



## Prof. Dr. Simonetta Gribaldo

Unit "Evolutionary Biology of the Microbial Cell",  
Department of Microbiology, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France

### **“Phylogenomics and the Tree of Life: Progresses and Challenges”**

Reconstructing ancient evolutionary events is one of the most fascinating and challenging issues of modern Biology, as it provides essential information on the earliest nature of Life and Earth.

The last few years have witnessed a renewed interest in research on deep evolution.

Sequence data have become available from previously poorly sampled and important fractions of microbial diversity, notably the Archaea.

At the same time, progresses in phylogenomics approaches have allowed to reconstruct large-scale organismal relationships more reliably.

This has allowed to re-investigating a number of key evolutionary transitions, such as the origin of Eukaryotes and their relationships with the Archaea, and has led to important paradigm-shifting results.

Major open questions and technical challenges remain however ahead.

These include clarifying the deepest divergences in each of the three domains, as well as the very root of the universal tree.

We would like to give you the opportunity to meet Prof. Dr. Gribaldo in a joint meeting together with other PhD students. If you are interested and would like to join, please write a mail to [linda.dengler@ur.de](mailto:linda.dengler@ur.de) by 20<sup>th</sup> of September at the latest. Credit points (0.1) are available for participation.

Host: RIGeL Graduate Colloquium  
[grad.colloquium@ur.de](mailto:grad.colloquium@ur.de)