



**College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Fall 2020 Chemistry Seminar Series  
Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**

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From Zombie Viruses to COVID-19 : Adventures in vaccines

**Abstract:** Studies on virus mineralization led to the serendipitous discovery that silica-treatment could reversibly inactivate a number of very different viruses. These silica-coated viruses were then shown to be resistant to inactivation by drying. More recent work, in collaboration with PSU-spin off company, StoneStable, Inc. has shown that silica-treatment can reversibly inactivate some viral vaccines. Current work is focusing on SARS-CoV-2 vaccine platforms. Background on COVID-19 vaccines and science outreach will also be discussed.