

SEMINAIRE DU DEPARTEMENT
“ Mécanismes Moléculaires des Infections Mycobactériennes ”

IPBS , salle de conférence n° 1 , niveau 2
205 route de Narbonne TOULOUSE CEDEX 4

Lundi 21 mai 2007 à 11 h.

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“ *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* interactions with host cells ”

Tuberculosis (TB) is responsible for 1.7 million deaths every year in the world, and nearly 2 billion individuals are thought to carry latent infections. A better knowledge of the interactions between the tubercle bacillus, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, and its host cells might help to propose novel antibiotics and novel vaccines to combat TB.

Our laboratory is investigating *M. tuberculosis* interactions with host cells using functional genomics and cell biology approaches. In particular we have shown that the bacillus uses the C-type lectin DC-SIGN to enter alveolar macrophages, and we have identified a number of mycobacterial virulence genes required for intracellular parasitism of human phagocytes. Recently, we have identified the adipose tissue as a possible reservoir for dormant mycobacteria.

In this seminar, I will discuss these recent results, and their possible applications in the future.

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