

# Group on Women in Medicine and Science Lunch and Learn Seminar

November 28, 2018 • 12:00-1:00 p.m. • Onyiuke Dining Room

Hosted By:

Marja Hurley, M.D., Professor of Medicine and Orthopedics  
Institutional Designee, AAMC, Group on Women in Medicine and Science



*Guest Speaker*

## **Kimberly Dodge-Kafka, PhD**

Associate Professor, Department of Cell Biology, and Co-Director of  
the MD/PhD Program, Department of Medicine, UConn Health

### ***“Perseverance, Passion and Serendipity in my Life in Science”***

Dr. Dodge-Kafka grew up in San Antonio, TX thinking that she would be a veterinarian throughout most of her life. It was not until college that she found her love of basic science. She attended graduate school at the University of Texas Health Science Center-Houston. In the laboratory of Barbara Sandborn, PhD, she investigated the role of cAMP in uterine contraction. She moved to Portland, OR for her post-doctoral research in the Laboratory of John Scott, PhD, FRS and HHMI. Here she began working on a type of scaffolding protein termed A-Kinase Anchoring Protein (AKAP) and the role of compartmentation on signal transduction. She came to UConn Health in 2003 and is currently an Associate Professor of Cell Biology, housed in The Center for Cardiology. Her research focus is on understanding how the coordination of signal transduction by scaffolding proteins regulates cardiac physiology and

disease progress. In particular, her laboratory studies how a nuclear associated AKAP focuses the actions of upstream signals onto nuclear transcription factors in order to stimulate gene transcription. Her work has been continuously funded through multiple sources including the NIH, American Heart Association and CT Department of Public Health. She serves on many committees at UConn Health, including the Academic Advancement Committee, The Education Council, and The Graduate Programs Committee. Dr. Dodge-Kafka has always stress the mentoring of students and was awarded The Osborn Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching in Biomedical Science. She is currently the co-director of the MD/PhD program. Outside the University, she sits on the editorial board of several scholarly journals, including the Biochem Journal and Cellular Signaling.

– A discussion to follow on balancing a successful academic work-life career. –

**RSVP required by emailing [Rollins@uchc.edu](mailto:Rollins@uchc.edu) or call: (860) 679-3484.**

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