology and biogeochemical interactions of the host algal colony. In this seminar, I will present recent observations and time lapse footage of *Phaeocystis antarctica* colonies, their formation and decay, and our growing knowledge of the connections between their microbiome and the seawater micronutrient chemistry.