



## Muscle growth without the need for exercise: Skeletal muscle metabolism of the Burmese python

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As an ambush predator and infrequent feeder, the Burmese python spends most of its life in a sedentary and fasting state. While this existence would have detrimental effects on the skeletal muscle metabolism and overall health status in most mammals, the pythons seem well-adapted to this inactive lifestyle. In this talk, I will discuss how pythons are able to preserve and even dramatically increase skeletal muscle mass in the absence of physical activity, and I will present recent work that introduces the Burmese python as a model species for translational research into novel treatment strategies for human patients suffering from loss of muscle mass.



**Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 14.00**  
**Zoophysiology Seminar Room (1131-127)**