SUBVERSION OF INNATE IMMUNE SIGNALS BY SCHISTOSOMA MANSONI PERMITS WORM DEVELOPMENT
Diana K. Riner, Sean K. Maynard, Stephen J. Davies

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD, United States

Helminth blood flukes of the genus Schistosoma infect over 200 million people worldwide. Perhaps as a result of extensive host-parasite co-evolution, S. mansoni has evolved to exploit host immune factors as signals to coordinate its own development within the host. Worms fail to develop normally in RAG-/- mice that lack all T and B cells, while development is restored when CD4+ T cells are transferred into RAG-/- mice, suggesting that CD4+ T cells play a central role in regulating parasite development. However, recent findings suggest the role of CD4+ T cells in this process is indirect, being limited to provision of non-cognate T cell help for innate responses which, in turn, facilitate parasite development. In support of this hypothesis, we have found that administration of LPS to RAG-/- mice, in the absence of CD4+ T cells, also restores worm development to proceed normally. LPS, a pathogen-associated molecular pattern (PAMP), activates TLR-4, resulting in signaling through both MyD88-dependent and TRIF-dependent pathways. Interestingly, specific stimulation of TRIF signaling using monophosphoryl lipid A (MPLA) or poly-IC failed to restore worm development in RAG-/- mice, as did administration of exogenous IFN-α, suggesting that worm development is not dependent on TRIF-mediated induction of type I interferon expression. Our current research efforts are therefore focused on dissecting the MyD88-linked signaling events that influence schistosome development. Elucidation of the innate immune signals that control schistosome development could provide leads for the development of new drug targets and vaccine strategies.

REGULATION OF INNATE IMMUNITY TO LEISHMANIA INFECTION BY TYPE I IFN SIGNALING
Lijun Xin, Diego A. Vargas-Inchaustegui, Jiaren Sun, Lynn Soong

The University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX, United States

Type I IFNs exert diverse effector/regulatory functions in innate and adaptive immune responses to viral and non-viral infections; however, their roles in parasitic infections are less clear. In murine models of Leishmania infection, it has been reported that parasite-induced type I IFNs are critical for NO-dependent disease control, and that administration of IFN-β has a dose-dependent protective effect in L. major-infected mice. Surprisingly, we found that compared to WT controls, IFNAR-/- mice developed significantly smaller lesions and reduced Ag-specific immune responses following infection with L. amazonensis (La). The marked reduction in tissue parasite loads even at 3 days of infection in IFNAR-/- mice suggested the possibility of neutrophil-mediated parasite clearance. This hypothesis was supported by in vitro and in vivo studies. First, IFNAR-/- mice showed sustained infiltration of neutrophils, but limited recruitment of CD11b+Ly6C+ inflammatory monocytes, in inflamed ear tissues at day 7 and in inflamed peritoneal cavity at day 2. Second, while macrophages responded comparably to parasites, the interactions between macrophages and IFNAR-/- neutrophils (but not WT or STAT1-/- neutrophils) greatly enhanced parasite killing. Third, in comparison to WT and STAT1-/- counterparts, IFNAR-/- neutrophils had significantly higher rates of spontaneous and infection-induced apoptosis and released higher levels of neutrophil elastase and myeloperoxidase. Finally, while co-injection of IFNAR-/- neutrophils with parasites reduced parasite survival, co-injection of WT neutrophils with parasites or adoptively transfer of WT neutrophils into IFNAR-/- mice markedly enhanced tissue parasite loads. This study indicates an important role for type I IFNs in regulating neutrophil turnover and Leishmania infection and provides new information on innate immunity to protozoan parasites.

ASSESSING THE ROLE OF HUMAN MOVEMENT IN THE TRANSMISSION DYNAMICS OF DENGUE VIRUS IN IQUITOS, PERU
Steven T. Stoddard1, Amy C. Morrison1, Brett M. Forshey1, Valerie Paz Soldan2, Helvio Astete1, John P. Elder3, Gonzalo Vasquez-Prokopec4, Uriel Kitron4, Tadeusz J. Kochel5, Thomas W. Scott1

1University Of California, Davis, Davis, CA, United States, 2Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, United States, 3San Diego State University, San Diego, CA, United States, 4Emory University, Atlanta, GA, United States, 5Naval Medical Research Center Detachment, Lima, Peru

Entomological risk of infection with dengue virus is usually evaluated at the household level, even though individual human hosts move frequently during the day when the vector, Aedes aegypti, is active. With a simple model we illustrate that variation in exposure to infective mosquitoes due
to movement among sites constituting their ‘activity space’—i.e. school, work, relative’s home—potentially has a large effect on individual risk and virus transmission. To test this hypothesis, we conducted semi-structured interviews on febrile patients detected by community-based surveillance to identify locations visited in the previous 15 days in the Amazonian city of Iquitos, Peru. Potential human contacts were recruited from residential sites identified in interviews to participate in the study. Blood samples were taken at day 0 and day 15 from both index and contact cases and tested for dengue virus infection by RT-PCR or for dengue-specific antibody by IgM-ELISA. Between August of 2008 and February of 2009, we conducted 16 dengue positive clusters (261 contacts) and 4 dengue negative clusters (71 contacts). Index cases visited between 1 and 8 locations outside the home (mean = 3 sites). Thirty-one percent of participants (86/277) had at least one dengue infection compared to 3 of 13 during a virgin soil outbreak of DEN4. Of 54 sites associated with positive dengue-positive clusters had laboratory evidence of dengue infection versus 20% of participants (15/75) in dengue-negative clusters (p = 0.06) during a virgin soil outbreak of DEN4. Of 54 sites associated with positive clusters, 25 (46%) had at least one dengue infection compared to 3 of 13 (23%) sites in negative clusters. Total female mosquitoes collected from sites within positive clusters was significantly greater than negative clusters (p = 0.014). These results support the hypothesis that risk of dengue virus infection is associated with exposure to mosquitoes across an individual’s activity space and implicate human movement as a key behavioral component influencing pathogen transmission.

353
AGE SHIFTS OF DHF IN BRAZIL: INSIGHT FROM A SEROLOGICAL SURVEY IN RECIFE

Isabel Rodriguez-Barr奡er1, Ernesto Marques2, Derek A. Cummings3
1Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD, United States, 2Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, United States

Dengue was reintroduced into Brazil in 1986. During the 2007 dengue epidemic, the number of dengue hemorrhagic fever cases more than doubled and a shift in the age distribution was reported. While previously, the majority of DHF cases occurred among adults, in 2007, 53% of cases occurred in children under 15 years old. The shift was pronounced in the north east of the country. The reasons for this shift have not been elucidated. Here, we consider a gradual shift in the age distribution of immunity since the re-emergence of dengue as a possible cause of this shift. An age stratified cross-sectional seroepidemiologic survey was conducted in Recife, Brazil in 2006 in three areas of distinct socio-economic, and infrastructural conditions. Serostatus was determined by ELISA using the kit PANBIO Dengue IgG. Analysis: We used a modified version of the model described previously, to estimate time-constant and time-varying forces or infection of DEN between 1986 and 2001. We used discrete time simulation to estimate the accumulation of monotypic and multitypic immunity over time in a population previously completely susceptible to DEN. Results: The dataset includes data on 1427 subjects aged 5-20 years. The overall prevalence of DEN IgG was 0.80. The time-constant force of infection for the period was 0.052 (95% CI 0.0-0.17). Simulations show that as time since re-emergence of dengue goes by, multitypic immunity accumulates in adults while monotypic immunity remains in younger age groups. Force of infection of 0.07, the median age of those monotypically immune can be expected to shift from 25 years, 10 years after introduction, to 11 years at equilibrium. Of those monotypically immune, the proportion under 15 years old shifts from 12% to 72%. Higher forces of infection are associated with smaller median and modal ages of monotypically immune. In conclusion, assuming that persons who have been monotypically exposed are at highest risk for DHF, the shift towards younger ages of that is being observed in Brazil can be partially explained by the accumulation of multitypic immunity in older age groups, 22 years after the re-introduction of Dengue. Heterogeneities in age distribution of DHF cases across the country may be a result of heterogeneous forces of infection in different settings. Serotype specific seroepidemiologic studies are necessary to accurately estimate the serotype specific forces of infection.

354
WHAT IS ENHANCED SURVEILLANCE? DESCRIPTION OF AN ENHANCE DENGUE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM MODEL - THE PATILLAS ENHANCED DENGUE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (P-EDSS), PATILLAS PUERTO RICO

D. Fermin Argüello1, Gladys González-Zeno1, E. Brian Izriaryr-Pérez1, Mary Ramos3, Luz Quiñones1, Aida Rivera1, Christine Luxemburger2, Viviane Justot1, Jorge Muñoz1, Elizabeth Hunsperger1, Wellington Sun1, Kay M. Tomshak1
1Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, San Juan, PR, United States, 2Department of Pediatrics, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, United States, 3Sanofi Pasteur, Lyon, France, “U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Rockville, MD, United States

Passive laboratory-based surveillance is used to monitor dengue in Puerto Rico and has several limitations; e.g., under reporting, incomplete data, high level of indeterminate specimens (i.e., negative results in the sole acute phase specimen). To address these limitations, an Enhanced Dengue Surveillance model was developed in Patillas, Puerto Rico (P-EDSS). This paper describes the performance after two years of enhanced passive dengue surveillance implementation. P-EDSS was developed at the principal municipality health center. On-site CDC personnel implemented enhanced surveillance procedures, consisting of: 1) clinician training, 2) review and correction of each dengue case reporting form using medical chart information, 3) reminders encouraging patients to return for convalescent sample collection, 4) monthly performance review meetings. Performance indicators were measured and monitored, and included: reporting rate of suspected cases (i.e., patients with dengue-like illness for which sera was submitted for testing); rate of laboratory-positives (i.e., cases with virus detected by RT-PCR or IgM positivity in any sample); and proportion of indeterminates. When compared to passive surveillance in Patillas in years prior to P-EDSS, we noted up to a 19-fold increase in the rate of suspected cases and up to a 5-fold increase rate in laboratory-positive cases. When compared to neighboring municipalities during the same period, we found up to an 85-fold higher rate of suspected cases and up to a 23-fold higher rate of laboratory-positive cases in Patillas. After the second year, the proportion of indeterminates from Patillas decreased significantly from 59.0% to 46.3% (p<0.005). In conclusion, substantially higher levels of suspected case reporting and detection of laboratory-positives, and significantly lower levels of incomplete laboratory evaluations were achieved. P-EDSS allows for increase confidence in the completeness and representativeness of the surveillance data. P-EDSS provides better population-based estimates than passive dengue surveillance.

355
TUMOR NECROSIS FACTOR (TNF) AND LYMPHOTOXIN–A (LTA) GENE ASSOCIATIONS WITH DENGUE VIRUS INFECTION IN ETHNIC THAI S

Henry A. Stephens1, Sasijit Vejbaasa2, Panpimon Luangtrakool2, Komon Luangtrakool2, Sinpen Kalayanarooj1, David W. Vaughn4, Timothy P. Endy1, Mammen P. Mammen2, Sharon Green3, Daniel H. Libraty4, Francis A. Ennis5, Alan L. Rothman5
1University College London, London, London, United Kingdom, 2Department of Transfusion Medicine, Siriraj Hospital and Medical School, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand, 3Queen Sirikit National Institute of Child Health, Bangkok, Thailand, 4Department of Virology, Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences, Bangkok, Thailand, 5Center for Infectious Diseases and Vaccine Research, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA, United States

TNF and LTA are important vasoactive modulators of the immune response and are up-regulated in dengue virus (DENV) infections. Both TNF and LTA are encoded by adjacent gene loci in the central or class III region of the human major histocompatibility complex (MHC) in between class I and II human leukocyte antigen (HLA) genes. A variety of single nucleotide
polymorphisms (SNP) have been identified in non-coding promoter-like regions, adjacent to exons encoding TNF and LTA. Linkage disequilibrium (LD) between TNF, LTA and HLA class I and II genes contributes to the formation of haplotypes or stable combinations of SNP-defined alleles that vary in composition and frequency both within and between different ethnic groups. We have analyzed a variety of SNPs in the TNF and LTA genes of 435 ethnic Thais with subclinical DENV infection, primary and secondary dengue fever (DF), and dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF). The TNF -238A polymorphism marking the TNF-4, LTA-3 haplotype, was significantly increased in patients with secondary DHF (15.2%) compared to secondary DF (4.1%) (P = 0.0009, Pc=0.022; OR = 4.13). In a subset of patients the LTA-3 haplotype associated with in vivo intra-cellular production of LTA and TNF. Furthermore, two extended haplotypes containing TNF-4 and LTA-3, together with HLA-B48, B57 and DPB1*0501, were detected only in patients with secondary DHF. In summary, our analysis has revealed TNF-specific SNPs that significantly associate with DHF in patients with secondary infections. We have evidence that certain LTA haplotypes associate with in vivo LTA and TNF protein production, as measured during the acute viremic phase of DENV infection. We have also identified TNF, LTA haplotypes that associate uniquely with secondary DHF and contain relatively rare HLA class I alleles, as well as null expression variants and deletions of other MHC loci. These observations suggest that a variety of gene products encoded within the human MHC act together in determining disease outcome in DENV-primed individuals undergoing secondary infections.

356

ROLE OF B CELL MEMORY IMMUNITY IN SECONDARY DENGUE VIRUS INFECTIONS IN MICE

Simona Zompi, Katherine Williams, P. Robert Beatty, Eva Harris

Division of Infectious Diseases and Vaccinology, School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, United States

Dengue, caused by four dengue virus serotypes (DENV-1-4), is the most prevalent mosquito-borne viral disease in humans. The immune response to one serotype plays a role in both protection and pathogenesis of a secondary (2°) DENV infection with a distinct serotype. While adaptive T cell immune responses have been shown to protect as well as enhance 2° DENV infections, little mechanistic data exist about the memory B cell response. We recently demonstrated antibody (Ab)-dependent enhancement (ADE) of DENV infection and disease in a passive transfer model in interferon-β/α receptor-deficient mice (AG129), in which mice die of a vascular leak syndrome at day 4-5 post-infection (p.i.). We have also shown that DENV-infected AG129 mice develop and maintain neutralizing Abs up to 20 weeks p.i. and that the Ab isotype composition has also shown that DENV-infected AG129 mice develop and maintain

357

HUMANIZED MICE SHOW DIFFERENCES IN DISEASE PRESENTATION ACCORDING TO INFECTING DENGUE VIRUS GENOTYPE

Javier Mota, Rebeca Rico-Hesse

Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research, San Antonio, TX, United States

Humanized NOD-scid IL2r-null mice infected with 8 different strains (representing the four genotypes) of dengue serotype 2 (DEN-2) virus present with clinical signs of human-like disease, including fever, viremia, erythema and thrombocytopenia. “Humanized” mice are transplanted with human cord blood-derived hematopoietic progenitor cells (CD34+) and develop high levels of human lymphocytes (CD45+ cells) in their peripheral blood; in this study, rates of reconstitution ranged from 16 to 80% (median: 52%). Subcutaneous infection (with approximately 10^4 PFU of each strain, the equivalent of a mosquito bite) of these mice produced a high viremia extending to days 12-18 post-infection. There was a significant decrease in platelets at day 10 in most of the mice and an increase in body temperature (fever) and erythema (rash) in comparison with humanized mice inoculated with cell culture media only. Comparison of Southeast Asian (SE Asian) and other genotype viruses (American, Indian, West African) in this model showed significant differences in magnitude and duration of viremia and rash, with the SE Asian viruses always highest. Indian genotype viruses produced lower viremias and less thrombocytopenia, while West African genotype viruses produced the shortest periods of viremia and the lowest rash measurements. These results correlate with virulence and transmission differences described previously in primary human target cells and whole mosquitoes and correlate with epidemiologic observations around the world. These characteristics make this mouse model ideal for the study of dengue pathogenesis and the evaluation of vaccines and antivirals.

358

A LARGE SCALE LABORATORY INVESTIGATION OF THE RELEASE OF INSECTS CARRYING A DOMINANT LETHAL GENE (RIDL®) AS AN EFFECTIVE CONTROL STRATEGY FOR Aedes aegypti MOSQUITOES

Megan R. Wise de Valdez1, Derrick Nimmo2, Hong-Fei Gong3, Luke Alphey4, William C. Black, IV5

1Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO, United States, 2Oxitec Ltd., Abingdon, United Kingdom

The release of insects carrying a dominant lethal (RIDL®) is an attractive novel strategy for the suppression of Aedes aegypti, particularly when the lethal trait is repressible, late-acting, and female-specific. Novel methods such as these have become increasingly important due to the expansion of the geographical area in which Dengue viruses (DENV-1-4) are endemic. RIDL can be considered an expansion of the sterile insect technique (SIT) and previous mathematical models incorporating both indicate that RIDL may prove more effective than SIT in reducing Ae. aegypti populations and thus dengue transmission; namely, because ‘RIDL males’, not having undergone radiation, should compete more effectively with wild type males and because late- rather than early-acting lethality allows for the effects of density-dependent larval mortality. This is the first study to directly assess the efficacy of the RIDL strategy in suppressing or eradicating Ae. aegypti populations using a dominant lethal gene that results in flightless females. This study was conducted as a prelude to field greenhouse trials in Tapachula, Mexico. We will report on large (>300 ft^3) laboratory cage experiments in which males homozygous for the lethal trait will be released into established wild type populations (wt) at either one of two release ratios (10:1 or 5:1 RIDL:wt). We aim to monitor changes in Ae. aegypti population size among the treatment and

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GENETIC CONTROL OF AEDES MOSQUITOES TO PREVENT DENGUE AND CHIKUNGUNYA

Luke Alphey
Oxitec Limited, Oxford, United Kingdom

In the absence of vaccines, control of dengue and chikungunya can only be achieved by suppression of mosquito populations. However, current control methods are inadequate to reduce the population of Aedes mosquitoes below the disease transmission threshold. Recent advances in insect genetic engineering have opened new possibilities for the control of mosquitoes. The genetic approach that is closest to practical application is “population suppression” based on the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT). SIT has been used successfully for the suppression or local elimination of several insect species in agriculture, and mathematical modeling indicates that it would be effective against Aedes mosquitoes. Sterile male mosquitoes are released continually over a wide area to mate with the target pest population; no progeny result from these matings and the target population declines. Sterility has conventionally been induced with γ-irradiation, which is too damaging for most mosquitoes, or chemicals which are no longer approved. In the RIDL® method mosquito strains are homozygous for one or more dominant lethal genes. We have successfully constructed RIDL strains of Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus, using the tetracycline-repressible ‘tet-off’ gene expression system to repress the lethal effect with dietary tetracycline. The first RIDL strains have been successfully tested in confined semi-field conditions for mating competitiveness with wild-type mosquitoes and a range of life history and behavioural traits. An area-wide control program based on mass-release of mosquitoes would preferably not release biting females. Sex-separation methods are therefore required. Effective mechanical separation methods are available, and we are developing genetic sexing methods which will be more accurate and efficient. Our successful development of such systems in Aedes aegypti will be discussed.

THE EFFECT OF GENE DRIVE ON CONTAINMENT OF TRANSGENIC MOSQUITOES

John M. Marshall
University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA, United States

Mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue fever continue to be a major health problem through much of the world. Several new potential approaches to disease control utilize gene drive to spread anti-pathogen genes into the mosquito population. Prior to a release, these projects will require trials in outdoor cages from which transgenic mosquitoes may escape, albeit in small numbers. Most genes introduced in small numbers are very likely to be lost from the environment; however gene drive mechanisms enhance the invasiveness of introduced genes. Consequently, introduced transgenes may be more likely to persist than ordinary genes following an accidental release. Here, we develop stochastic models to analyze the loss probabilities for several gene drive mechanisms, including homing endonuclease genes, transposable elements, Medea elements, the intracellular bacterium Wolbachia, engineered underdominance genes, and meiotic drive. We find that Medea and Wolbachia present the best compromise between invasiveness and containment for the six gene drive systems currently being considered for the control of mosquito-borne disease.

GENE EXPRESSION PROFILE ANALYSIS OF ANOPHELES GAMBIAE AGING AND BLOOD FEEDING: IDENTIFICATION OF CANDIDATE GENES FOR AGE GRADING

Mei-Hui Wang1, Osvaldo Marinotti2, Anthony A. James2, Edward Walker3, Guiyun Yan1
1Public Health, University of California at Irvine, Irvine, CA, United States, 2Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, University of California at Irvine, Irvine, CA, United States, 3Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, United States

Information on population age structure of mosquito vectors under natural conditions is not only fundamental to the understanding of vectorial capacity, but it is also crucial to the assessment of the impact of vector control measures on malaria transmission. A recent study demonstrated that transcriptional profiles of the genes strongly associated with age are excellent molecular markers for age grading in Aedes aegypti. The objectives of this study are to examine gene expression profile changes associated with ageing and bloodfeeding in Anopheles gambiae, and then to identify molecular markers that may be used for An. gambiae mosquitoes age grading. We used Affymetrix Anopheles Genome Array GeneChip® and examined the genome-wide gene expression profile changes associated with ageing through comparisons of gene expression patterns for mosquitoes at days 1, 4, 10, 19, and 28 post emergence. The examination of gene expression changes due to blood feeding involves mosquitoes bloodfed at these age points. We compared the global gene expressions in non-blood-fed adult female mosquitoes at these age points, and found 9,116 transcripts differentially expressed at P < 0.001. We then excluded genes which expression was affected by blood feeding, and identified a total of 299 candidate genes. The majority of these 299 genes codes for proteins involved in metabolic process and oxidation reduction. The K-means cluster analysis identified 40 clusters. We chose 6 genes as most promising candidate genes for age grading from cluster 28 because they showed a linear reduction in expressions with mosquito ages. Using the An. gambiae mosquitoes from laboratory cages, we generated a calibration model and estimated 95% confidence for mosquito age predictions. The calibration model, based on the canonical redundancy analysis, produced a R2 value of 0.79 between the calculated redundancy variates and observed age. We are currently validating the expression profile based age grading method using An. gambiae mosquitoes reared in semi-natural MalariaSphere in western Kenya.

POLYMORPHISMS IN ANOPHELES GAMBIAE IMMUNE GENES ARE ASSOCIATED TO MALARIA RESISTANCE

Caroline A. Harris1, Isabelle Morlais2, François Rousset3, Luc Abate1, Didier Fontenille1, Anna Cohuet1
1Institut de recherche pour le développement, Montpellier, France, 2OCEAC, Youndé, Cameroon, 3University of Montpellier, Montpellier, France, 4IRSS, Bako Dioulasso, Burkina Faso

In nature Anopheles mosquitoes are found to have varying levels of resistance to the malaria parasite, a characteristic known to be under strong genetic control. Understanding the molecular basis of their immunity will give essential insights for novel malaria control strategies. This study aims to uncover single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) associated with mosquito resistance to malaria in the natural vector parasite couple Anopheles gambiae/Plasmodium falciparum through genotype to phenotype associations. An. gambiae M form mosquitoes from Cameroon were experimentally infected with a sympatric wild P. falciparum isolate. The number of oocysts/midgut at day 8 post blood meal was counted giving each mosquito a quantitative phenotype. These mosquitoes were then genotyped for selected SNPs in known immunity genes and statistical tests applied to determine association (genotype/ phenotype). 6 out of 157 SNPs show an association to phenotype, located within or upstream of SP Snake-like, TOLL6, SP PPO activate, CLIPB4,
More importantly, protein interaction network makes the foundation for
We demonstrated the application of this network for the further
4,214 proteins with 10,209 interactions, among which
Aedes aegypti We developed the first draft of mosquito protein interaction network
vector greatly facilitates genome-wide studies of DENV-host interactions.
The availability of genome sequences for both humans and the mosquito
interactions is essential for the development of novel control strategies.
Two fifths of the world's population is at risk from dengue. The
absence of effective drugs and vaccines leaves vector control as the
primary intervention tool. Understanding dengue virus (DENV) and host
immunity is parasite genotype specific to varying degrees. From these
results the effect of genotype appears to have a strong effect on immunity
and will have to be seriously considered in the development of novel
control strategies.

DUPLICATION AND CONCERTED EVOLUTION OF
VITELLOGENIN GENES IN MOSQUITOES
Song Chen, Jason L. Rasgon
Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore,
MD, United States
The mosquito vitellogenin (Vg) genes belong to a small multiple gene
family that encodes the major yolk proteins precursors required for egg
production. Several Vg genes have been cloned and characterized from
several mosquito species, but, their origin and molecular evolution are
poorly understood. We isolated four distinct full length Vg genes from
the West Nile virus vector Culex tarsalis that likely arose from double
duplication events. These genes are organized in two pairs (Vg1a, Vg1b;
Vg2a, Vg2b). The sequence comparison indicated that Vg1 and Vg2 genes
shared 64.3%-65.5% nucleotide identity. Within each pair, the Vg genes
shared very high nucleotide identity (98.1% and 97.0%, respectively). For
comparative purposes, the Vg genes were identified from the publically-
available Cx. pipiens, Aedes aegypti and Anopheles gambiae genome
sequences. Vg gene organization in Cx. pipiens was very similar to Cx.
tarsalis, and indicated that the double duplication event was ancestral
to the separation of these two species. In contrast, Ae. aegypti and An.
gambiae had three Vg genes that evolved from independent duplication
events in each genus. Signatures of concerted evolution were detected in
Culex and Anopheles Vg gene sequences, but not in Aedes. In conclusion,
these analyses indicate that the evolution of Vg genes is dominated by
independent duplication events in 3 different mosquito genera, and that
concerted evolution may contribute to sequence homogenization in some
genera.

RESPONSE OF MOSQUITO PROTEIN INTERACTION NETWORK
TO THE DENGUE INFECTION
Zhiyong Xi, Xiang Guo, Yao Xu, Guowu Bian, Andrew David Pike,
Yan Xie
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, United States
Two fifths of the world's population is at risk from dengue. The
absence of effective drugs and vaccines leaves vector control as the
primary intervention tool. Understanding dengue virus (DENV) and host
interactions is essential for the development of novel control strategies.
The availability of genome sequences for both humans and the mosquito
vector greatly facilitates genome-wide studies of DENV-host interactions.
We developed the first draft of mosquito protein interaction network
using a computational approach. The high-confidence network includes
4,214 Aedes aegypti proteins with 10,209 interactions, among which
3,500 proteins are connected into an interconnected scale-free network.
We demonstrated the application of this network for the further
annotation of mosquito proteins and dissection of pathway crosstalk.
More importantly, protein interaction network makes the foundation for
systems biology study of DENV-mosquito interactions. Using three datasets
based on physical interaction assay, genome-wide RNA interference (RNAi)
screens and microarray assay, we identified 705 putative DENV-associated
mosquito proteins. The integrated analysis of these proteins and mosquito
network revealed three main modules with function in replication/
transcription/translation, immunity and transport that were targeted
by DENV. Putative DENV-associated proteins were further selected for
validation by RNAi-mediated gene silencing, and the results showed the
dengue viral titer in mosquito midgut was significantly reduced for 57% of
these genes. Our results indicate presence of common host requirements
of dengue viruses in mosquitoes and humans. We discuss the significance
of our findings to pharmacological intervention and genetic modification
of mosquitoes for blocking dengue transmission.

ETIOLOGY OF FEBRILE ILLNESS AMONG HOSPITALIZED
HIV-INFECTED AND HIV-UNINFECTED ADULTS AND
ADOLESCENTS IN NORTHERN TANZANIA
John A. Crump1, Habib O. Ramadhani2, Anne B. Morrissey1, Venezia P. Maro2, Wilbrod Saganda1, Mtumwa S. Mwako3, Andrea V. Shaw1, John A. Bartlett1, Hugh Reyburn4
1Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC, United States, 2Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre, Moshi, United Republic of Tanzania, 3Mawenzi Regional Hospital, Moshi, United Republic of Tanzania, 4London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, United Kingdom
Few studies describe patterns of HIV co-infections in African hospitals
in the ART era. We prospectively studied febrile admissions to two
hospitals using modern laboratory methods. We enrolled consecutive
admitted patients aged ≥13 years with oral temperature ≥38.0°C during
one year in Moshi, Tanzania. A standardized clinical history and physical
examination was done and hospital outcome recorded. HIV antibody
testing, aerobic and mycobacterial blood cultures, and malaria film were
done. HIV-infected patients also received serum cryptococcal antigen
testing and CD4-positive T-lymphocyte count (CD4 count). Of 411 patients
enrolled, the median (range) age was 37 (14-97) years, 222 (54.0%)
were female, and 159 (38.9%) were HIV-infected. Of HIV-infected patients
the median (range) CD4 count was 110 (1-1,140) cells/mm3, 17 (10.7%)
had positive serum cryptococcal antigen tests, and 55 (34.6%) were
receiving ART and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole prophylaxis. Of 374
(90.1%) with blood cultures, 72 (19.3%) grew a pathogen. Of blood
cultures with pathogens, 26 (36.1%) grew Salmonella Typhi; 10 (13.8%)
Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex; 10 (13.8%) Escherichia coli; 8
(11.1%) Streptococcus pneumoniae; 6 (8.3%) Cryptococcus neoformans;
and 12 (16.7) grew other pathogens. Plasmidium falciparum was
identified on blood film of 7 (1.7%). HIV infection was associated with M.
tuberculosis (odds ratio [OR] undefined, p <0.001) and C. neoformans (OR
undefined, p=0.002) bloodstream infection (BSI), but not with E. coli, S.
pneumoniae, or P. falciparum BSI. HIV infection appeared to be protective
against S. Typhi BSI [OR 0.12, p=0.001]. Forty-three (10.5%) of patients
died in hospital. In conclusion, M. tuberculosis and C. neoformans are
leading causes of blood stream infection in Tanzania in the ART era and
are closely associated with HIV infection; we demonstrate a protective
effect of HIV against S. Typhi BSI in this setting. HIV co-infections continue
to account for a large proportion of febrile admissions in Tanzania.

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PROPHYLACTIC EFFECT OF TRIMETHOPRIM-SULFAMETHOXAZOLE ON MALARIA IN HIV-INFECTED CHILDREN LIVING IN KAMPALA, UGANDA

Anne F. Gasasira1, Moses Kamya2, Neil Vora3, Jane Achanh2, Fredrick Katera2, Edwin Charlebois1, Theodore Ruel1, Diane Havlir1, Philip Rosenthal1, Grant Dorssey1
1Makerere University/University of California Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, United States, 2Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda, 3University of California, San Francisco, CA, United States

Daily trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (TS) reduces malaria risk substantially, but this effect may be compromised as antifolate resistance increases or when adherence is sub-optimal. We assessed the incidence of malaria and the prevalence of resistance-conferring mutations in members of two cohorts: 517 HIV-uninfected and 292 HIV-infected children aged 1-10 years. Daily TS and antiretroviral therapy (ART; based on WHO criteria) was prescribed for HIV-infected participants. HIV-uninfected participants did not receive TS. All participants were provided insecticide-treated bednets. Standardized protocols were used for malaria ascertainment and identification of resistance-mediating polymorphisms. The protective efficacy of TS was compared for three consecutive 9.5-month periods in 2006-08 using negative binomial regression models. Among HIV-infected subjects, 3-day TS adherence data were collected monthly and classified as optimal (no missed doses), inadequate (1-2 missed doses) or very poor (>2 missed doses). Generalized estimating equations were used to assess the relationship between adherence and malaria risk adjusting for repeated measures, CD4 level, age and ART use. TS use had a protective efficacy of 80% (0.10 vs. 0.45 episodes PPY, p<0.001) despite high prevalence of 5 resistance-mediating mutations (dhfr 51I, 108N, C59R; dhps 437G, 540E) in parasites infecting HIV-infected (92%) and uninfected (86%, p=0.22) subjects. The dhfr 164L mutation, which mediates high-level resistance, but is rare in Africa, was seen in 8% of HIV-infected, but only 1% of HIV-uninfected participants (p=0.001). TS efficacy and prevalence of mutations did not change over time. The odds of malaria were higher among HIV-infected subjects with very poor (OR 3.48, p<0.001) or inadequate (OR 2.96, p=0.024) compared optimal adherence. In summary, TS demonstrated good prophylactic efficacy against malaria despite high prevalence of markers of antifolate resistance. Efficacy was diminished by poor drug adherence, and TS use was associated with increased prevalence of dhfr 164L.

THE EFFECT OF UNTREATED HIV INFECTION ON MALARIA: DOWN-REGULATING INNATE INFLAMMATORY RESPONSES

Lena Serghides1, Constance A. Finney1, Prameet Seth2, Colin Kovacs3, Mona Loufty3, Rupert Kaul3, Kevin C. Kain1
1McLaughlin-Rotman Centre for Global Health, UHN and University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada, 2Institute of Medical Science, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada, 3Canadian Immunodeficiency Research Collaborative, Toronto, ON, Canada

The majority of malaria cases, like HIV, occur in sub-Saharan Africa, where many individuals are infected with both pathogens. Co-infection with Plasmodium falciparum malaria and HIV is a growing concern, as co-infected individuals experience worse clinical outcomes, including accelerated HIV replication (potentially increasing transmission) and the development of higher parasite burdens and complications caused by severe malaria. However, the underlying mechanisms responsible for the adverse clinical outcomes in co-infected individuals have yet to be fully investigated. Severe malaria is characterized by robust pro-inflammatory host immune responses to infection. We hypothesized that HIV co-infection compromises the function of immune cells in response to malaria. Our aim was to examine the phagocytic capacity and inflammatory response of peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) from therapy-naïve HIV-infected donors to malaria parasites.

FETAL IMMUNE PRIMING TO PARASITIC ANTIGENS, IMMUNE ACTIVATION AND SUSCEPTIBILITY TO IN VITRO HIV INFECTION

Kevin Steiner1, Latoya Myrie1, Indu Malhotra1, Peter Mungai1, Eric Muchiri2, Arlene Dent1, Christopher King1
1Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH, United States, 2Division of Vector Borne Diseases, Nairobi, Kenya

Mother-to-child-transmission of HIV (MTCT) remains a major problem in many developing countries. While a variety of interventions have contributed to a marked decrease in the rate of MTCT in the U.S. and Europe, in many countries of sub-Saharan Africa the rate remains higher. Though many maternal factors that increase the likelihood of transmitting HIV to offspring have been studied, fetal factors that may increase susceptibility have been less well characterized. We hypothesize that fetal immune activation due to prenatal exposure to parasitic antigens may result in increased MTCT susceptibility. We have previously demonstrated that cord blood mononuclear cells (CBMC) from up to half of newborns of mothers living in a malaria endemic region demonstrate recall responses to malaria antigens, thereby establishing that prenatal exposure and sensitization has occurred. Further, our and other studies indicate HIV positive pregnant women infected with helminths and/or malaria demonstrated an increased risk for MTCT compared to those without parasitic confections. We show here that cryopreserved CBMC from Kenyan newborns demonstrate increased susceptibility to in vitro HIV infection compared to that of North Americans (21/60 vs 3/25, p<0.04). Viral replication occurs earlier and reaches a greater magnitude in infected Kenyan samples compared to those from North Americans. When Kenyan samples are grouped according to evidence of prenatal malaria exposure, the sensitized group demonstrated increased susceptibility compared to both Kenyan not sensitized and North American groups (14/29 vs 5/29, p<0.025; 14/29 vs 3/25, p<0.01). Interestingly, PCR amplification of viral strong-stop DNA reveals no differences between the groups 24 hours post viral exposure, suggesting that viral replication is enhanced later in the viral life-cycle. These results support the hypothesis that neonates experiencing prenatal exposure and immune response to malaria antigens may be more susceptible to MTCT of HIV.

SPECIES-SPECIFIC EFFECTS OF DEWORMING AMONG HIV AND HELMINTH CO-INFECTED INDIVIDUALS

Bradley R. Herrin, Grace John-Stewart, Judd L. Watson
University of Washington, Seattle, WA, United States

In many resource-limited settings, HIV infected individuals are frequently co-infected with other endemic pathogens, including helminths. A recently published systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized trials suggests that treatment of helminth co-infection significantly attenuates increases in plasma viral load and significantly increases absolute CD4 counts. Given differences in species-specific prevalence rates and the variability of the host response to different helminth species, it is important to determine the relative benefit of eradicating specific helminth species.
in HIV co-infected individuals. A search strategy was developed using the methods of the Cochrane Collaboration. Randomized controlled trials and observational studies evaluating helmint eradication in HIV co-infected individuals were identified and additional data were requested from authors when necessary. Data for each helmint species were pooled and analyzed using standardized mean differences. Pooled analyses suggest beneficial effects of deworming on HIV RNA levels for all helmint species (-0.23 log₁₀ copies/mL, p = 0.0004) and for A. lumbricoides (-0.38 log₁₀ copies/mL, p = 0.02). Although no benefit of deworming was shown for schistosomiasis, hookworm, whipworm, strongyloidiasis, lymphatic filariasis, or Mansonella, only one randomized trial and one observational study achieved greater than 80% power to detect differences in viral load of 0.3 log copies/mL or differences in CD4 counts of 25 cells/mm³. In conclusion, analysis of all available randomized and observational study data evaluating the effects of deworming in helmint and HIV co-infected individuals suggests possible benefit in delaying HIV disease progression. While available data suggest greatest benefit with eradication of A. lumbricoides, most studies have lacked adequate power to detect clinically meaningful differences in outcomes. Further studies are needed to document species-specific effects following deworming of HIV infected individuals.

370

REASONS FOR SWITCHING TO SECONDLINE ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY AMONG PATIENTS ATTENDING KABALE HOSPITAL/JCRC KABALE HIV CLINIC

Peterson S. Kyebambe
Kabale Regional Hospital, Kabale, Uganda

In 2002, we began the first Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) clinic in Kigezi region (population 1 million). At first clients had to pay for their drugs and laboratory tests. In 2004, in response to the ‘three by five’ initiative, Uganda introduced new approaches: free drugs, use of clinical criteria to initiate and monitor ART and rolling out to as many health facilities as fast as practicable. This caused a sharp increase in the numbers accessing ART, however, there were inadequate facilities for monitoring. It is only recently that monitoring tests became available to most clients. The objectives of this study were: (1) to document the reasons behind the switching of patients from first line ART to second line ART at the centre, (2) to assess the clinical, immunological and virological performance of patients on the different first line ART regimens, and (3) to compare duration of therapy before switching among the different first line regimens. Of the 1602 clients actively on ART, 70 were on second line medication and of these, 62 qualified for inclusion. The profile of the first line medications: d4T(Stavudine)+3TC(Lamivudine)+NVP(Nevirapine) = 42(67.7%); AZT( Zidovudine)+3TC+EFV(Efavirenz) 10(16.1%); AZT+3TC+NVP 7(11.3%); d4T+3TC+EFV 2(3.2%); and, TDF(Tenofovir)+FTC(Etravirine)+NVP 1(1.6%). There were reasons noted to support switching (Rx = treatment, VLG=virological, Imn=immunological, ALG=allergy, LPD=lipodystrophy, PN=peripheral neuropathy): ALG to NVP 22.6%; Rx failure 16.1%; Rx,Imn.&VLG failure 11.3%; VLG failure 9.7%; LPD 9.7%; Rx&VLG failure 8.1%; Imn.&VLG failure 6.5%; Rx&Imn failure 6.5%; Imn. failure 3.2%; Rx failure&anemia 1.6%; Rx failure,LPD%PN 1.6%. The mean duration of first line therapy before switching: D4T+3TC+EFV=51 months; D4T+3TC+NVP=35 months; AZT+3TC+EFV=26 months; and AZT+3TC+NVP=14 months. In conclusion: (1) treatment failure followed by allergic reactions to ART were the two commonest causes of switching to second line therapy; (2) patients on the D4T+3TC+EFV combination lasted longest before needing a switch; and (3) The 3 by 5 initiative was a very noble strategy that has saved millions of lives through increased access to ART, however, we need to put more resources into laboratory monitoring of patients on treatment as sometimes they seem well clinically yet they have immunological and/or virological failure. Appropriate intervention will minimise development and spread of drug-resistant virus.

PLASMODIUM VIVAX RHOPHY PROTEIN NECK PROTEIN (PVRON2) EXPRESSED AT BOTH ERYTHROCYTIC AND PRE-ERYTHROCYTIC INVASIVE PARASITES

Jun Cao 1, Osamu Kaneko 2, Amporn Thongkukiakul 3, Mayumi Tachibana 4, Hitoshi Otsuki 5, Jetsumon Sattabongkot 6, Qi Gao 7, Takafumi Tsuboi 8, Motomi Torii 9

1Jiangsu Institute of Parasitic Diseases, Wuxi, China, 2Department of Protozoology, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Nagasaki University, Nagasaki, Japan, 3Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Burapha University, Chonburi, Thailand, 4Department of Molecular Parasitology, Ehime University School of Medicine, Toon, Japan, 5Department of Entomology, Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences, Bangkok, Thailand, 6Cell-Free Science and Technology Research Center, Ehime University, Matsuyama, Japan

Host cell invasion is an essential step of the malaria parasites to establish the infection in human and a major target process of the intervention. Recent proteome analysis of the closely-related apicomplexa parasite, Toxoplasma gondii, revealed a panel of novel rhoptry neck proteins (RONs), and some of them have been shown to form a complex with Apical Membrane Protein 1 (AMA1) at the “moving junction”, an interface of the parasite and the host cell, during invasion. Because most of the RONs and AMA1 are conserved among apicomplexa phylum parasites and Plasmodium AMA1 is a leading blood-stage vaccine candidate. Here we characterized PVRON2, one of RONs in P. falciparum, the most dangerous
malaria species. PRON2 transcription peaked at the mature schizont and expressed at the neck portion of the rhoptry in the merozoite shown by immuno-electronmicroscopy. Co-immunoprecipitation of PRON2 and PfAMA1 from schizont-rich parasites suggested that PRON2 co-operated with PfAMA1 to invade erythrocyte. Of interest is that, in P. vivax, RON2 was detected not only at the rhoptry neck of merozoite, but also in rhoptry of the sporozoite. It should be noted that this is the first time to identify a rhoptry protein in the Plasmodium sporozoite. Thus co-operation of RON2 and AMA1 could be extended to the hepatocyte invasion by the Plasmodium sporozoite. In summary, RON2 appears to be functional in two essential invasive forms of Plasmodium in human, and could serve as a potential target for malaria intervention.

373
INDIRECT AMINOACYLATION IN THE PLASMODIUM APICoplast
Malcolm J. Gardner, Gowthaman Ramasamy, Devaraja G. Muddeppa, Ling Li, Pradipsinh K. Rathod
1Seattle Biomedical Research Institute, Seattle, WA, United States
2University of Washington, Seattle, WA, United States

The Plasmodium falciparum genome sequence provided many unexpected insights into malaria parasite metabolism and led to the identification of potential drug targets. Using comparative genome analyses, we identified P. falciparum genes encoding glutamyl-tRNA synthetase (GluRS) and glutamyl-tRNA amidotransferase (Glu-AdT), enzymes that constitute an indirect aminoacylation pathway for the production of Gin-tRNA<sub>Gln</sub>, a key substrate required for protein biosynthesis. The indirect aminoacylation pathway is the sole route for the production of Gin-tRNA<sub>Gln</sub> in archaea, most bacteria, and (possibly) plastids, but is not found in the euukaryotic cytosol. Glu-AdT is an essential enzyme in bacteria and Glu-AdT inhibitors possess anti-bacterial activity but are not toxic to mammalian cells. Bioinformatic analyses suggest that the Plasmodium GluRS and Glu-AdT orthologs are targeted to the apicoplast. Molecular genetic and biochemical approaches are being used to characterize the Plasmodium enzymes, determine their sub-cellular localization, and evaluate their importance to parasite survival. P. falciparum GluRS, the first enzyme in this two-step pathway, was expressed in a wheat germ in vitro translation system. Recombinant GluRS glutamylated the cognate substrate apicoplast tRNAGlu and the non-cognate substrate apicoplast tRNAGln. The latter activity is diagnostic of GluRSs that participate in indirect aminoacylation, confirming that this pathway is functional in Plasmodium. Subcellular localization was assessed by transfecting P. falciparum parasites with episomal constructs encoding the putative apicoplast-targeting sequences from the A and B subunits of Glu-AdT fused to GFP. In both cases GFP episomal constructs encoding the putative apicoplast-targeting sequences were expressed in the Plasmodium sporozoite. In summary, RON2 appears to be functional in two essential invasive forms of Plasmodium in human, and could serve as a potential target for malaria intervention.

374
FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS OF G-PROTEIN COUPLED RECEPTOR HOMOLOGUES IN PLASMODIUM
Joanne Thompson, L. Gabriella Lindergard
Immunology and Infection Research, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

The genome of Plasmodium encodes a number of large multipass-transmembrane (TM) domain proteins that contain features indicating a role as integral membrane receptors or channels. We have identified two of these as homologues of recently-identified G-Protein Coupled Receptors in the plant, Arabidopsis thaliana. They are phylogenetically conserved in a range of mammals, insects and plants and in some, but not all, Apicomplexa and other protozoa. To investigate a role in the initiation of signal transduction pathways in Plasmodium, we have generated gene knockout lines in a rodent malaria model and performed phenotypic analysis throughout the parasite life-cycle in the mouse and mosquito. Parasites lacking putative Plasmodium G-Protein Coupled Receptors are significantly less virulent than wild-type parasites and show alterations in growth and differentiation rates. Assays to identify endogenous ligands and the nature of downstream signaling pathways will be described.

375
A NEW ASSAY FOR SIMULTANEOUS DETECTION OF MUTATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH PLASMODIUM VIVAX DRUG RESISTANCE
Celine Barnadas, Lincoln Timinoa, Ivo Mueller, Peter A. Zimmerman
1PNG Institute for Medical Research, Goroka, Papua New Guinea,
2Center for Global Health and Diseases, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH, United States

Renewed interest in Plasmodium vivax malaria has been sparked recently by the description of severe cases of the disease, reemergence in different areas, and reports of drug resistance. In Papua New Guinea (PNG), P. vivax is the second most prevalent malaria parasite, but as in many endemic countries, national malaria policy focuses on the treatment of P. falciparum. As a consequence, P. vivax is exposed to artesinin derivatives, amino-4-quinolines and sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine using regimens that may be suboptimal for this parasite, thus potentially contributing to the development of drug resistance. To investigate changes in parasite populations following implementation of new treatment regimens, we developed a new assay allowing the simultaneous detection of P. vivax single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) associated with drug resistance, in pvdhfr (12 alleles), pvmdhs (4 alleles) and pvmdr1 (2 genes). This assay is based on a multiplex ligase detection reaction-fluorescent microsphere technology applied on the products of a nested multiplex PCR. It was validated using wild type and mutant sequenced isolates, and samples from PNG field studies were analyzed. The assay detected all 3 genes in 200 of the field samples (85.5%). Three (1.5%) of these samples displayed a mutant allele for pvdhps, 167 (83.5%) for pvdhfr and 111 (55.5%) for pvmdr1 genes. Only 23 samples (11.5%) had a wild type allele for all 3 genes. 153 samples (76.5%) displayed a mixed infection and, overall, we observed a mean multiplicity of infection of 2. These preliminary results are consistent with both the rate of mutations previously observed in PNG and the rate of polyclonal infections. This new assay will be used for a country-wide assessment of the prevalence of molecular markers of resistance and to compare parasite populations between regions where different drug pressures are known to have occurred. This data will help to improve our understanding of the relationship between drug pressure and selection of resistant parasites in PNG and other areas endemic for P. vivax.

376
PRESENCE OF MULTIDRUG RESISTANCE GENE 1 (PFMDR1) ALLELES IN PLASMODIUM FALCIPARUM SAMPLES FROM A CLINICAL TRIAL TO TEST TWO ANTIMALARIAL DRUGS IN THE PERUVIAN AMAZON
Jorge Bendezu, Katherine Soto-Cornejo, Katherine Torres, Umberto D’Alessandro, Dionicia Gamboa
1Instituto de Medicina Tropical “Alexander Von Humboldt”, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru, 2Instituto de Medicina Tropical, Lima, Peru, 3Institute of Tropical Medicine “Prince Leopold”, Antwerp, Belgium

Malaria falciparum multidrug-resistant is a public health problem in Peru. Mutations (1034S, 1042N, 1246D) of the pfmdr1 gene in Plasmodium falciparum and the number of copies are used as molecular markers for drug resistance. The wild type pfmdr1 (SN) undergoes mutations causing mutant alleles (CDD, SSD and CDY) that increases parasite sensitivity to various antimalarial drugs. Monitoring these mutant alleles will indicate
the possibility of success of an antimalarial. The aim of this report was to identify the proportion of mutant alleles in samples with positive diagnosis of *P. falciparum* before and after treatment with 2 antimalarials in 522 patients treated either with dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine (DHA-PIP) or Mefloquine-Artesunate (MAS). 20 patients were PCR-confirmed positive to *P. falciparum* (15 identified by the clinic and 5 identified by PCR during the follow-up). 90% (18/20) were treated with DHA-PIP and 10% (2/20) with MAS. Direct sequencing of the PCR products was performed in both directions for each PCR product using an ABI-3100 sequencer. Sequencing analysis of 17 samples taken before DHA-PIP treatment indicates the presence of SDD allele in 29.4% (5/17), the CDD allele in 64.7% (11/17) and allele CDDY in 5.9% (1/17). The post-treatment analysis indicates the presence of CDD allele in 58.8% (10/17), the wild type SDD in 5.9% (1/17), while the SDD and CDDY alleles were presented in 29.4% and 5.9% respectively. From 19 samples 1 switched from SDD to SND. The analysis of 19 samples obtained before treatment presented any pfmdr1 mutant allele (SDD, CDD and CDDY), all of them common in this region. These alleles possibly detected prior to therapy were removed and the presence of these mutants in a 94.1% of the samples obtained after treatment was due to a new infection or undetected parasitaemia. The presence of these mutants in a 94.1% of the samples obtained after treatment was due to a new infection or undetected parasitaemia. The presence of the mutant (or wild) alleles in this area may explain the effectiveness of current therapies.

### 377

**SELECTION OF KNOWN RESISTANCE-MEDIATING POLYMORPHISMS BY ARTEMETHER-LUMEFANTRINE AND AMODIAQUINE/SULFADOXINE-PYRIMETHAMINE, BUT NOT BY DIHYDROARTESMININ-PIPERAQUINE IN BURKINA FASO**

Anyirékun Fabrice Some1, Yves Sere1, Issaka Zongo1, Noël Rouamba1, Chris Dokomajilar2, Bryan Greenhouse2, Jenny Legac2, Shoba Subramanian3, Jean-Bosco Ouédraogo1, and Philip J. Rosenthal2

1Institut de Recherche en Sciences de la Santé, Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso and 2Department of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, CA USA

Artemether-lumefantrine (AL), dihydroartemisinin-piperaquine (DP) and, in West Africa, amodiaquine/sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine (AQ/SP) currently offer strong antimalarial treatment efficacy, but there is concern that treatment will select for parasite polymorphisms that decrease drug sensitivity. We evaluated the selection of known polymorphisms in the putative transporters *pfCRT* and *pfMDR1* and the antifolate drug targets *dhfr* and *dhps* in parasites that caused new infections within 42 days of prior therapy in children in Burkina Faso. A study of 580 children in 2006 demonstrated 42-day genotype-uncorrected failures for uncomplicated malaria in 30.9% with AL, 11.6% with AQ/SP, and 7.5% with DP. After prior AL, selection of wild type sequence was seen for *pfCRT* K76 (mixed or mutant 72.7% pre-treatment vs. 52.1% in new infections; *p*=0.008) and *pfMDR1* N86 (36.0% vs. 18.7%, *p*=0.025) and Y184 (66.7% vs. 45.8%, *p*=0.009). After prior AQ/SP, selection of mutant sequence was seen for *pfMDR1* N86 (36.0% vs. 61.5%, *p*=0.13) and for *pfCRT* S1246Y (36.0% vs. 61.5%, *p*=0.05), 59R (28.2% vs. 76.9%, *p*=0.002), and 108N (30.8% vs. 76.9%, *p*=0.005). After prior DP, selection was not seen for *pfCRT* K76 (mixed or mutant 72.7% vs. 77.8%, *p*=0.13) or *pfMDR1* N86 (36.0% vs. 33.3%, *p*=0.04) or 184F (66.7% vs. 77.8%, *p*=0.39). The initial study included only 9 new infections after DP. We evaluated a larger sample from a trial in 2007 that included 378 treatments with DP, with 42 day uncorrected failure in 10.9%. After prior DP, selection was again not seen for *pfCRT* K76 (mixed or mutant 66.7% vs. 59.5%, *p*=0.43) or *pfMDR1* N86 (38.7% vs. 40.5%, *p*=0.85), 184F (67.6% vs. 73.0%, *p*=0.54) or 1246Y (3.6% vs. 8.1%, *p*=0.90). Full sequencing of *pfMDR1* from 7 new infections that occurred within 35 days of prior therapy with measured complexity of infection of 1 identified known polymorphisms at positions 86 and 184 and a small number of additional polymorphisms. Despite its chemical similarity, piperaquine did not select for the same polymorphisms as chloroquine or AQ, suggesting different mechanisms of resistance.

#### 378

**GENOME-WIDE ASSOCIATION AND SELECTION SCANS IN THE PLASMODIUM FALCIPARUM GENOME**

Sarah Volkman1, Daniel Neafsey2, Elaine Angelino3, Steve Schaffner3, Danny Park2, Joseph Cortese3, Kayla Barnes1, Rachel Daniels2, David Rosen1, Michele LaRoux3, Daria Van Tyne1, Charles Johnson2, Ousmane Sarr4, Souleymane Mboup5, Danny Miliner, Jr.1, James Galagan3, Roger Wiegand1, Daniel Hartl1, Bruce Birren1, Eric Lander4, Dyann Wirth1, Pardis Sabeti1

1Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA, United States, 2The Broad Institute, Cambridge, MA, United States, 3Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, United States, 4Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar, Senegal

Genetic diversity in *Plasmodium falciparum* underlies the ability of this human pathogen to escape host immunity and develop drug resistance, allowing it to remain an agent of significant morbidity and mortality. Understanding the nature and extent of this genetic diversity is essential for the development of intervention strategies, as well to monitor the response of the parasite once these interventions are applied. We have developed the first genome-wide genotyping array of malaria, with more than 17 thousand single nucleotide polymorphisms, roughly 1 per kilobase across the genome, and used these markers to study 48 parasites from 3 continents. We have characterized genome-wide genetic diversity and identified several novel candidates for positive natural selection using signals of diversity, population divergence, and long-range haplotypes.

We have further created a platform and carried out one of the first genome-wide association studies in malaria, using well characterized phenotypes of drug resistance for chloroquine and pyrimethamine. Even with a limited number of samples, we were able to identify with genome-wide significance two well-known drug resistance loci, the *pfCRT* and *dhfr* loci, as well as identified novel candidate resistance loci. We will discuss these findings and the approaches to validate candidate loci identified in genome-wide scans.

#### 379

**TIMP-1 IN RESPONSE TO EGG ANTIGENS PREDICTS HEPATIC FIBROSIS IN HUMAN SCHISTOSOMA JAPONICUM INFECTION**

Valeria Fabre1, Hauwei Wu1, Sunthorn Pond-Tor1, Hannah M. Coutinho1, Luz P. Acosta2, Mario A. Jiz1, Remigio M. Olvedo3, Blanca Jarilla1, Stephen T. McGarvey2, Subburaman Mohan3, David Baylink1, Keith Alvares3, Arthur Veis3, Jennifer F. Friedman1, Jonathan D. Kurtis1

1Center for International Health Research, Providence, RI, United States, 2Research Institute of Tropical Medicine, Manila, Philippines, 3Brown University, Providence, RI, United States, 4Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA, United States, 5Northwestern University, Chicago, IL, United States

Schistosomes infect 200M individuals and cause significant hepatic fibrosis in up to 20%. Little is known regarding the mechanisms of schistosome-associated hepatic fibrosis and few biomarkers for risk of fibrosis have been identified. We enrolled 611 S. japonicum-infected Filipinos aged 7-30 years. Individuals were treated with praziquantel (PZQ) at baseline and abdominal ultrasound to quantify hepatomegaly and hepatic fibrosis was performed at baseline and 12 months post-PZQ. Stool for assessment of *Schistosoma japonicum* infection was collected at baseline and 3, 6, 9 and 12 months post-PZQ. We developed a multiplexed assay (FibroLux) that quantifies five markers: MIP-1α, IL-13, CTGF, BMP-7, IL-13RA2, TGF-β, effect modifiers (TIMP-1, MMP-1) and outcomes (PICP, Collagen IV and ICTP) associated with fibrosis. We measured FibroPlex (a multiplexed assay) that quantifies predictors (MIP-1a, IL-13, CTGF, BMP-7, IL-13RA2, TGF-β), effect modifiers (TIMP-1, MMP-1) and outcomes (PICP, Collagen IV, and ICTP) associated with fibrosis. We measured FibroLux analytes produced by PBMC stimulated with SEA 4 wks post-PZQ and related these to risk of hepatomegaly and fibrosis 1 yr post-PZQ. After adjusting for age, ht, sex, SES, baseline liver span, baseline *S. japonicum* infection...
intensity. *S. japonicum* intensity 1 yr post-PZQ and water contact, the levels of MIP-1α, CTGF, BMP-7, and TIMP-1 predicted subsequent liver span 1 yr post-PZQ (all P < 0.05). In similar models, only TIMP-1 in response to SEA predicted increased grade of fibrosis 1 yr post-PZQ (P = 0.004). Individuals with detectible TIMP-1 had a 90% greater risk of fibrosis 1 yr post-PZQ compared to individuals with undetectable levels (OR = 1.89, P = 0.005). We identified several analytes that predict hepatomegaly 1 yr post-PZQ. In addition, we identified one analyte, TIMP-1, that was a significant predictor of hepatic fibrosis 1 yr post-PZQ. Because TIMP-1 inhibits most matrix metalloproteases (MMPs) which are responsible for collagen degradation, these data suggest that schistosome-associated hepatic fibrosis results in part from inappropriate inhibition of collagen remodeling. These data further suggest that TIMP-1 is a promising biomarker for assessing risk of hepatic fibrosis in schistosome endemic areas.

**380**

**BASOPHILS PLAY A POSSIBLE IMMUNO-REGULATORY ROLE DURING SCHISTOSOMA MANSONI INFECTION IN MICE**

William K. Anyan¹, Takashi Kumaqi¹, Kazushige Obata¹, Reiko Shimogawara¹, Bethel Kwansa-Bentum¹, K.wabena M. Bosompem², Hajime Karasuyama¹, Nobuo Ohta¹

¹Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Tokyo, Japan, ²Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, Accra, Ghana

Basophils, once regarded as minor and likely redundant cells are gradually emerging as the Cinderella of immunoregulation in recent studies. We investigate whether basophils are involved during *Schistosoma mansoni* infection and what is/are the stimulants. Furthermore, does basophils stimulation result in the characteristic cytokine balance (IL-4 - a central immunoregulatory cytokine activation). Utilizing single male, female and bisexual *S. mansoni* parasites in BALB/c mice infection we revealed basophils maximal peak at week 7 in all three groups, however, only bisexual infected group producing eggs was markedly high in bone marrow. Spleen basophils from same groups revealed a minimal peak at 4th week for all groups returning to basal level by 5th week and thereafter, except for the bisexual group that sharply increased after 6th week and maintained peaking as bone marrow basophils decreased. Spleen granulocytes correlated with spleen basophils for each group. Specific IgE and IgG1 were also shown to be produced significantly from weeks 6 and 7 increasing thereof. Preliminary work on spleen cytokines shows correlation of IL-4 with increase in number of basophils. Eggs remain the principal stimulator of basophils, and tempting to speculate that basophils may play a critical role in immune regulation. Our on-going studies are aimed at uncovering concrete evidence for it.

**381**

**INCREASES IN SCHISTOSOME-SPECIFIC IGE AND CD19+/CD23+ B CELLS IN A COHORT OF KENYAN CHILDREN UNDERGOING REPEATED TREATMENT AND REINFECTION WITH SCHISTOSOMA MANSONI**

Carla L. Black¹, Erick M. Muok², Jennifer M. Carter³, Pauline N. Mwinzi², Diana M. Karanja¹, W. Evan Secor¹, Daniel G. Colley¹

¹University of Georgia, Athens, GA, United States, ²Kenya Medical Research Institute, Kisumu, Kenya, ³Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, United States

Age prevalence curves suggest that children in areas endemic for *Schistosoma mansoni* develop partial resistance to reinfection with *S. mansoni* in the early teen years, coinciding with the natural death of the worms they likely acquired in early childhood. Previous research by our group has shown that adults can develop resistance to *S. mansoni* reinfection after repeated cycles of treatment, cure, and reinfection. Increased IgE is the immunologic parameter most consistently associated with this development of resistance. To determine if children undergo similar immunological changes after experiencing multiple rounds of treatment-induced worm deaths, we conducted a 2-year longitudinal study in which 8-10 year old Kenyan children were tested for *S. mansoni* every 4 months and treated with praziquantel (PZQ) when positive. All children were recruited from schools within 3 kilometers of Lake Victoria and were positive for *S. mansoni* and received PZQ treatment at baseline. Children that did not become reinfected with *S. mansoni* after the initial PZQ treatment, and were thus deemed putatively "resistant", had significantly higher levels of schistosome-specific IgE at baseline than did those children who became reinfected 2 or more times during the 2-year follow-up. Furthermore, children that received 3 or more PZQ treatments upon reinfection significantly increased their IgE between baseline and 2-year follow-up, while there were no significant changes in IgE over the course of follow-up in the putatively resistant children who received only baseline treatment. The percentage of CD19+/CD23+ B cells, potentially the producers of IgE, also significantly increased between baseline and follow-up in those children that received 3 or more PZQ treatments. These results suggest that B cell activation and anti-schistosomal IgE are associated with resistance to *S. mansoni* in children, and these immunological parameters can be increased by multiple rounds of infections and PZQ-induced cures.

**382**

**FACTORS ASSOCIATED TO TOTAL AND SPECIFIC IGE LEVELS IN RESIDENTS OF AN ENDEMIC AREA FOR SCHISTOSOMIASIS IN MINAS GERAIS, BRAZIL**

Andrea Gazzinelli¹, Leonardo F. Matoso¹, Ricardo Fujiwara¹, João Paulo A. Haddad¹, Helmut Kloos², Rodrigo Correa-Oliveira²

¹Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil, ²University California San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, United States, ³Fundação Oswaldo Cruz, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

This study examines the relationship between demographic factors, water contact, reinfection with *S. mansoni* and serological levels of total IgE and specific IgE against SEA (soluble egg antigen, IgE-SEA) and SWAP (soluble worm adult proteins, IgE-SWAP) antigens. Of 301 residents examined in an endemic area in Brazil 65% (CI95% 58.72-71.28) had *S. mansoni* infection, with a geometric mean egg count of 59.3 (CI95% 54.93-63.61). One year after treatment, prevalence was 13.8% (CI95% 6.01-21.50) and geometric mean egg counts 24.3 (CI95% 17.70-30.96). Before treatment, higher number of eggs in the stool were observed in patients in the age group of 15-29 while higher prevalence was observed in the age group of 30-49. After treatment, the intensity, prevalence and reinfection were higher among individuals in the age group of 6-14 when compared to the other groups. Total IgE levels (mg/mL) were significantly decreased from 7.8 (CI95% 6.6-9.6) to 3.8 (CI95% 3.2-4.3) after treatment. Total IgE levels increased with age and were higher in male individuals. Moreover, the lowest median of total IgE levels were observed among schistosomiasis negative individuals when compared to those from reinfeected- and non-reinfected groups. Analysis of IgE-SEA and IgE-SWAP showed that significant differences in antibody production were detected according to sex, age groups and intensity of infection. IgE-SWAP levels after treatment were significantly higher in reinfeected- and non-reinfected subjects when compared to those presented by egg-negative individuals. A bivariate analysis showed that water contact activities such as crossing stream, washing clothes and dishes were statistically correlated with total IgE levels after treatment and no statistical correlation with both IgE-SEA and IgE-SWAP levels after treatment. These results suggest that water contact activities might have an important effect on total IgE levels after treatment and that higher total IgE levels after treatment seems to be a predictive factor of reinfection by *S. mansoni*. Although differences in the IgE-SWAP production were observed among reinfeected, non-reinfected and egg-negative individuals, the use of IgE-SWAP ELISA in predicting reinfection by *S. mansoni* is still inconclusive. Further studies of these groups are being carried out by our group in the study area.
in situ shrinkage and increased PS exposure, a potential signal for apoptosis. Accordingly, SEA-treated erythrocytes display dose-dependent, higher cell death and provide a new insight into schistosomiasis-induced anemia. This work to investigate the induction of protective immunity to S. mansoni infection and the immunomodulatory effect of the combined vaccines. These results suggested that mice anti-Id MAbS combined with human anti-Id could mimic at the T cell level the properties of a protective antigenic epitopes of the targeted-cercariae vaccine and the targeted selectivity of SEA-conjugate immuno-suppressors with marked reduction of the immunopathology that resulted in hepatic granuloma formation and subsequent fibrosis.

**ENHANCEMENT OF PROTECTIVE IMMUNITY AND IMMUNOMODULATION OF LIVER GRANULOMA FORMATION WITH THE COMBINATION OF HUMAN AND MICE ANTI-IDIOPTYC VACCINE MODEL IN SCHISTOSOMA MANSONI INFECTED MICE**

Mohamed A. Ali, Mohamed Emad Abd El-Fattah
Faculty of Medicine, Minia, Egypt

Schistosomiasis is a direct consequence of the immunological response to ovoidiposition in the tissue of the host. Vaccination trials have been studied for achieving the highest rates of protection against infection. The regression in pathology has been attributed to modulation due to immunoregulatory events affecting T cell response to egg antigens. Human anti-idiotypic vaccines (H anti-IdS) in experimental schistosomiasis achieving varying degrees of resistance to challenge S. mansoni infection and mice IgG1 subclass monoclonal antibodies (M anti-ids: 9F/5D and 3F/9C) were selected from a panel of MAbs due to its high reactivity and strict selectivity to Schistosoma antigens. So, the objective of the present work was to investigate the induction of protective immunity to S. mansoni infection and the immunomodulatory effect of the combined immunization by the two vaccine models injected prior to infection. To further characterize the mechanisms associated with such vaccine models, on the protective immunity; on liver granuloma formation; on the distribution of T cell subsets and serum cytokines profile responsible for initiation of immunopathology, the following study was done: mice were divided into 4 groups; gp. I: Positive control (mice injected with saline); gp. II: vaccinated H anti-id alone; gp. III: vaccinated M anti-id alone; gp. IV: vaccinated combination of the two vaccines. Two weeks after the last immunization, all mice were challenged with 50 S. mansoni cercariae. Mice were sacrificed 8 weeks post-infection, liver granuloma size; change in worm burden and ova count was evaluated; T cell subsets and ELISA cytokines profile were estimated and compared to the control mice. Vaccination of C57BL/6 mice with M anti-id have resulted in ~3% protection, with H anti-id resulted in ~31% protection and with the combination of the two vaccine resulted in ~42% protection.
EVALUATION OF NOVEL DIPSTICK ASSAYS FOR THE DETECTION OF RIFT VALLEY FEVER VIRUS IN MOSQUITOES

Michael J. Turell1, Kirti Dave1, Sonia Dave2, Maria Mayda3, Zahra Parker1, Russell E. Coleman4, Daniel Strickman5

1United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, Fort Detrick, MD, United States, 2VecTOR Test Systems, Inc., Thousand Oaks, CA, United States, 3Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Silver Spring, MD, United States, 4United States Army Medical Material Development Activity, Fort Detrick, MD, United States, 5United States Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, MD, United States

Rift Valley fever (RVFV) is a mosquito-borne virus that occurs naturally in various areas in Africa and the Middle East. The ability to detect rapidly RVFV within mosquitoes is key to the early identification of areas at risk of disease outbreaks and will facilitate the effective implementation of prevention and control measures both in countries in which RVFV naturally occurs as well as in areas where the virus may be introduced. Because there are currently no field-deployable rapid assays for detecting RVFV in mosquitoes, we developed a hand-held immunochromatographic assay similar to the West Nile and St. Louis encephalitis VecTEST™ assays. We evaluated several combinations of capture and detector monoclonal antibodies, and resultant dipsticks were readily able to detect a single RVFV-infected mosquito in a pool containing 24 virus-negative specimens. The dipstick assay was able to detect 90% of pools containing a single mosquito with a titer >10^5 plaque-forming units (PFU) of RVFV (titers typical of a mosquito with a disseminated infection), but failed to detect viral antigen in mosquitoes containing <10^3 PFU (titers found in infected, but non-transmitting mosquitoes). These specimens were also tested by RT-PCR and the dipstick detected RVFV antigen in >90% of specimens with CT values <23, but rarely detected antigen in specimens with CT values >25. No false positives were detected. Because one of the concerns with working with field-collected mosquitoes is the potential for contact with infectious material, we evaluated the effect of the “grinding” medium on infectious virus, and infectious virus was not detected from specimens triturated in grinding medium. This new dipstick assay for detecting RVFV should allow for the rapid detection of RVFV from field-collected specimens without the need for expensive equipment or highly trained personnel.

USING LUMINEX TO IDENTIFY CULEX BLOODMEALS AND EVALUATE TRAP BIAS

Tara C. Thiemann, William K. Reisen

University of California, Davis, Davis, CA, United States

Because vertebrate host species vary in their competence for West Nile Virus (WNV) and mosquito infection with the virus is dependent on high host viremias, bloodmeal identification may play an important role in understanding varying levels of WNV transmission. In recent years, DNA sequencing of mitochondrial genes has been the most common method of bloodmeal identification in mosquitoes. Although sequencing is extremely robust, it can be expensive and time consuming for large host identification projects. With over 6,000 bloodfed mosquitoes collected throughout California and preserved for bloodmeal analysis, species-specific Luminex® probes were developed to quickly and inexpensively identify bloodmeals from the most common avian and mammalian hosts of Cx. tarsalis and the Cx. pipiens complex, the major vectors of WNV in California. Using a combination of Luminex® and DNA sequencing, preliminary results from one study site, a heronry, suggest that Cx. tarsalis feeds predominantly on the most abundant hosts at this site, namely herons and egrets. When these birds fledge and leave the site, bloodfeeding shifts to other avian as well as mammalian hosts. The Luminex®-sequencing combination was also used to evaluate the importance of trap bias in bloodmeal identification studies. Bloodmeals were identified from Cx. tarsalis collected by CO2 traps, gravid traps and from resting boxes at the same study site over the same period of time. In the future, this identification approach will be used to efficiently compare bloodmeal selection in various biomes and environments throughout California.

EPIDEMIOLOGY OF WEST NILE VIRUS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: THE ROLE OF CULEX QUINQUEFASCIATUS AND HOUSE FINCHES

Goudarz Molaei1, Robert F. Cummings2, Philip M. Armstrong1, Tianyun Su3, Greg A. Williams4, Min-Lee Cheng5, James P. Webb5, Theodore G. Andreadis1

1The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, CT, United States, 2Orange County Vector Control District, Garden Grove, CA, United States, 3West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District, Ontario, CA, United States, 4Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control District, Corona, CA, United States

Since the invasion of California by West Nile virus (family Flaviviridae, genus Flavivirus, WNV) in 2003, evidence of infection has been continuously obtained in mosquitoes, wild birds, and mammals including humans. We investigated blood feeding behavior of Culex quinquefasciatus Say, Cx. tarsalis Coquillett, Cx. erythrothorax Dyar, and Cx. stigmatosoma Dyar in order to evaluate their respective roles in transmission of WNV by using a PCR method based on cytochrome b gene of mitochondrial DNA. Our analyses of engorged mosquitoes collected from three southern counties in California revealed that all aforementioned species acquired blood meals from birds and mammals, emphasizing the important roles for these mosquitoes in both enzootic and epizootic/epidemic transmission of WNV. Culex quinquefasciatus acquired greater than one third of blood meals from the house finches (Carpodacus mexicanus), suggesting the importance of this WNV-competent avian species in enzootic cycling of the virus in the region. Thus, based on abundance, opportunistic blood feeding on a variety of competent birds and mammals, including humans, vector competence and high infection rate, we conclude that Cx. quinquefasciatus is the principal vector of WNV and that house finches play a significant role in virus amplification in southern California. Other mosquito species, such as Cx. tarsalis and Cx. stigmatosoma, are also spatial and temporal contributors to WNV transmission.

COMMUNAL AVIAN ROOSTS AS AMPLIFICATION FOCI FOR WEST NILE VIRUS IN URBAN AREAS IN NORTHEASTERN USA

Maria A. Diuk-Wasser1, Goudarz Molaei2, Jennifer E. Simpson1, Corrine M. Folsom3, Philip M. Armstrong2, Theodore G. Andreadis2

1Yale University, New Haven, CT, United States, 2The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, CT, United States

The eco-epidemiological factors leading to spatial heterogeneity in enzootic and epidemic transmission of WNV to humans are not well understood. Culex pipiens and Cx. restuans have been recognized as the primary enzootic mosquito vectors and American Robins (Turdus migratorius) as the most common host early in the transmission season in the northeastern United States. A comparatively lower number of Robin-derived blood meals in mosquitoes later in the transmission season concurrent with the occurrence of most human cases have been attributed in part to a seasonal shift in mosquito feeding to humans and other birds. We propose that the comparatively lower number of Robin-derived bloodmeals later in the season is most likely due to post-breeding use of communal roosting locations in these birds that have been overlooked in prior surveys. By radio-tracking Robins, we located seven Robin and mixed species communal roosts within New Haven, CT an urban focus of WNV. We collected host-seeking and resting mosquitoes around the seven roost locations as well as in three sites located away from roosts. We found that minimum infection rates for WNV in Cx. pipiens and Cx. restuans were

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significantly higher in communal roosts than in non-roost sites during the same time period. Within the roosts, we identified Cx. pipiens and Cx. restuans feeding on Robins in late summer and fall. By analysis of 115 engorged Aedes vexans collected around the roosts we identified avian- (5.2%), and mammalian-derived bloodmeals (94.8%) of which 6.4% (n = 7) were from human hosts. Our collective evidence points to these roosting locations as important late-season amplification foci that facilitate spillover transmission to humans due to high infection rates in the enzootic vectors, as well as greater potential for bridging WNV to humans by opportunistic mosquitoes such as Aedes vexans. We propose that these communal roosts may be an overlooked feature in other WNV endemic areas that could explain spatial patterns of WNV transmission.

WEST NILE VIRUS AFFECTS THE RATE OF BLOOD DIGESTION IN CULEX PIPIENS QUINQUEFASCIATUS SAY (DIPTERA: CULICIDAE)

Sheri L. Anderson, Stephanie L. Richards, Chelsea T. Smartt, Jonathan F. Day

University of Florida, Vero Beach, FL, United States

Culex pipiens quinquefasciatus were fed blood meals containing a high virus dose (6.2 logs plaque-forming units (pfu) West Nile virus (WNV)/mL), low virus dose (5.3 logs pfu WNV/mL), or no virus and incubated at 28°C. Twenty mosquitoes per group were collected daily from one to six days post-infection (dpi) and the rate of blood digestion was scored using the Sella scale. Bodies and legs of mosquitoes fed blood meals containing WNV were separated and tested for virus to determine rates of midgut infection and viral dissemination out of the midgut. There were no significant differences in rates of infection, dissemination, or digestion between mosquitoes given blood meals containing a low or high virus dose (p ≥ 0.05). However, at two dpi, mosquitoes given either virus dose showed significantly faster digestion rates compared to mosquitoes given an uninfected blood meal (p = 0.004). This finding suggests that WNV increases the rate of blood digestion in Cx. p. quinquefasciatus. Increased digestion rates in virus-infected mosquitoes may shorten the gonotrophic cycle and increase the chance that an infectious mosquito will take a subsequent blood meal. This phenomenon may serve to facilitate and increase the transmission rate of WNV in nature.

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN MEASURES OF VECTOR COMPETENCE FOR CULEX PIPIENS QUINQUEFASCIATUS (DIPTERA: CULICIDAE) INFECTED WITH WEST NILE VIRUS

Stephanie L. Richards, Sheri L. Anderson, Cynthia C. Lord, Chelsea T. Smartt, Walter J. Tabachnick

University of Florida, Vero Beach, FL, United States

Virus growth within mosquito tissues affects vector capacity for virus transmission and can affect our assessment of vector competence if measured at only one time point. To address this, Culex pipiens quinquefasciatus were fed blood meals containing 6.9 logs plaque-forming units (pfu) of West Nile virus (WNV) / mL and held at 28°C for extrinsic incubation periods (EIP) of 7 d, 14 d, or 21 d. These EIPs were chosen to represent points in the virus transmission period that were early (i.e. early dissemination out of the midgut), intermediate, and late. We investigated vector competence measured as rates of infection (% with WNV-positive abdomens), dissemination (% with WNV-positive legs or thoraces), and transmission (% with WNV-positive saliva), as well as WNV titer in abdomens, legs, thoraces, and saliva. As has often been observed, preliminary results indicate that rates (percent at 7 d, 14 d, 21 d, respectively) of infection (abdomens = 100, 100, 100%), dissemination (legs = 91, 98, 97%; thoraces = 88, 98, 100%), and transmission (saliva = 2, 27, 25%) increased or were equivalent with increasing EIP. We also observed that titers (logs pfu WNV / mL ± SE at 7
CLINICAL AND PRECLINICAL EVALUATION OF DENVax, A TETRAVALENT DEN-2 PDK-53-BASED CHIMERIC DENGUE VACCINE


Inovirgen, Inc., Fort Collins, CO, United States; Inovirgen, Inc., Madison, WI, United States; Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO, United States; Division of Vector-Borne Infectious Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Fort Collins, CO, United States; University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, United States

Among the mosquito-borne viruses, dengue viruses (DENVs) are notable for their global distribution and the frequency of large scale epidemics that they cause. To date, there is no effective vaccine to prevent against DENV infections. DENVax is a tetravalent DENV vaccine based on using the DENV-2 vaccine, strain PDK-53, as a vector. Three chimeric recombinant viruses were constructed, each bearing the vector’s capsid and non-structural gene backbone while expressing DENV-1, DENV-3 or DENV-4 prM (pre-membrane) and E (envelope) structural genes. The safety, immunogenicity, and protective efficacy of GMP-quality DENVax formulations were tested in mice and in monkeys. In these studies, we identified tetravalent formulations that: i) were safe and caused limited viremia after vaccination, ii) induced neutralizing antibodies to all four DENV serotypes, and iii) conferred protection in both species. Toxicology studies were performed in AG129 mice that lack the interferon-αβ receptors and are permissive for dengue virus replication. DENVax was safe in these mice, generating only mild, transient physiological changes relative to wild type (wt) DENV-2. Similarly in monkeys there were no notable changes in body weight, temperature and hematological parameters following vaccine administration. Levels of viremia after initial vaccine inoculation were low and limited in duration. Viremia was exclusively (monkeys) or predominantly (AG129 mice) limited to the DENV-2 PDK-53 component; the chimeras were significantly less viremic. Despite the low viremia, neutralizing antibodies to all four DENV serotypes were induced in both mice and monkeys. Immunized mice were 100% protected against lethal challenge with wt DENV-1 or DENV-2. Immunized monkeys were also protected from DENV-induced viremia after wt DENV-1, -2, -3, or -4 challenge. These preclinical studies set the stage for human clinical testing of the safety of DENVax formulations in dengue wt DENV-1, -2, -3, or -4 challenge. These preclinical studies set the stage for the DENVax vaccine testing strategy will be discussed.

SAFETY AND IMMUNOGENICITY OF A TETRAVALENT DENGUE VACCINE IN FLAVIVIRUS-NAIVE AND -IMMUNE PEDIATRIC POPULATIONS WITH TWO VACCINATION REGIMENS

Denis Crevat, Donna Reynolds, Edith Langevin, Maria R. Capeding

Sanofi Pasteur, Marcy L’etoile, France; Sanofi Pasteur, Toronto, ON, Canada; Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Muntinlupa City, Philippines

A tetravalent dengue vaccine for use in endemic areas should be well tolerated and immunogenic in children previously exposed to flaviviruses (FV) and FV-naïve subjects. Seventy-two Filipino children aged 2-11 years old were randomized to two groups: Group 1 (n=48) received three tetravalent dengue vaccine (TDV) doses at 0, 3-4 and 12 months. Group 2 (n=24) received two TDV doses at 0 and 8-9 months. Baseline flavivirus serostatus (FV+) was determined by the presence of dengue and/or Japanese encephalitis virus antibodies in samples taken at enrollment. Vaccine safety and immune response were evaluated after each vaccination in FV- versus FV+ populations. Immune response was measured by PRNT50 for each dengue serotype and expressed as both geometric mean titer (GMT) and percent of seropositive subjects (titer ≥10 [1/dil]). The percent of subjects seropositive for at least three serotypes was also analyzed. Most injection site and systemic reactions were mild or moderate, lasting less >3 days. The reactogenicity profile was similar in FV+ and FV- children, with slightly more frequent mild to moderate fever in FV- population. Adverse events were less frequent after second and third TDV doses. The reactogenicity profile was unaffected by the period between first and second TDV doses. A balanced immune response was obtained against all four serotypes after three doses in FV- children. GMT and seropositivity rates increased after each vaccination in FV+ children. Interestingly, two doses at 0 and 8-9 months induced immune responses similar to three doses at 0, 3-4 and 12. Full statistical analysis is ongoing and specific GMT and seropositivity rates will be presented. In conclusion, TDV was well tolerated and immunogenic in children regardless of previous FV exposure. These data support a longer interval between first and second dose. However, three doses are required to reach a balanced immune response against all four serotypes. With these considerations in mind, a 0-6-12 month three dose schedule months will be used in TDV evaluation trials in endemic areas.

EVALUATION OF NEUTRALIZING ANTIBODY RESPONSES AGAINST A LARGE RANGE OF WILD-TYPE ISOLATES IN SERA OF PRIMATES VACCINATED WITH A TETRAVALENT DENGUE VACCINE

Veronique Barban, Yves Girerd, Nadège Arnaud-Barbe, Nathalie Mantel, Sandrine Gulia, Jorge L. Munoz-Jordan, Rafaela Dumas

Sanofi Pasteur, Marcy L’etoile, France; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, San Juan, PR, United States

A live-attenuated, tetravalent dengue vaccine (TDV) based on chimeric viruses made by deleting prM/E genes of YF17D vaccine and replacing by the DENV prM/E genes is in phase 2 clinical trials. Serum-neutralization is routinely evaluated against DENV wild-type (wt) strains from which TDV E genes were derived (DENV-1/PUO-359, DENV-2/PR-159, DENV-3/PaH881, DENV-4/TVP-980). The potential of vaccine-elicited antibodies to neutralize a spectrum of circulating DENV strains was first investigated by aligning the DENV E gene sequence of each of the four TDV serotype viruses with sequences retrieved from public databases according to their year and place of isolation. Intra-serotype variation in this genomic region is very low and no significant differences were seen. In addition, each parent vaccine sequence had ≥99% identity with consensus sequence of its related serotype. The few unmatched residues were introduced into a three-dimensional TDV E model and most of them showed no potential impact on antigenicity based on domain location, accessibility and biochemical changes. We concluded from this in silico study that the anti-E antibodies elicited against the vaccine viruses have the potential to neutralize a wide range of DENV strains. A second approach was conducted to confirm experimentally these observations. Recent DENV-1-4 field isolates (≥ 10 strains per serotype) were collected from various endemic areas (Asia-Pacific, Africa, Caribbean, South America, and Martinique) and sequenced to determine their genotype. All the viruses were isolated on mosquito cells and were used at low-passages (two to three amplifications on mammalian cells). A pool of sera obtained from monkeys immunized with two or three doses of TDV was tested in parallel against homologous (parent DENV) or heterologous (wt isolates) strains for its DENV neutralizing ability. In an assay including 16 Asian strains isolated in the last 5 years, similar neutralizing titers were seen against all strains, supporting the hypothesis that TDV-elicited antibodies have the potential to cross-neutralize recent wt DENV strains. Implications for a human vaccine testing strategy will be discussed.

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CLINICAL EVALUATION OF LIVE ATTENUATED DEN3 VACCINE CANDIDATES

Stephen S. Whitehead1, Alexander C. Schmidt1, Julie H. McArthur2, Jennifer A. Marron2, Daniel Elwood2, Bhavin Thumar2, Kimberli A. Wanionek2, Dennis Pierro1, Joseph E. Blaney1, Brian R. Murphy2, Anna P. Durbin2

1Laboratory of Infectious Diseases, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, United States, 2Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD, United States

Several molecular genetic strategies have been used to develop a dengue virus type 3 (DEN3) live attenuated vaccine candidate suitable for inclusion in a tetravalent dengue vaccine. Antigenic chimeric viruses have been generated in which the prM-E genes of vaccine candidate DEN4Δ30 have been replaced with the corresponding genes from a DEN3 wild-type virus. Additional DEN3 vaccine candidates have been generated using full-length DEN3 in which the 3′-UTR contains two deletion mutations (ΔA30/31) or in which the entire 3′-UTR has been replaced with that derived from DEN4Δ30 (3′ΔA30). Chimeric virus candidate DEN3ΔA30 (structural genes from DEN3 Sri Lanka/78 isolated from a mild outbreak) has recently been evaluated in volunteers at a single dose of 101 pfu (n = 20) or 102 pfu (n = 20). Although this vaccine candidate was well tolerated by all volunteers, the level of infectivity was too low (HID10 > 10 pfu, seroconversion rate 25 - 30%) to justify further development. To test the hypothesis that the prM and E genes from DEN3 Sri Lanka/78 may be responsible for the observed low infectivity of the chimeric virus for humans, an additional chimeric virus was constructed using structural genes derived from a virus isolated from a severe outbreak (DEN3 Sri Lanka/91). In rhesus monkeys, the infectivity of the Sri Lanka/91 and Sri Lanka/78 chimeric viruses was similar, and the Sri Lanka/91 chimeric virus was not considered for evaluation in humans. Initial clinical evaluation of rDEN3-3′ΔA30 is nearing completion, and the virus is safe and well tolerated by all volunteers. The frequency of viremia (20%), the mean peak titer of virus in blood (0.6 log10 pfu/mL), and the frequency of rash (25%) and neutropenia (10%) are similar to values observed for our highly infectious DEN1, DEN2, and DEN4 vaccine candidates. Neutralizing antibody titers and seroconversion rates are pending and will be presented. An IND application for the clinical evaluation of DEN3ΔA30/31 has been submitted.

SAFETY AND IMMUNOGENICITY OF A 2-DOSE REGIMEN OF rDEN1Δ30 DENGUE SEROTYPE 1 VACCINE WITH BOOSTING AT FOUR VERSUS SIX MONTHS

Anna P. Durbin1, Stephen S. Whitehead2, Daniel Elwood1, Wangeci Kagucia1, Bhavin Thumar1, Kimberli A. Wanionek1, Dennis Pierro2, Brian R. Murphy3, Alexander C. Schmidt1

1Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD, United States, 2National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, United States

Studies of live attenuated tetravalent (LATV) dengue virus vaccine to date have indicated that multiple doses of the vaccine may be required to induce adequate neutralizing antibody responses to all 4 serotypes. In preparation for initiating clinical trials with our LATV, we evaluated the effect of a second dose of the DEN1 candidate vaccine rDEN1Δ30 given 4 or 6 months after the first dose. Sixty volunteers were enrolled and randomized to receive a second dose of vaccine or placebo at 4 or 6 months. Twenty-five volunteers in each group received vaccine (1,000 PFU dose subcutaneously) and 5 each received placebo (vaccine diluent). The vaccine was well tolerated. No vaccine-related SAEs were reported. Following first vaccination (n = 50), the most common vaccine-related adverse events were a non-pruritic rash (27%) and transient neutropenia (43%), the incidence and severity of which were not significantly different from those observed in a previous trial of rDEN1Δ30. No vaccinee developed fever. 67% of vaccinees had detectable viremia (mean peak titer = 1.06 ± 0.1 log10 PFU) following first vaccination and 94% of all vaccinees were infected. The geometric mean titer (GMT) at study day 42 following first vaccination was 99 (reciprocal titer, range -5 - 844). The GMT prior to dose 2 was 39 in the 4-month cohort (day 120) and 36 in the 6-month cohort (day 180). Following the second dose of vaccine at 4 or 6 months (n = 46), no vaccinee developed detectable viremia at any time point, nor did any vaccinee develop a flavivirus vaccine-like rash. 4/46 vaccinees (8.7%) became neutropenic following dose 2. None of the vaccinees developed a four-fold rise in DEN1 neutralizing antibody titer following dose 2. GMTs at day 42 post second vaccination were 36 (4-month cohort) and 31 (6-month cohort). In summary, this monotypic DEN1 vaccine virus is well tolerated and highly immunogenic, inducing sterilizing immunity to vaccine virus for at least 6 months.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF VACCINATION ON THE TRANSMISSION DYNAMICS OF DENGUE: A FOUR SEROTYPE MODEL

Laurent Coudéville, Laurence Pollissard
Sanofi Pasteur, Lyon, France

Several models of dengue transmission have been proposed but none combines the 4 following factors that are potentially key in the dynamics of this disease: host-vector interaction, interaction between the 4 serotypes, seasonality and age-structure of the population. This study was undertaken to develop a model of dengue transmission, to explore its ability to reproduce the observed disease dynamics and to assess with a well validated model the potential impact of vaccination. A set of ordinary differential equations is used to represent dengue transmission dynamics in humans and vectors. The model extending Bartley et al. (2002) enables to differentiate primary from subsequent cases and to consider both cross-protection and cross-interference either in isolation or sequentially. Cross-interference refers here to the possibility of an increased susceptibility after a first dengue infection and, in case of secondary infection, to an increased infectiousness or increased risk of severe outcome. Seasonality is generated by varying the vector birth rate. The model was used to reproduce Dengue transmission dynamics using parameters appropriate for Vietnam and Mexico and to assess the potential impact of routine and catch-up vaccination in those two countries. When seasonality and transient cross-protection between serotypes is included, dengue incidence exhibits multiyear cycles that represents well the observed dynamics of dengue. In the case of Vietnam, a 80% effective vaccine administered to 90% of toddlers could potentially reduce dengue incidence by more than 90% in the mid-long run. Both direct and indirect effects of vaccination contribute to this reduction, with a role of similar importance. Catch-up programs targeting children are likely to significantly accelerate the drop in disease incidence: in the most favorable scenario a 90% reduction can be obtained the first year. In conclusion, serotype interactions and seasonality play a key role in generating interannual cycles that are characteristics of dengue transmission. The model also shows the potentially dramatic impact of vaccination on disease control.

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and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, United States, 4World Health Organization, mark e. Beatty

in the immunocompromised human host, ehrlichiosis may be fatal. as asymptomatic, producing mild to moderate acute febrile illness. However, sp. Most cases of ehrlichiosis are cause by after 5-7 days. As a CDC notifiable disease, ehrlichiosis refers to infections Ehrlichia produces cytoplasmic inclusion bodies (morulas) granulocytes, Persulcatus. As obligate intracellular parasites of mononuclear cells and (American dog or wood tick), and Amblyomma americanum mirrors that of the definitive host (white footed mouse, white tail deer) to the mammalian host. In the USA, distribution of human Ehrlichiosis Ehrlichia spp parallels the distribution of the tick vectors that transmit further. Twelve studies were identified that reported national or regional cost of illness of dengue with most focusing on outbreaks. Five of these 12 examined only the government costs of prevention and control. Four studies reported dengue COI from the perspective of the healthcare system and 6 from the household perspective. There were 2 published studies of potential cost-effectiveness of dengue vaccination compared to either vector control or case management, and 6 additional studies of the cost-effectiveness of vector control. Finally, one reported willingness of the general public to pay for a dengue vaccine, and one reported policymakers’ views regarding dengue vaccine implementation. In conclusion, compared to some diseases, there are limited data on the economic burden of dengue. Additional research is indicated. The panel recommended: [1] inclusion of information on adults and private sector patients and representative data from several types of health care facilities in a given country; [2] development of simple first generation economic models of dengue vaccination with clearly stated limitations; [3] development of dynamic transmissions models to assess herd protection from vaccination and the impact of different dengue immunization strategies; and [4] adherence of future vaccine cost-effectiveness studies to new WHO guides for evaluation of immunization programs.

Multiple dengue vaccines are approaching phase 3 clinical trials. Policy makers need cost-effectiveness studies to assess their usefulness. The objective of this study was to determine gaps in the literature and provide expert opinion for future economic studies. We searched PubMed, EconLit EMBASE, WHOLIS, LILAC and the reference lists of indexed manuscripts to identify dengue-specific health economic research through 2008. We convened a meeting of health economists, representatives from the pharmaceutical industry, and WHO. We identified 39 manuscripts or reports focusing the health economics of dengue. Seven manuscripts reported dengue burden in natural units and all used DALYs. Twelve studies were identified that reported national or regional cost of illness of dengue with most focusing on outbreaks. Five of these 12 examined only the government costs of prevention and control. Four studies reported dengue COI from the perspective of the healthcare system and 6 from the household perspective. There were 2 published studies of potential cost-effectiveness of dengue vaccination compared to either vector control or case management, and 6 additional studies of the cost-effectiveness of vector control. Finally, one reported willingness of the general public to pay for a dengue vaccine, and one reported policymakers’ views regarding dengue vaccine implementation. In conclusion, compared to some diseases, there are limited data on the economic burden of dengue. Additional research is indicated. The panel recommended: [1] inclusion of information on adults and private sector patients and representative data from several types of health care facilities in a given country; [2] development of simple first generation economic models of dengue vaccination with clearly stated limitations; [3] development of dynamic transmissions models to assess herd protection from vaccination and the impact of different dengue immunization strategies; and [4] adherence of future vaccine cost-effectiveness studies to new WHO guides for evaluation of immunization programs.

ERLICHIOSIS: A CASE REPORT FROM LYNCHBURG VIRGINIA

James R. Palmieri, Shaadi F. Elswaifi, John Schwartz Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Blacksburg, VA, United States

Ehrlichiosis, a tick borne disease caused by an obligate intracellular Gram negative bacterium (Anaplasmataceae) is reported from Malaysia, Borneo, Philippines, Japan, Russia, Tibet, and Thailand. Ehrlichiosis parallels the distribution of the tick vectors that transmit Ehrlichia spp to the mammalian host. In the USA, distribution of human Ehrlichiosis mirrors that of the definitive host (white footed mouse, white tail deer) and distribution of the tick vectors Amblyomma americanum (the Lone Star tick), Dermacentor variabilis (American dog or wood tick), and Ixodes persulcatus. As obligate intracellular parasites of mononuclear cells and granulocytes, Ehrlichia produces cytoplasmic inclusion bodies (morulas) after 5-7 days. As a CDC notifiable disease, ehrlichiosis refers to infections cause by Anaplasma or Ehrlichia spp. Most cases of ehrlichiosis are asymptomatic, producing mild to moderate acute febrile illness. However, in the immunocompromised human host, ehrlichiosis may be fatal. Serological methods for diagnosis of ehrlichiosis are often inconclusive; therefore, culture of the organism is required to obtain for definitive diagnosis. Case Report: The patient is a 57 year old caucasian in good health, non-smoker, and non-drinker with an active outdoor lifestyle. He is scoutmaster for a Lynchburg, VA scout troop and hikes and camps on a regular basis. The patient first noticed symptoms three weeks prior to admissions to the emergency room. He left work on Tuesday with a severe headache and went to his internist on Friday. He remembered removing a dog tick eight days prior. He was prescribed azithromycin. On Saturday the patient felt ill and lost appetite and decided to discontinue the antibiotic. The patient waited a week for the illness to clear, spent most of the time sleeping, missing work and had to force himself to eat and drink. The following Wednesday he returned to his internist, blood was drawn and sent to the Mayo Clinic for serological testing. On Saturday he was admitted to the hospital, and Lyme Disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever were ruled out. No rash was reported. Temperature fluctuated but never above 99°F. The patient had edema in the extremities and gained six pounds despite not eating. The patient was started on IV fluids and IV Tetracycline to treat what was believed and later confirmed to be ehrlichiosis. He was subsequently given oral tetracycline and released from the hospital.

KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES AMONG YELLOW FEVER VACCINE PROVIDERS AND CLINICS, PENNSYLVANIA, USA, 2008

Mark Gershman1, Betsy Schroeder1, Steve Ostroff2, Persianne Lune1, Mark Lamias3, Pauline Han1, Aimee Ferraro2, Phyllis Koizarsky4, Nina Marano1 1Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, United States, 2Pennsylvania Department of Health, Harrisburg, PA, United States

In the United States (US), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) delegates responsibility to state health departments to issue the uniform stamps used to validate the International Certificates of Vaccination required by the International Health Regulations. No evaluation of the Yellow Fever (YF) vaccination program to assess quality and safety issues has been performed in the US. This survey was conducted to determine the level of knowledge and quality of practices of YF vaccine providers and clinics in Pennsylvania (PA). YF stamp owners in PA were those listed on the CDC YF registry. YF providers were considered to be all YF stamp owners and associates they identified. YF providers were invited to complete a web-based or a mail-out paper survey. Site visits were conducted at a geographically stratified sample of YF clinics with probability proportionate to size for each state region. A total of 193 (56%) of 343 YF providers responded to the survey. Among respondents, 67% were physicians and 27% were nurses. On average, 70% (range, 40% to 91%) of providers correctly answered each of the 14 knowledge questions. Ninety percent knew that YF vaccine is a live virus vaccine, while 88% knew that the revaccination interval is 10 years. Fifty percent of providers incorrectly answered that CDC YF vaccine recommendations match destination country vaccine entry requirements. Providers with >5 years of YF vaccine experience were more likely to correctly identify regions endemic for YF than those providers with ≤5 years experience (odds ratio=3.5, 95% CI 1.6-7.6). Site visits were conducted at 21 (13%) of 165 PA YF clinics. Of the these clinics, 91% gave YF Vaccine Information Statements to all patients at the time of vaccination, but only 57% keep a log of all YF vaccine doses administered. In conclusion, the overall knowledge and practices of YF providers and clinics in PA are high. However, knowledge gaps and practice deficiencies exist, demonstrating the need for development and implementation of a YF vaccine-specific provider training module.
14-3-3β PROTEIN LEVEL IN THE CEREBROSPINAL FLUID AND SERUM AS AN INDICATOR OF DISEASE ACTIVITIES IN PATIENTS WITH PARASITE-INDUCED EOSINOPHILIC MENINGITIS

Hung-Chin Tsai, Min-Hon Shi, Pi-Yao Lee, I-Tzu Chen, Po-Shu Lin
Kaohsiung Veterans General Hospital, Kaohsiung, Taiwan

The 14-3-3β protein is a cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) marker of neuronal damage during the development of Creutzfeld-Jakob disease. In addition, increased 14-3-3β protein is also found in CSF from patients with a variety of neurological disorders. The goal of this study is to determine whether the levels of serum/CSF 14-3-3β protein in patients with eosinophilic meningitis could correlate with CSF abnormalities and clinical course. In a cohort study among nine Thai laborers with eosinophilic meningitis due to eating raw snails (Ampullaria canaliculata), we examined the CSF daily while patients were still hospitalized and followed up the serum for 6 months. The levels of 14-3-3β protein in CSF were analyzed by western blot and an in-house 14-3-3β enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) measurement was established. The correlation between 14-3-3β protein in CSF, laboratory abnormalities, and clinical severity and MRI findings were determined. All of the nine patients received a total of 23 lumbar punctures. The elevated 14-3-3β level was detected in the CSF from eight out of nine (81%) patients during initial hospital admission. After 2 weeks of treatment, all patients showed a declined level or cleared of 14-3-3β protein in the CSF. By developing an in-house ELISA for measurement of 14-3-3β protein, it was found that the serum 14-3-3β level was significantly increased in patients during initial visit. After treatment, the serum 14-3-3β level in meningitis patients was rapidly returned to normal threshold (Fig 1). There was a trend of correlation between initial CSF 14-3-3β level with pleocytosis or eosinophilia in the CSF of patients with eosinophilic meningitis (Spearman’s correlation test, r = 0.6, P = 0.089). In conclusion, the serum 14-3-3β concentrations may constitute a useful marker for disease severity and follow up in patients with eosinophilic meningitis caused by Angiostrongylus cantonensis.

MICROBIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF EROSION-ULCEROUS LESIONS IN UPPER PART OF THE DIGESTIVE TRACT IN PATIENTS WITH LIVER CIRRHOSIS AND PORTAL HYPERTENSION

Republican Specialized Center of Surgery, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Microbiological study conducted in patients before and after treatment. Gastric juice, biopsy materials from mucosa of the esophagus and cardia collected. Gastric juices obtained in the morning, on an empty stomach by fractional probe, biopsy materials obtained by esophagogastroscope biopsy. We identified micro flora of gastric juice (Helicobacter Pylori) (HP) and other microorganisms, as for biopsy materials, we studied micro flora and urease activity (methods developed previously). Isolated microorganisms were identified by generally accepted methods; for their sensitivity to antimicrobial drugs it was tested by disco-diffuse method. HP was cultivated from gastric juices in 57.5%, from biopsy material from cardia in 45.0% and esophagus (25.0%). Presence of antibodies to HP in the majority of samples (63.3%) is an evidence of HP persistence causes its respective reaction. Study of gastric juices acidity showed 22.5% of patients had normal secretion (5-10 mmol/hour), there was decreased gastric secretion in 77.5%. Cultivation assay of the mentioned microorganisms depending on gastric juice acidity level was particularly interesting. This assay showed tendency of HP exposure while acidity increasing and reverse tendency related to Candida. This tendency is especially obvious will testing gastric juices for HP and Candida. High frequency of HP in patients with LC might cause by various common and local factors: total reduce of resistance to infection in patients with LC, poor blood circulation in portal system resulted in local decrease of mucosa resistance in the gastroduodenal zone. At the same time, HP invasion worsens all the processes described above due to progressive mucosa atrophy and development of hypoxy- and achlorhydria. Different strains of HP differ by their virulence, i.e. ability for adhesion on GM and, probably, esophagus, and some other pathogenic features that allow HP to affect tissues of microorganism resulting bleeding and other complications. Pathogenesis of “hepatogenous” erosive-ulcerous process in the stomach of patients with LC and PH lasts for a long time with significant atrophy of the mucosa and, respectively, low secretor activity, accompanied by HP worsens course of the main disease and promote esophageal-gastric bleeding.

ORIGINAL ANTIBACTERIAL TECHNOLOGY IN THE PROPHYLAXIS AND COMPLEX TREATMENT OF PURULENT-INFLAMMATORY DISEASES OF THE LUNGS AT PATIENTS WITH LONG-TERM OF ARTIFICIAL VENTILATION OF LUNG

Republican Specialized Center of Surgery, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Artificial ventilation of lungs (AVL), improved technologies and methods of invasive respiratory support led to good results on intensive care of critical conditions. Nowadays the risks of developing ventilator-associated pneumonia, angiogenic sepsis, polyorganic insufficiency etc. are major concerns. The purpose of study was to investigate activity of the new antibacterial drug called “FarGALS” for prevention and treatment of pyo-inflammatory lung disease in patients being long-term AVL. By the results of bacteriologic tests from trachea, mouth, and swabs from bronchi of patient with AVL in 2008 patient were divided in 2 groups: 1st - patients administered FarGALS (1:4); 2nd - patient with traditional treatment. One hundred fifty samples were cultured with following antibiotic sensitivity test of isolates by disk diffusion method; 66 (43.0%) were culture positive, including gram positive (14.0%), gram negative (65.0%) and fungus (21.0%); 87 (57.0%) were culture negative. Antibiotic sensitivity test revealed resistance to meropenem (9.7% resistant strains), polymyxin B (10.0%), cefoxacin (39.0%) and amikacin (42.0%), in gram-negative bacteria, the resistance observed for penicillin. Antifungal resistance pattern revealed Candida resistant to Citeal (12.5% resistance strain), brittled ethyl green (17.0% resistant), sistance (22.0%), terbutalin (33.0%), amphotericin (34.0%) and fluconasole (43.0%). Analysis of the antimicrobial activity of FarGALS shows high sensitive to all culture. Thereby, in the patient on long-term AVL we observed tendency prevail of gram negative micro flora. This flora was resistance to common antibiotics and clinical improvement observed on 2-3 day after administration of FarGALS. The clinical improvement observed on 5-6 day while traditional treatment resulted in improvement on 8-10 days. High activity of the drug to polyresistance strain allows continuing further investigations in patients with long-term AVL.

EFFECTIVITY OF DIGESTIVE ORGANS CANDIDIASIS THERAPY BY INDIVIDUAL TESTING DOSES OF NYSTATINE

N. E. Djumava, G. A. Ibadova
Scientific Research Institute of Epidemiology, Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

In the current study the efficiency therapy of Candidiasis of digestive organs by individually tested doses of Nystatin determined during the process of non-invasive express-method of drug testing according to R.Voll were assessed using the usual laboratory analysis. The research has been carried out in the group of 55 patients. The main group of 32 patients (12 male, 20 female) were treated with tested doses of Nystatin determining during the process of “drug testing” according to R.Voll. The control group consisted of 23 patients (8 male, 15 female) had received...
Nystatin by generally recommended doses according to the routine protocol. The usual laboratory analysis consisted of microscopic and cultural study of the material scraped from the mucous membrane of the oropharynx, feces culture. In addition, the microscopic study in the histological material, the bacteriologic examination of cultures from the pharynx and feces were conducted. Testing of singular and daily doses of Nystatin determined according to R. Voll. On the patients with different forms of Candidiasis of digestive organs: oropharyngeal Candidiasis, Candidiasis of the esophagus, gastric candidiasis, candidiasis of the intestines the therapy of tested doses of Nystatin, in a comparison with control group, was more effective. The whole course dose of Nystatin in the therapy of candidiasis of digestive organs was less than the total dose recommended in the traditional therapy.

406
AN ON-SITE SURVEY OF YELLOW FEVER VACCINATION CLINIC PRACTICES, PENNSYLVANIA, USA, 2008
Betsy Schroeder1, Mark Gershman1, Stephen Ostroff2, Perianne Lurie2, Mark Lamiyas1, Pauline Han1, Aimee Ferraro2, Phyllis Kozarsky1, Nina Marano1
1Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, United States, 2Pennsylvania Department of Health, Harrisburg, PA, United States
As part of a larger survey of yellow fever (YF) vaccination practices in Pennsylvania (PA), we conducted site visits at selected YF vaccination clinics in the state. This was the first evaluation of the YF vaccination program in the United States. The objective was to assess the practices of YF vaccination clinics to better inform guidance to providers. YF clinics in PA were identified from the national YF vaccination clinic registry. A geographically representative sample of all registered YF PA clinics was selected for site visits by using a Stratified Random Sampling plan with Probability Proportional to Size (PPS). Designated providers at the facilities selected for visits were contacted in advance, and participation was voluntary. Data collected included information on clinic setting, staffing, staff knowledge, and vaccine administration and storage practices. We visited 21 (13%) of 165 YF clinics in PA. The types of clinics visited included employee health (24%), specialty medical practice (24%), primary care medical practice (19%), corporate travel medicine (14%), and university health centers or other (19%). Of the clinics visited, 86% had a currently practicing stamp owner on site, 90% maintained a supply of International Certificates of Vaccination and Prophylaxis, 91% gave Vaccine Information Statements to all patients, and 86% kept a log of temperatures for the refrigerator used to store YF vaccine. However, only 57% of clinics kept a separate log of YF vaccine doses administered. In conclusion, site visits to this sample of PA YF clinics showed that adherence to many CDC-recommended vaccination practices are high. However, practices should be improved in some areas. Since practices at these clinics are likely representative of those throughout the country, this survey shows the need for educational tools to optimize YF vaccine administration in the United States. CDC is developing an online education module to be distributed to the state health departments for use by their YF vaccine providers.

407
KETAMINE METABOLISM AND TEST ON EXIT PERSONS SUITABILITY DISCUSSION
Huarong Zhang
Chongqing International Travel Healthcare Center, Chongqing, China
This study was undertaken to discuss if the Ketamine test can be a suitable test item for exit persons. We analyzed Ketamine metabolism process in body and compare the test methods of Ketamine and its metabolites. Our results suggested that Ketamine metabolism is fast, and its metabolic half-life is short. Many test methods are being used. But rapid test has time limit for sampling, and sensitivity is very low comparing to GC-MS.

In conclusion, at present, there is no suitable test method with good operability for exit persons.

408
PREVALENCE OF CHAGAS DISEASE IN U.S. LATIN AMERICAN IMMIGRANT POPULATION WITH CARDIOMYOPATHY
Olive View-UCLA Medical Center, Sylmar, CA, United States
Chagas disease is the leading cause of cardiomyopathy in Latin America and is believed to infect 16-18 million people. Given recent immigration trends in the United States, there is a large population at risk. However, no data exists regarding the prevalence of Chagas cardiomyopathy in the US. This study aims to determine the prevalence of Chagas disease in a US population of Latin American immigrants with cardiomyopathy. 93 Latin American immigrant patients with idiopathic cardiomyopathy were enrolled from the cardiology clinic at a Los Angeles county hospital. Screening for Chagas disease was performed with both an immunofluorescence assay (IFA) and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). Testing was performed by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The mean age of patients was 55.6 years and had lived in the US for an average of 22.6 years. Mean ejection fraction was 24.6% and mean left ventricular end-diastolic diameter (LVEDD) was 6.46cm. Countries of origin were as follows: Mexico 51, El Salvador 26, Guatemala 11, Nicaragua 2, Honduras 2, Argentina 1. Fifteen patients were positive by both IFA and ELISA (16.1%). Mean age of positive patients was 61.8 years with mean ejection fraction of 18% and left ventricular end-diastolic diameter of 6.7 cm. The mean time of residence in the US was 16.6 years. 7 patients were from El Salvador (26.9%), 5 from Mexico (9.8%), and 3 from Guatemala (27.3%). Our results demonstrate that Chagas disease is a common cause of cardiomyopathy in US Latin American immigrants, accounting for 16.1% of cases in this population. It is important to identify it as the etiology as both prognosis and management may differ in comparison to other etiologies of cardiomyopathy. In addition, disease progression may be altered by early recognition and treatment prior to onset of clinically manifest heart failure.

409
CLINICAL FACTORS PREDICTIVE OF ENCEPHALITIS CAUSED BY ANGIOSTROGNYLUS CANTONENSIS
Kittisak Sawanyawisuth1, Ken Takahashi2, Tsutomu Hoshuyama2, Kanlayanee Sawanyawisuth1, Vichai Senthong1, Fanita Limpawattana1, Donald Wilson3, Somskat Tamkao2, Suthipun Jitpimolmard3, Verajit Chotmongkol2
1Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen, Thailand, 2University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Kitakyushu, Japan
Angiostrongyliasis caused by Angiostrongylus cantonensis, a human parasitic disease in tropical areas, is currently a global health problem due to extensive international travel and eating habits. Most affected individuals develop eosinophilic meningitis, while a minority of patients develop encephalitic angiostrongyliasis (EA), which is fatal in most cases. The risk factors for EA development currently are unclear. We conducted a case-control study in a hospital situated in an endemic area of Thailand. Adults clinically diagnosed with angiostrongyliasis who developed encephalitis and unmatched controls with angiostrongyliasis and meningitis were included for analysis. Logistic regression analysis was used to assess the variables predictive of encephalitis, including exposure history, clinical signs and symptoms, and laboratory data. In total, 14 patients and 80 controls were enrolled for the study. Age (adjusted odds ratio [OR], 1.22; 95% confidence interval [CI], 1.05-1.42), duration of headache (adjusted OR, 1.26; 95% CI 1.03-1.55), and fever greater than 38.0°C (adjusted OR, 37.05; 95% CI 1.59-862.35) were identified as statistically significant factors for EA prediction. In conclusion, elderly
patients with angiostrongylus experiencing fever and prolonged headaches were at the highest risk of developing encephalitis. Thus, timely identification, and appropriate evaluation and treatment of suspected cases of angiostrongylus may aid in preventing the development of EA.

410

PREVALENCE OF CHAGAS DISEASE IN U.S. LATIN IMMIGRANT POPULATION WITH CONDUCTION ABNORMALITIES ON ELECTROCARDIOGRAM


Olive View-UCLA Medical Center, Sylmar, CA, United States

Chagas disease is the leading cause of cardiomyopathy in Latin America and is believed to infect 16-18 million people. Given recent immigration trends in the United States, there is a large population at risk. Early stage cardiac involvement usually presents with conduction abnormalities on electrocardiogram (EKG), including right bundle branch block (RBBB), left anterior and posterior fascicular blocks (LAFB/LPFB), and left bundle branch block (LBBB). Identification of disease at this stage may lead to early treatment and potentially delay the progression to end-stage cardiomyopathy. This study aims to determine the prevalence of Chagas disease in a US population of Latin American immigrants with conduction abnormalities on EKG. All EKGs performed in a Los Angeles County hospital and clinic system were screened for presence of RBBB, LAFB, LPFB, or LBBB. Patients were contacted and enrolled in the trial if they resided in Latin America for at least 12 months and had no history of cardiac disease. 238 consecutive patients were screened for Chagas disease was performed with both an immunofluorescence assay (IFA) and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). Testing was performed by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The mean age of patients was 47.6 years and had lived in the US for an average of 20.15 years. 32.7% of patients had isolated RBBB, 43.7% LAFB, 7.2% LBBB, 7.2% RBBB/LAFB, and 8.8% RBBB/LPFB. Countries of origin were as follows: Mexico 146, El Salvador 56, Guatemala 19, Nicaragua 4, Honduras 5, Argentina 4, Peru 2, Costa Rica 2, and Bolivia 1. Eleven patients were positive by both IFA and ELISA (4.6%). 6 patients were from El Salvador (10.7%), 3 from Mexico (2.1%), 1 from Honduras (20%), and 1 from Argentina (25%). 4 patients had RBBB (5.1%), 4 LAFB (3.8%), 2 RBBB/LAFB (11.8%), and 1 RBBB/LPFB (4.8%). No positive patients had LBBB. One patient was positive by IFA and negative by ELISA with LAFB. Our study demonstrates a significant prevalence of Chagas disease in Latin American immigrants with conduction abnormalities on EKG. Evidence of conduction abnormalities in Latin American immigrants without explanation should prompt consideration of Chagas disease as the etiology.

411

COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATION IN ADULT CANCER PATIENTS IN TAIWAN

Kow-Tong Chen1, Hsiao-Han Lin1, Kan-Lin Hsu1, Winston Wen-Chien Ko1, Yi-Ching Yang1, Yu-Wei Chang1, Mei-Ching Yu1

1Department of Public Health, College of Medicine, National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan, 2Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Internal Medicine, College of Medicine, National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan, 3Department of Family Medicine, College of Medicine, National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan, 4Department of Chemical Engineering, Tatung University, Taipei, Taiwan

The aim of this study was to investigate the efficacy of the influenza vaccine among cancer patients in Taiwan. We determined the effect of immunization on the following outcomes of disease: hospitalizations, emergency department visits, hospital outpatient visits, physician office visits, and deaths. Cost-effectiveness was analyzed from the prospective of the health care system and society. A decision tree used estimated of disease burden and costs based on data from published and unpublished sources. The model followed 34,112 cancer patients aged 20-64 years who were followed by the Taiwan National Cancer Registry in 2002. An influenza immunization program for the cancer population would prevent 2,555 cases of all types of influenza infection, 660 of which would be serious cases involving hospitalization, emergency department visits and death. From the perspective of the health care system, the program would cost US$7.7 million, providing a net savings of US$5.4 million. From a societal perspective, the program would cost US$28.6 million, providing a net savings of US$22.3 million. Compared with the no vaccination strategy, the vaccination program resulted in a savings of US$2107 and US$6,338 per case averted from health care and societal perspective, respectively, and 110 lives saved. Lesser disease burden, greater vaccine efficacy and lower cost of hospitalizations increased cost-effectiveness. The influenza immunization for cancer patients is cost-saving and cost-effective from a health care and societal perspective in Taiwan. We highly recommend annual influenza vaccinations for this patient group.

412

DEVELOPMENT OF A QUANTITATIVE REAL-TIME PCR (qPCR) ASSAY FOR RICKETTSIA PARKERI

Ju Jiang, Allen L. Richards

Naval Medical Research Center, Silver Spring, MD, United States

Rickettsia parkeri, a spotted fever group rickettsia, has recently been found to be pathogenic to humans causing an eschar-associated relatively mild febrile illness. R. parkeri rickettsiosis has been misdiagnosed previously as Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) and rickettsialpox during the past decades due to serologic cross reactivity and lack of species-specific diagnostic methods. A quantitative real-time polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) assay has been developed and optimized to detect R. parkeri by targeting a 96 bp fragment of the outer membrane protein B gene (ompB) using a species-specific molecular beacon probe. This qPCR assay does not detect nucleic acid from other rickettsiae including: R. rickettsii, R. conorii, R. montanensis, R. slovaca, R. sibirica, R. akari, R. japonica, R. prowazekii, R. typhi, or R. canadensis. Moreover, the assay does not react with nucleic acid preparations from other closely and distantly related bacteria: Orientia tsutsugamushi, Neorickettsia rickettsii, Neorickettsia sennetsu, Franciscella persica, Bartonella quintana, Bartonella vinsonii, Legionella pneumophila, Proteus mirabilis, Salmonella enterica, Escherichia coli or Staphylococcus aureus. The limit-of-detection for the assay was found to be 3 copies per reaction. This sensitive and specific assay is capable of detecting R. parkeri nucleic acid in tick vector, animal host and human clinical and epidemiological samples.

413

INABILITY OF AMBLYOMMA AMERICANUM LARVAE TO ACQUIRE EHRLICHIA CHAFFEENSIS FROM AN INFECTED DOG

Michael L. Levin, Aubree J. Roche, Lindsay F. Killmaster, Galina E. Zemtsova, William L. Nicholson

Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, GA, United States

A cross-breed beagle dog was inoculated subcutaneously with the MO-1 isolate of Ehrlichia chaffeensis in its first passage in DH82 cell culture. The 1 ml inoculum contained 10^6 infected cells. Dog exhibited mild fever on day 28-33 post-inoculation, which was the only clinical symptom observed. Blood and serum samples were collected twice weekly for culturing, PCR, and IFA during the 2-month observation period. Uninfected larvae were placed upon the dog on days 10, 17, and 24 post-inoculation for acquisition feeding. Ehrlichia chaffeensis was successfully reisolated from the dog’s blood from day 5 to day 22 post-inoculation. The dog seroconverted by day 8 post-inoculation and remained seropositive for the duration of the study. However, all blood-PCR results were negative, and hlichial DNA was not detected in the acquisition-fed ticks tested as either engorged larvae or freshly molted nymphs. The remaining nymphs were fed upon a naive dog, which neither seroconverted nor exhibited any clinical signs of ehrlichial infection during...
the following 2 months of observation. Thus, the dog was susceptible to infection with low-passage E. chaffeensis introduced via the subcutaneous route, but the resulting level of bacteremia was apparently insufficient for transmission of the agent to larval *A. americanum* ticks.

**GENETIC RELATIONSHIPS OF 364D AND HLP#2 SEROTYPES TO RICKETTSIA RICKETTSII**

Gregory A. Dasch¹, Marina E. Eremeeva¹, Lauren K. Robinson¹, Kathryn Dirks¹, Frankie H. White¹, Maria L. Zambrano¹, Cecilia Kato¹, Kevin Tang¹, David C. Bruce², A. Chris Munk², J. Chris Detter², Thomas S. Brettin²

¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, United States, ²Joint Genome Institute, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, NM, United States

Complete genome sequences for *Rickettsia* serotypes 364D and Hlp#2, and *R. rickettsii* Hino were determined in a CDC-JGI/LANL collaborative effort. The unique and conserved features of these new genome sequences were compared to the complete genome sequences of *R. rickettsii* Sheila Smith (SS) and Iowia. Both 364D and Hlp#2 serotypes have unique biological and antigenic features from those of most isolates of *R. rickettsii* but whether these differences warranted their placement in different species or subspecies was unclear. DNAs were extracted from *rickettsia* grown in Vero or irradiated L929 cells and purified by Renografin density gradient centrifugation. Shotgun Sanger, Illumina, and/or 454 pyrosequencing protocols were used. Sequence comparisons and annotations were made with MAVID, PipMaker, ORF finding programs (Glimmer, GeneMark, GetORF), REPUTER, tRNAscan-SE, BLAST and ClustalW. Three additional 364D serotype-like isolates were obtained in Vero cells from *Dermacentor occidentalis* ticks collected in different sites in Southern California. The genome sequence of 364D was readily distinguished from Hlp#2 and the three isolates of *R. rickettsii* by the presence of an inverted 50 Kb region which has 15 Kb of unique sequence. This region contains tra and conjugation protein genes found in *R. bellii* and to a lesser extent in *R. amblyommii*, *R. massiliae* and *R. montanensis*. *R. rickettsii* SS had a unique 10.6 Kb deletion relative to all the other isolates. Hino and Iowia sequences were very similar even though Hino was from a fatal case of Rocky Mountain spotted fever and Iowia is an attenuated vaccine candidate. Forty of the 239 unique 364D INDEL sites were tested and found to be conserved among all four 364D isolates. Hlp#2 had 33 INDELs where it differed from all the other isolates of *R. rickettsii*. In conclusion, *R. rickettsii* is a relatively variable species of *Rickettsia* associated with numerous species of ticks. Data obtained here suggests the Hlp#2 agent should be considered a subspecies of *R. rickettsii* and that *Dermacentor andersoni* associated Montana isolates like SS differ significantly from *D. variabilis* -associated isolates like Hino and Iowia. 364D causes a mild eschar-associated illness in California. It is also genetically distinct enough to be named a new species, *R. philipii*, in honor of Robert and Cornelius Philip, pioneers in the study of *rickettsial* agents and their tick vectors.

**TEMPORAL PATTERNS OF EARLY CYTOKINE IMMUNE RESPONSE TO INFECTION WITH BORELLIA BURGDORFERI**

John Aucott¹, Alison Schwarzwalder², Alexi Miagkov³, Mark Soloski¹

¹Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, United States, ²Lyme Disease Research Foundation of Maryland, Lutherville, MD, United States, ³Caliper Life Sciences, Hanover, MD, United States

Early Lyme disease is caused by *Borrelia burgdorferi* infection of the skin. Serologic testing by ELISA is commonly negative in the first weeks of infection. Convalescent serologies are often negative in patients after prompt antibiotic therapy. It is unknown how immune response may vary before, during, and after treatment and how specific biomarkers may relate to clinical serology. Sera were drawn at 4 time points over 4 months of follow-up from 17 patients with early Lyme disease. A total of 30 cytokines were measured using the Luminex bead based system and compared to 12 uninfected controls. Serostatus by ELISA and confirmatory western blot was measured by a commercial lab. Patients with early, untreated Lyme disease had elevated levels of 9 cytokines when compared with controls (p<0.10), including Eotaxin, IL-12, IL-7, IP-10, IL-IRA, MCP-1, MIP1, MIG and HGF. Following treatment, these differences disappeared for IL-IRA, IP-10 and MIG, while the remaining six cytokines remained significantly elevated across all time points. While not initially elevated, RANTES levels increased post-treatment and remained significantly elevated as well. Seropositivity pre-treatment was associated with elevations in 8 cytokines, including EGF, FGF-β, G-CSF, IFNα, IL-1β, IL-7, MCP-1 and MIP-1α (p<0.10). Patients with delayed seroconversion during treatment showed increasing levels of 6 of these cytokines over this period, whereas those that remained persistently sero-negative maintained or decreased their levels. Eotaxin levels did not differ significantly by serostatus. Immune response to early Lyme disease may show temporal patterns, including initial elevations of certain cytokines (such as IP-10) as well as later elevations of others (such as RANTES). Eotaxin was significantly elevated compared to controls at all time points but seems unrelated to patient serostatus. Evaluation of other cytokines appears to correspond with seroreactivity. The relationship between underlying immune response and clinical outcomes warrants further research.

**MOLECULAR EPIDEMIOLOGY OF POWASSAN VIRUS IN NORTH AMERICA: BAYESIAN ANALYSES REVEAL STABLE POPULATION SIZES THROUGH TIME**

Kendra Pesko, Fernando Torres-Perez, Gregory Ebel

University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, United States

Powassan encephalitis, the illness caused by infection with Powassan virus (POWV), may be an emerging disease. Human cases have increased in frequency over the past ten years, with only 27 human cases reported between 1958 and 1998, and at least 16 human cases reported from 1998 to 2009. POWV is the only tick-borne flavivirus endemic to the western hemisphere, where it is transmitted mainly between Ixodes cookei, and groundhogs (Marmota monax). Deer tick virus (DTV), a genotype of POWV that is frequently isolated from deer ticks (Ix. scapularis), appears to be maintained in an enzootic cycle between deer ticks and white-footed mice (Peromyscus leucopus). DTV has been isolated in ticks in several regions of North America, including the upper Midwest and the eastern seaboard. Maximum likelihood and Bayesian phylogenetic inferences using full and partitioned sequences showed two supported, reciprocally monophyletic lineages corresponding to POWV and DTV. Bayesian skyline plots based on year-of-sampling data indicate no significant population size change for both virus lineages. Statistical model-based selection analyses showed overwhelming evidence of purifying selection in both lineages. Positive selection was found in NS5 sequences for both lineages, and envelope sequences for POWV. Collectively, our findings support strong genetic conservation among POWV and DTV.

**DISTRIBUTION OF SPOTTED FEVER-GROUP RICKETTSIAE IN CANINES FROM TENNESSEE**

Meghan E. Rowland¹, Jenny G. Maloney¹, Junjun Huang¹, John R. Dunn¹, Rand Carpenter¹, Timothy F. Jones¹, Abelardo C. Moncayo¹

¹Tennessee Department of Health, Nashville, TN, United States, ²Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN, United States

Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) is an important tick-borne disease throughout the southeastern United States and the most common tick-borne infection in Tennessee. RMSF is caused by *Rickettsia rickettsii*,...
strongly associated with the pack rat Neotoma albigula. As humans move to the suburban areas of Tucson and invade the pack rat habitats, these contacts are becoming more frequent. To begin to assess the threat of Chagas transmission from these vectors, we analyzed 164 bugs found in and around houses for the presence of Trypanosoma cruzi. These bugs were collected in 22 sites from May to December 2006 in the Tucson area, with over 60% of the adults collected during a two week period in late May and early June. 41.5% of the bugs were positive for T. cruzi and at least one infected bug was found at each collection site. Although no autochthonous cases have been reported in Arizona, the risk for transmission may be higher than previously thought.

420

GEOPHYSICAL ASSESSMENT OF RICKETTSIAL INFECTIONS IN RODENTS IN INDONESIA

Susana Widjaja1, Maya Williams1, Ima N. Ibrahim2, Imelda L. Winoto1, Arik Farzei1, Andre Yunianto2, Dian Perwitasari2, Ungke A. Jaya1, Deni Pepi1, Allen L. Richards3, Katie A. Barbara1, Craig A. Stoops1, Patrick J. Blair1

1United States Naval Medical Research Unit 2, Jakarta, Indonesia, 2National Health Research and Development, Ministry of Health, Jakarta, Indonesia, 3Naval Medical Research Center, Silver Spring, MD, United States

Rickettsia are an emerging bacterial pathogen in Southeast Asia and their ability to cause significant human disease has been documented in this region. Indonesia is the world’s largest archipelago with over 17,000 islands and 234 million residents. Murine typhus is endemic across Indonesia, while spotted fever group rickettsiae have been reported in the Gag islands, and residents of East Java have demonstrated evidence of infections from Orientia tsutsugamushi. In order to determine the primary zoonotic reservoirs for disease in humans, rodents were trapped on the islands of Java, Sumatra, Sulawesi and Kalimantan. Serum, organs and ectoparasites were collected from each rodent. Infection was determined by indirect ELISA and the presence of Rickettsia in serum and ectoparasites was detected by PCR. A total of 491 rodents were trapped including shrews, mice and eight species of rats. The most common trapped rodent was Rattus tanezumi. Several types of ectoparasites were collected including chiggers, fleas, lice, mites and ticks. The overall seroprevalence of rickettsial infections in rats was 50% with 26% spotted fever group (SFG), 14% typhus group (TG) and 10% scrub typhus group (STG). The geographic seroprevalence of rickettsial infections in Java where there was a 61% seroprevalence of TG, 20% seroprevalence of SFG and 0% seroprevalence of STG infections. Serology results revealed R. tanezumi as the main reservoir for TG with PCR results from organs and Xenopsylla cheopis collected from this species of rodent confirming the presence of R. typhii. The seroprevalence of rickettsial infections in rats from Kalimantan, Sumatra and Sulawesi were 76%, 35% and 28% respectively. Further analyses to determine the primary reservoirs and types of Rickettsia on these islands are in progress. Our current results suggest that the risk for rickettsial infection is high in many areas in Indonesia, although the rodent reservoirs and type vary.

421

AFRICAN TICK-BITE FEVER IN A TAIWANESE TRAVELER RETURNING FROM SOUTH AFRICA: MOLECULAR AND SEROLOGICAL STUDIES

Kun-Hsien Tsai

Institute of Epidemiology, College of Public Health, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan

We report the first imported case of African tick bite fever (ATBF) in a patient from Taiwan who returned from a 10-day trip to South Africa. Diagnosis was confirmed by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) from eschar biopsies. Portions of rickettsial ompA (491 bp) and ompB (273bp) genes were amplified and subsequent sequencing of PCR product showed its 100% identity with R. africae. Microimmunofluorescence (MIF) assay of
patient's serum on days 14 and 46 after the onset of illness revealed IgG seroconversion when tested with spotted fever group (SFG) rickettsiae antigens, including R. africae. The patient clinically improved on third day of the 14 days treatment with combination of ciprofloxacin and minocycline. Based on the patient's travel history and chronology of clinical symptoms, we strongly suspect that the tick-biting event occurred in Kruger National Park.

ANTIBODY DETERMINANTS OF PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF SECONDARY DENGUE VIRUS INFECTION IN VITRO AND IN VIVO

Katherine L. Williams1, Ruben Lachica1, Diana Flores1, Wahala Wahala2, Aravinna M. de Silva2, Martina Beltramello1, Federica Sallusto1, Antonio Lanzavecchia1, P. Robert Beatty1, Eva Harris1

1Division of Infectious Diseases and Vaccinology, School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, United States, 2Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, United States, 3Institute for Research in Biomedicine, Bellinzona, Switzerland

A mouse model of dengue disease is of critical importance to furthering the understanding of dengue pathogenesis. Previously, our group demonstrated that interferon-α, β, and γ receptor-deficient (AG129) mice are susceptible to all four strains of dengue virus (DENV), develop viremia and viral load in relevant tissues, and succumb to a vascular leak syndrome when given a lethal infection of a mouse-adapted DENV2 strain, D2S10. We have used the AG129 mouse to model protection against DENV infection in both passive transfer and sequential infection studies, and have recently characterized conditions that support antibody-dependent enhancement (ADE) of DENV infection using passive transfer of either anti-DENV sera or monoclonal antibodies (MAb) followed by sub-lethal infection with DENV-2 D2S10. Here, we describe ADE of two clinical DENV-1 and DENV-2 strains. Specifically, MAb or anti-DENV sera transferred prior to infection with either strain results in significantly enhanced viral burden in sera, small intestine and liver as compared to controls. While many studies have characterized anti-DENV MAbs in vitro, few studies have attempted to systematically measure the relationship between in vitro correlates of in vivo outcome. Using our well-characterized AG129 model, studies are underway to define Ab determinants crucial to immune protection and enhancement of DENV infection at the serotype-, domain- and epitope-specific levels. First, the role of serotype-specific versus serotype cross-reactive anti-DENV sera in mediating neutralization and enhancement of DENV infection in vitro and in vivo (monitoring viral load and survival) is being assessed. Next, we are evaluating the role of envelope domain III (EDIII)-specific Abs by determining the in vivo effect of depleting EDIII-specific Abs from mouse serum in our passive transfer model of DENV infection. Finally, using both in vitro neutralization and enhancement assays and in vivo challenge studies, we are characterizing a panel of mouse and human MAbs directed against multiple DENV E and prM/M epitopes that are both serotype-specific and cross-reactive in nature. Taken together, this data allows us to address the complex role of anti-DENV antibodies in both protection and enhancement, which has direct relevance to the development of tetravalent dengue vaccines.

423

DIFFERENCES IN CLINICAL PRESENTATION AND RELATION TO IMMUNE STATUS AMONG DENGUE VIRUS SEROTYPES IN A HOSPITAL-BASED STUDY IN NICARAGUA

Sheyla Silva1, Crista Roche1, Gamaliel Gutierrez2, Frederico Narvaez1, Andrea Nuñez2, Douglas Elizondo2, Katherine Standish2, Angel Balmaseda3, Eva Harris1

1Hospital Infantil Manuel Jesus de Rivera, Managua, Nicaragua, 2Sustainable Sciences Institute, Managua, Nicaragua, 3Departamento de Virologia, Centro Nacional de Diagnóstico y Referencia, Ministerio de Salud, Managua, Nicaragua, 4Division of Infectious Diseases and Vaccinology, School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley, CA, United States

Dengue is a mosquito-borne disease caused by four distinct dengue virus serotypes (DENV-1-4). DENV infection causes a range of disease, from dengue fever to the potentially fatal dengue hemorrhagic fever/dengue shock syndrome (DFH/DSS). To perform a detailed investigation of the differences in dengue caused by distinct serotypes, an observational study of 337 patients from 6 months to 14 years of age with laboratory-confirmed dengue was conducted between July 2005 and January 2009 in the National Pediatric Reference Hospital in Managua, Nicaragua. The majority of subjects (82%) were hospitalized, while the rest were followed as outpatients. Of the 309 (89%) cases in which serotype was identified, DENV-2 predominated (51%), followed by DENV-3 (37%) and DENV-1 (12%). For the first 3 years, DENV-2 was responsible for 85% of cases, while in the fourth year, DENV-3 caused 74% of cases, and DENV-1 accounted for 5%-18% of cases annually. DENV-2 was more common in 10-14 year-olds (p = 0.004) while DENV-3 predominated in 1-4 year-olds (p = 0.006). Likewise, the vast majority of DENV-2 cases displayed a secondary immune response (86%) compared to DENV-1 and DENV-3 cases, which occurred to a much greater degree in primary infections (41% and 44% secondary infections, respectively; p<0.0001). Only in the case of DENV-2 was secondary infection significantly associated with DFH/DSS (OR = 6.80, 95% CI = 1.45-32.98; p = 0.014), though the other serotypes trended towards significance; because infants develop DFH/DSS in primary infections, they were excluded from this analysis. In terms of severity, DENV-2 was significantly associated with DFH/DSS (52% were DFH/DSS vs. 19% of DENV-1 cases and 30% of DENV-3 cases, p=0.0001 vs. DENV-2) as well as with more severe clinical manifestations (plasma leakage, shock, significant bleeding, internal bleeding, or alteration of the central nervous system; p<0.0001). However, DENV-1 was more likely to present signs of shock without the hemorrhagic symptoms and thrombocytopenia that define DSS according to the World Health Organization (OR = 4.11, 95% CI = 1.32-12.81, p = 0.023). DENV-2 caused more cases of DFH/DSS in 2006-2008 than in 2005 (p<0.0001), which coincides with a DENV-2 clade replacement in 2006 that has been associated with greater disease severity. These results demonstrate that there are significant differences in clinical presentation and the relation to immune status between DENV serotypes.

424

PHYLOGEOGRAPHY AND MOLECULAR EVOLUTION OF DENGUE VIRUS TYPE 1 IN PUERTO RICO, 1981-1998

Brandi A. Mueller1, Maya Pajdi1, Orchid Allicock2, Christine V. Carrington2, Duane J. Gubler1, Shannon N. Bennett1

1University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, HI, United States, 2University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago

Dengue is the most important mosquito-borne virus in the world, with the World Health Organization estimating that more than 2.5 billion people are at risk. Dengue consists of a group of four closely related serotypes, DENV-1 - 4, which cause a wide spectrum of disease, from mild dengue fever (DF) to more severe dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) and shock syndrome (DSS). All four serotypes have expanded geographically in the past 30 years and currently co-circulate in most tropical regions of the world.
world (hyperendemicity), including Puerto Rico. DENV-1 was introduced and became endemic in 1977, causing a large epidemic in 1978 and a smaller outbreak in 1981. 33 whole genome DENV-1 isolates were sequenced from Puerto Rico from 1981-1998, along with 17 envelope genes from other parts of the Caribbean during the same time frame. The Puerto Rico samples all fall into the American genotype and DENV-1 appears to be time structured with lineage turnover occurring, similar to previous studies on DENV-2 and DENV-4 in Puerto Rico. Phylogenetic analyses shows Puerto Rico isolates falling into two clades, the newer clade replacing the older clade over time. The replacement clade evolved locally rather than being introduced, and is separated by one amino acid change in the premembrane, three in the envelope, one in NS3, and three in NS5. This suggests Puerto Rico serves as a location in the Caribbean for exporting dengue virus, as well as importing on a smaller scale.

425

TRANSFORMING MODELS INTO USER-FRIENDLY PROGRAMS FOR EVALUATING DISEASE CONTROL STRATEGIES AT THE LOCAL SCALE

Alicia Ellis1, Dana Focks2, Andy Garcia3, Thomas Scott1
1University of California - Davis, Davis, CA, United States, 2Infectious Disease Analysis, Gainesville, FL, United States

Although models have the potential to improve our ability to predict disease dynamics and identify more effective control and management strategies, there remains a substantial disconnect between the development of models (typically by scientists) and their use in developing disease management strategies (by e.g., public health officials). Models can be complex and difficult to understand, fail to facilitate development of local control strategies, or are not tested with enough rigor to confidently support the development of public health strategies. The objectives of this study were to: (1) transform an existing dengue simulation model into a windows-based user-friendly program that public health officials can use to evaluate different control strategies for a specific location and (2) perform rigorous tests to ensure model accuracy. We will illustrate issues that must be considered when developing models to inform disease management, demonstrate how we addressed these issues with our revised model, and present sensitivity analysis results. Improvements that increased usability include developing a windows interface, creating an entomological survey data sheet to facilitate data collection and entry, and automating processes that were originally executed by the user. Results of the sensitivity analysis identified several parameters with little influence on model output that can be fixed in the model. Other parameters had a large effect on model output, including those associated with density dependence in the larval stage. Slight changes in these parameters generated substantial changes in the mean, minimum, and maximum number of mosquito eggs, larvae, pupae, and adults. Broadly, our results help identify where future empirical studies should be targeted to improve model accuracy and overall knowledge of dengue transmission, illustrate one way that the gap between basic and on-the-ground disease management, illustrate one way that the gap between basic and on-the-ground disease management.

426

DENGUE VIRUS SEROPREVALENCE AND SEROCOINCIDENCE AMONG KENYAN CHILDREN

Jason M. Blaylock1, Ashley M. Maranich1, Kristen Bauer2, Mark Polhemus2, Luis J. Martinez2, Jitvimal Seriwatana2, John Waight2, Douglas Walsh2, Julia Lynch2
1Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, DC, United States, 2Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Silver Spring, MD, United States, 3United States Army Medical Research Unit - Kenya, Kenya Medical Research Unit, Walter Reed Project, Kisumu, Kenya

Epidemics of dengue fever caused by four distinct serotypes have been documented in many African countries over the past several decades, however little is known about the seroprevalence or incidence of dengue virus infection on the African continent in the absence of an outbreak. A seroprevalence of dengue infection ranging from 1-15% has been documented in eastern coastal regions of Kenya. No studies have analyzed the presence of transmission in western Kenya to date, although potential dengue vectors of the genus Aedes are known to exist. This study attempted to describe the serocidence and seroprevalence of dengue infection among a population of children in western Kenya. A total of 354 samples were obtained from banked serum of healthy afebrile children ages 12 to 47 months from the local area surrounding the Walter Reed Project Kombewa Clinic in the village of Kombam, in Kombewa Division, Kisumu District, Nyanza Province, Kenya. This serum was previously collected from a USAMRU-K malaria vaccine trial between March 2005 and April 2007. An immunoglobulin G (IgG) enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) manufactured by Panbio Diagnostics was utilized to detect antibody to an antigen common to all four dengue virus serotypes. The seroprevalence of dengue infection in this population was determined from these 354 samples. Of those samples testing positive, a second serum sample (previously collected from the above malaria vaccine trial) at approximately one year prior was analyzed for dengue virus IgG to determine serocidence. Our analysis found a seroprevalence of prior dengue virus infection of 1.1% (4 of 354 samples) in this patient population. Further analysis revealed that 1 of the 4 samples was positive one year prior, resulting in an incidence of 8.5 seroconversions per 1000 persons per year. In conclusion, our data reveals that the seroprevalence and incidence of dengue virus in western Kenya appears to be lower than that previously reported in eastern coastal regions of the country. Continued investigation and evaluation of exposure to dengue virus in a different sample population is necessary to further confirm this finding.

427

MOLECULAR EPIDEMIOLOGY OF DENV-1 ISOLATED IN MARACAY, VENEZUELA, DURING 1997 - 2007: A PROBABLE CLADE REPLACEMENT EVENT

Guillermo Comach1, Daria Camacho2, Francisco Rodriguez-Henriquez2, Gloria Sierra3, Irene Bosch3, Diane Schmidt3, Antonio Tenorio3, Tadeusz J. Kochel3
1U. De Carabobo/Biomed-Lardide/Cposalud, Maracay, Venezuela, 2U. De Carabobo/Biomed, Maracay, Venezuela, 3Center for Infectious Disease and Vaccine Research, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA, United States, 4Laboratorio De Arbovirus/Centro Nacional De Microbiológia/Instituto De Salud Carlos Illi/Ministerio De Sanidad y Consumo, Madrid, Spain, 5United States Naval Medical Research Center Detachment, Lima, Peru

A typical pattern of dengue transmission in Maracay, Venezuela, is the co-circulation of multiple DENV serotypes. Within this frame, in the past ten years DENV-1 has had two periods (1997 to 2000 and 2003 to 2008) of high prevalence and one short period (2001 - 2002) in which it was not detected at all. To investigate the possible emergence of new genetic variant(s) associated with the last historic outbreak occurred between June 2006 and March 2008, we performed a phylogenetic analysis of complete genomic sequences of 18 DENV-1 isolated in Maracay from 1997 to 2007 and 15 from worldwide, as well as Envelope (E) gene sequences from DENV-1 isolated in four other Venezuelan states between 1995 and 1997, and from worldwide at different times. It was found that DENV-1 from Maracay grouped in the America-Africa genotype (V) and segregated into two probable clades: one containing the majority of virus isolated before 1999, and another composed of isolates obtained from 1999 to 2007. The mean ratios of nonsynonymous to synonymous substitutions (dn/ds) in all protein coding genes were very low (range: 0.2 - 0.009). Also, there were a total of 67 aminoacid substitutions being the more relevant non-conservative changes located on E, NS1, NS2A, NS4B and NS5 protein coding genes. In conclusion, the results suggested that a probable clade replacement event occurred between 1998 and 1999, and that the genetic changes were produced by a purifying selection pressure.
The four serotypes of dengue virus (DV1-4) cause more human illness than any other arbovirus worldwide. DV infection results in dengue fever, an acute febrile illness, or the more severe, life-threatening dengue hemorrhagic fever/dengue shock. Immunity to one of the four DV serotypes can increase disease severity upon subsequent infection with another DV serotype via antibody-dependent enhancement (ADE) that facilitates entry of DV into Fcγ receptor-bearing cells. The DV genome consists of 3 structural (C, capsid; prM/M, membrane, and E, envelope) and 7 nonstructural (NS1-5) proteins, of which M, E, and NS1 are glycosylated. No antivirals or vaccines currently exist, and treatment strategies to avoid this response and the viral products that mediated this resistance are under study. After cytoplasmic nucleocapsid release, DENV RNA translates to a polyprotein that with the activity of host and virus peptidase results in the cleavage of three structural (C, E, prM) and seven nonstructural (NS1, NS2A, NS2B, NS3, NS4A, NS4B, and NS5) proteins. Has been reported that DENV infected cells showed resistance to the antiviral action of IFN, for example, NS4B inhibiting the α/β IFN signaling. In other flavivirus, Hepatitis C virus, has been described that the viral serine-protease NS3/4A cause a cleavage of TRIF (Toll-L-1 receptor domain-containing adaptor inducing IFN-β) the adaptor protein linking TLR3. A sequence alignment of TRIF protein showed possible cleavage sites for DENV protease (NS2B/NS3). TLR3 induced activity of IRF3 was assessed using a luciferase reporter assay in the presence or absence of viral protease. We found that luciferase activity was decreased as a result of viral protease. All these events support our hypothesis that NS2B/NS3 DENV interrupts the TLR3 signaling pathway. This phenomenon could constitute an important mechanism of immune evasion in DENV.
of wild-type virions, so can be used to rapidly assess humoral immune responses to all four DENV serotypes. However, they lack the viral machinery required to initiate a productive infection, allowing their use under BSL2 conditions. Importantly, the DRV assay can be fully automated for high throughput screening of sera from large scale vaccine trials or epidemiological surveys. In this study, DRV results corresponding to all four DENV serotypes were used to quantify both neutralizing and enhancing antibody titers in human sera. Sera were analyzed from individuals vaccinated with a live attenuated DENV vaccine and from patients naturally exposed to pathogenic DENV. Comparison of sera neutralization and immune-mediated enhancement of DENV infection allowed a complete profile to be compiled for each individual, documenting the potentially protective and pathogenic humoral immune response against each serotype of DENV within each patient. Furthermore, titers obtained using DRV were comparable to those derived using the plaque reduction neutralization test (PRNT), a manual technique poorly suited for large scale, high-throughput assays. These experiments validate the DRV as a high-throughput tool for measuring neutralizing and enhancing serum responses, and provide a new opportunity to understand the effects of natural infection and vaccination on large patient populations.

432

STUDIES OF VECTOR COMPETENCE IN Aedes aegypti WITH COLOMBIAN STRAINS OF DENGUE VIRUS: EVALUATION OF SINGLE AND MIXED INFECTIONS

Carolina Quintero-Gil1, Marlen Martinez-Gutierrez2, Francisco Diaz3, Marta Ospina4, Oladier Hoyos5, Jorge Osorio6

1Programa de Estudio y Control de Enfermedades Tropicales -PECET, Universidad de Antioquia, Medellin, Colombia, 2Grupo de Inmunovirologia, Universidad de Antioquia, Medellin, Colombia, 3Laboratorio Departamental de Salud de Antioquia, Medellin, Colombia, 4Department of Pathobiological Sciences, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, United States

The Aedes aegypti mosquitoes, have features that allow them to be effective vectors of dengue virus (DENV) transmission. Vector Competence is one of these characteristics and concerns of vector susceptibility to infection, and its ability to transmit the virus. Strains belonging to four serotypes of the DENV co-circulating in Colombia, so the objective of this study was to evaluate the vectorial competence of A. aegypti in two different strains of serotypes 2 and 3 of DENV in single and mixed infections. To test this strains 3986/07 (DENV-2) and 3832/06 (DENV-3) were amplified in C6/36 and quantified by RT-qPCR. A. aegypti Mosquitoes were challenged orally using artificial feeder. Inocula (2x108 copies/mL) consisted of two strains of the virus mixed with blood by an individual, or a mixture of the two strains. Several days post-feeding were carried out dissections for mosquito’s bodies to measure the viral genome by RT-qPCR and viral antigen detection by immunofluorescence. Preliminary findings suggest that in single and mixed infections was found that the amount of viral genome in the DENV-2 strain 3986/07 was higher, which could indicate a better replication capability of this strain. A. aegypti mosquitoes exhibited differences in replication of two DENV strains suggesting a variation in vector competence. This fact is of great importance for understanding the transmission patterns and movement of viral variants in endemic areas of our country.

433

MODELING DENGUE CASES IN HEALTH REGIONS OF COSTA RICA USING EL NIÑO SOUTHERN OSCILLATION AND LOCAL VEGETATION DYNAMICS

Adriana Troyo1, Douglas O. Fuller2, John C. Beier2

1Universidad de Costa Rica, San Jose, Costa Rica, 2University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL, United States

Temporal behavior of dengue fever and dengue hemorrhagic fever (DF/DHF) has been associated with climate, which may modulate mosquito vector populations. El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) fluctuations can be related to sea-surface temperatures in the Pacific that influence precipitation and temperature in Latin America. In addition, vegetation dynamics have been associated with DF/DHF cases at local scales. In this study, vegetation indices from the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectrometer (MODIS) and Pacific sea-surface temperature anomalies were used to model weekly DF/DHF cases (2003 to 2007) in Costa Rica and its nine Health Regions (HR). Using cross correlation analyses, positive and negative lags were identified, where DF/DHF cases and each independent variable were better correlated. A sinusoid and non-linear least squares model was applied to fit case data for the county and HR using lagged variables. The country-wide model, where variables were lagged according to their highest correlation coefficient, had an R² of 0.86. Models including either only the positive or only the negative lags of variables had R² values of 0.60 and 0.84, respectively. These models were all able to reproduce a major epidemic in 2005. Model performance differed between HR, with R² values from 0.41 (a region with few cases and slight wet/dry seasonality) to 0.85 (a region with marked seasonality and >20,000 cases). Results show that climate and vegetation dynamics are good predictors of DF/DHF cases in Costa Rica. The differences in model fits for HR may be due in part to local conditions that can affect transmission such as altitude, temperature, socioeconomic conditions, prevention and control actions, and human behavior. Moreover, these models may be improved further by using other variables like Atlantic sea surface temperatures. Considering that the HR of Costa Rica may represent conditions common to areas of Latin America and the Caribbean, these models may be applicable to various countries and function as an early warning system to predict epidemics in areas affected by dengue.

434

DENV-3 GENOTYPE III IS CIRCULATING IN SÃO PAULO STATE, BRAZIL, DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS, AND IT HAS NOT BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE SEVERE PRESENTATIONS OF THE DISEASE

Luiza A. Castro-Jorge, Daniel M. Jorge, Benedito A. Fonseca

School of Medicine of Ribeirão Preto, Ribeirão Preto, S.P, Brazil

Dengue viruses (DENV) are the most important arboviruses of public health significance, and consist of four distinct antigenic types (DENV-1 to -4) that show substantial genetic diversity. These viruses usually cause dengue fever (DF), but some patients experience a more severe form of the illness known as dengue hemorrhagic fever/dengue shock syndrome (DHF/DSS). The first reports of DENV-3 cases in Brazil occurred in the year 2000 and after a short period of co-circulation of DENV-1, -2, and -3, DENV-3 spread rapidly throughout the country. Phylogenetic analyses of DENV-3 isolated from all regions of the world have revealed the existence of four to five DENV-3 genotypes. Genotype III of DENV-3 has been the main genotype circulating in Brazil, but recent studies have indicated that genotype I and genotype V are also circulating in some states of Brazil. In order to evaluate DENV-3 genotypes circulating in São Paulo state, we analyzed the NS1 region of DENV-3 isolated from patients presenting with different clinical manifestations of dengue disease in the city of Ribeirão Preto from 2003 through 2008. Nucleotide sequences from 31 viruses were obtained and compared to 105 DENV-3 corresponding sequences retrieved from GenBank. Phylogenetic analysis showed that São Paulo DENV-3 sequences belong to genotype III and that Puerto Rico strains are closely related to South American strains. Even though this genotype has caused DHF/DSS in other countries, there was no association between São Paulo DENV-3 genotypes and DHF/DSS. However, the circulation of different genotypes in Brazil should be continuously evaluated since a new genotype may arise and this fact may have implications with the pathogenic aspects of this disease and with the epidemiological changes of dengue clinical presentations in South America.

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SPATIO-TEMPORAL PATTERN OF DENGUE VIRUS SPREAD IN URBAN CAIRNS, AUSTRALIA

Gonzalo M. Vazquez-Prokopec1, Scott Ritchie2, Jeffrey Hanna2, Peter Horne3, Brian Montgomery2, Uriel Kitron1
1Emory University, Atlanta, GA, United States, 2Tropical Population Health Services, Queensland Health, Cairns, Australia

Dengue has reemerged as a major global public health concern over the last four decades. In North Queensland (NQLD), Australia, the number and size of dengue epidemics has been on the increase since the early 1990’s, with most outbreaks originating from viremic travelers from Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Southeast Asia. In the present study we analyzed the spatio-temporal pattern of the large 2003 outbreak that included 383 dengue confirmed cases in the city of Cairns, and resulted in spraying of 1,163 residences with residual insecticides. We quantified the relationship between dengue transmission and distance to the index case (IC), and generated recommendations for city-wide improvement of dengue surveillance and control. When focal spatial statistics (local K-function) were applied, dengue cases were found to be clustered up to 800 m around the IC (a traveler from PNG diagnosed as having dengue-ill 49 days after the onset of symptoms). Space-time analysis (Knox test) showed that the disease spread rapidly, generating 15 space-time clusters (comprising 65% of all cases), and that these clusters varied in severity and extent as a function of their distance to the IC. The spatial and temporal pattern of 40% of the clusters located in the periphery suggests they were originated by secondary cases most likely infected in the core area (within 800 m of the IC). In areas susceptible to non-periodic dengue epidemics like NQLD, effective disease prevention and control depends on prompt response to introduced cases. The development of a decision support system for dengue control in NQLD will rely strongly on the incorporation of accurate mapping and analysis capabilities (GIS and space-time statistics) to better assess where and when cases are introduced, and how far from the ICs control actions should be performed.

INVOVING A LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK WITHIN A LARGE SCALE, TETRAVALENT DENGUE VACCINE EFFICACY TRIAL IN THAILAND

Anh Waritel-Tram1, Chukiat Sirivichayakul2, Pornthep Chanthavanich3, Ole Wichmann1, Arunee Sabchareon2
1Sanofi Pasteur, Singapore, Singapore, 2Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand, 3Pediatric Dengue Vaccine Initiative, Seoul, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

Evaluating novel technology is always challenging, even more so when it takes place in emerging regions. We describe the practical experience gained while setting up the first large scale, randomized controlled pediatric clinical efficacy trial of sanofi pasteur’s tetravalent dengue vaccine candidate. The study involved a community in the Thai province of Ratchaburi, an area highly endemic for dengue. Effective communication was essential to inform and involve the community. The process was three-fold: 1) to ensure health education programs on dengue disease, 2) to inform the study participants and the community about the vaccine and the study process, and 3) to ensure an appropriate interface and flow of communication between the different stakeholders. Investigators from Mahidol University under the auspices of the Thai Ministry of Public Health took the lead: the sponsor provided information on the tetravalent dengue vaccine. The participating children, their parents and families, teachers, healthcare staff and operational stakeholders of the trial as well as public health professionals, regional politicians and the provincial health authorities were all involved in the process. While this represents a significant investment, community involvement can provide a supportive environment for studies when participants are sufficiently informed and understand the reasons and process surrounding the study. This successful collaboration between private and public bodies, non-governmental organizations and the wider community provides valuable lessons to those developing new solutions to public health concerns.

DEVELOPMENT OF SANOFI PASTEUR’S RECOMBINANT LIVE-ATTENUATED TETRAVALENT DENGUE VACCINE: 2009 UPDATE

Rafaela Dumas, Melanie Saville, Bruno Guy, Jean Lang
Sanofi Pasteur, Marcy l’etoile, France

Sanofi Pasteur has lead the development of a tetravalent dengue vaccine candidate. Using innovative recombinant technology, envelope and pre-membrane genes of the YF 17D vaccine virus were replaced with corresponding genes from dengue serotypes 1, 4 viruses. The resulting live-attenuated vaccine has been extensively characterized in preclinical, in vitro and animal models. A comprehensive in-house Dengue Technology Platform incorporating molecular biology, serology and CMI tools and assays has been set-up in compliance with WHO guidelines to facilitate the development at all stages from preclinical to its eventual use in target pediatric populations in endemic countries. All four dengue vaccine viruses have been shown to be genetically and phenotypically stable and even more attenuated compared to YF 17D in terms of neurovirulence and absence of hepatotropism in preclinical models. Environmental safety testing demonstrated that vaccine viruses were unable to infect mosquitoes, and when artificially recombined with wild-type viruses, were still attenuated compared to the parental viruses addressing theoretical concerns about the use of this vaccine. In parallel, clinical trials in US, Latin America and Asia have shown the induction of long-lasting immunity and cellular responses in the different populations investigated. Up to mid-2009, more than 1100 participants have received at least one dose of sanofi pasteur’s tetravalent dengue vaccine. Transient, low-level viremia and strong humoral immune responses were seen following subcutaneous injections of adults with even less frequent viremia seen in children. An efficacy trial began in Thailand at the beginning of 2009 and other phase II trials are on-going worldwide.

INTERFERENCE IN VIRAL REPLICATION BETWEEN DENGUE SEROTYPES IN CO-INFECTION OF AN INTERFERON DEFICIENT CELL LINE

William O. Hahn, Timothy P. Endy
SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY, United States

The development of a vaccine has been proposed as the most effective means for control of dengue virus. Clinical investigations with empirically attenuated live vaccine candidates have demonstrated that attenuated strains found to elicit neutralizing antibodies in monovalent formulations failed to elicit neutralizing antibodies when combined in bivalent or tetravalent formulations. To assess whether this effect could involve direct interaction at the cellular level, we investigated whether co-infections with multiple serotypes of dengue had different kinetics of replication as compared to single infection. We utilized a monkey kidney cell line (Vero) completely deficient in interferon production to minimize variations in the host antiviral response. Vero cells were seeded in parallel and then infected with prototype dengue in single or mixed infections at various moities of infection. Samples of supernatant were taken every 24 hours. After extraction of RNA from supernatant, viral RNA was quantified using a validated, serotype-specific q-RT PCR assay. Four days post-infection, we assessed the percentage of live cells using a trypan blue exclusion test and cellular metabolism using a resazurin reduction assay. Statistically significant decreases in the quantity of viral RNA produced was observed as early as 48 hours, and was observed in all mixed infections. The magnitude of the reduction in viral RNA production increased with the amount the competitor virus, but not in a linear fashion. Specific serotypes--Dengue 1, for example-- appeared to have a greater suppressive effect. No difference was observed in cell death or

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metabolism. In conclusion, mixed infections of prototype dengue strains have different kinetics of replication as compared to single infections in cell culture. Strategies to develop live attenuated vaccines should investigate the kinetics of mixed infection during evaluation of candidate strains.

**MUNICIPALITIES IN PUERTO RICO WITH HISTORY OF HIGH INCIDENCE RATES OF DENGUE**

José M. Calderón-Squiabro1, Marisol Peña-Orellana1, Fermín Argüello,1, Gustavo Dayan1, Kay Tomashesk1
1Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 2Sanofi-Pasteur, Swiftwater, PA, United States

Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral infection that is endemic throughout the tropics worldwide. The incidence of dengue varies by season and may vary by city or region within a country. Information on historical trends of incidence can assist countries in identifying sites for vaccine trials and large cohort studies. We used data from the Puerto Rico Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) passive dengue surveillance system to determine annual rate of suspected and laboratory-positive dengue from 1990-2008 for the 78 municipalities. We calculated five-year average rates by municipality; 1990-1994 (outbreak period); 1995-1999 (outbreak period); 2000-2004 (non-outbreak period), and 2004-2008 (outbreak period). Municipality-specific rates were ranked for each time period, and those municipalities with the top twenty highest rates in each period were identified. There was a strong correlation between suspected and laboratory-positive dengue rates with sites having high levels of reporting also had high levels of laboratory-positive dengue. Only 2 municipalities had laboratory-positive dengue rates ranked in the top ten in all 4 time periods; 7 municipalities ranked in 3 of 4 time periods, and 12 municipalities in 2 of 4 time periods. From these municipalities only 11 municipalities with the highest historical incidence rates were clustered together in 3 regions; the central northern (Ciales, Florida, Manati and Vega Baja); southeastern (Arroyo, Guayama and Patillas), and west central region (Adjuntas, Lares, Las Marias and San Sebastián). The combined populations by US Census 2000 of these regions were 139,516; 83,570 and 108,823, respectively. In conclusion, our data suggest that there are three regions with historically high rates of dengue that also have adequate sample size for large studies. Further research will focus on regional differences in population demographics, housing, climate, and environment that may put these communities at risk.

**DENGUE INFECTION AMONG SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN PATILLAS, PUERTO RICO: RESULTS OF A PROSPECTIVE SEROTYPE-SPECIFIC INCIDENCE STUDY, 2007**

D. Fermín Argüello1, Luz Quiñones1, Kay Tomashesk1, Manuela Beltran1, Luz Acosta1, Heidi Acosta1, Patricia Cano2, Enid Garcia2, Laurence Poliissard3, Christine Luxemburger1, Elizabeth Hunspenger1
1Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, San Juan, PR, United States, 2Puerto Rico Department of Health, San Juan, PR, United States, 3Sanofi Pasteur, Lyon, France

Dengue is a mosquito-borne febrile illness caused by one of four serotypes of dengue virus (DENV-1 through DENV-4). Dengue is responsible for up to 500,000 annual cases of dengue hemorrhagic fever and 25,000 deaths globally. In Puerto Rico, endemic dengue is a major source of morbidity. Dengue surveillance in the municipality of Patillas reveals the highest rates among 10 to 19 year olds (13.4 laboratory-positives per 1,000 population in 2005). A prospective cohort study was conducted to describe dengue serotype patterns in children and adolescents. A random sample of 10 through 18 year olds attending schools in Patillas was selected. Between March and April 2007, 345 healthy students were enrolled, and had serum samples collected. A second sample was collected 12 months later. All samples were tested for IgM, IgG and neutralization antibodies using a MAC-ELISA, IgG-ELISA and microneutralization (MN) ELISA, respectively. Enrollment and 12-month prevalence, seroconversion, and DENV serotype were determined. The mean age of participants was 13.3 years and 45.5% were male. Only 3.5% reported prior dengue illness and none reported history of other flavivirus diagnoses or yellow fever vaccination. Of the 342 students with complete testing, 42.1% showed evidence of prior infection; all four serotypes were detected (DENV-1=7.0%, DENV-2=14.5%, DENV-3=28.2%, DENV-4=8.5%). Of the 308 with paired samples, 18 students (5.8%) seroconverted after 12 months; of which 5.6% had a primary DENV-3 infection, 77.8% had a secondary infection, and 1.7% resulted in indeterminate immune status. After 12-months, eight students had MN titer increases solely in the preexisting predominant serotype; none reported non-dengue flavivirus diagnoses, two traveled off the island (mid-west United States and US Virgin Islands), and none received a flavivirus vaccine during the study. In conclusion, almost half of the children and adolescents under 19 years of age in Patillas have been exposed to dengue. All four dengue serotypes have circulated through this group. Much higher incidence was found in this group than previously reported.

**EARLY IMMUNOLOGICAL CHANGES IN DENGUE VIRUS INFECTED Rhesus Macaques**

Guey Chuen Perng, Nattawat Onlamoo, Sansanee Noisakran, Hui-Mien Hsiao, Francois Villinger, Aftab A. Ansari
Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, United States

Dengue virus infection is increasingly becoming a worldwide major public health issue and is one of the most important mosquito borne human diseases in terms of morbidity and mortality. Wide spectrum of dengue diseases are known, ranging from asymptomatic, febrile-like illness, to potential life-threatening dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF)/dengue shock syndrome (DSS) characterized by thrombocytopenia and increased vascular permeability. Dengue is a timing illness, the appearance of clinical manifestations and the periods at the time of specimen sampling can vary among affected individuals. Most of the specimens that have so far been studied are obtained during or at the appearance of clinical signs of dengue. Thus, a comprehensive picture of events that precede the acute infection period is lacking. Previously we demonstrated that dengue hemorrhagic manifestations could be produced in rhesus macaque monkeys which were intravenously infected with Vero grown dengue virus serotype 2 at the dose of 1X107 PFU/animal. Peripheral whole blood collected prior to infection and every other day after the virus inoculation for two weeks was subjected to complete blood count, blood chemistry, and immunological FACTS profiling. Compiling results from 7 experimental monkeys were following. Hemoglobin, hematocrit, WBC, RBC, and platelets were consistently reduced at early days of infection. Fluctuations of lymphocytes and monocytes with modest reduction of neutrophils were seen. Distinct features of lymphocyte subpopulations, such as transient increase of CD3+ T cells, in particular the sub-phenotype of CD4+ T cells, transient reduction of CD204+ B cells and modest increase of NK cells, were observed. Platelet-leukocyte aggregation in M shape pattern was seen. Interestingly, comprehensive FACS analysis revealed that two striking subpopulations of CD45+ cells with distinct patterns were conspicuous; a sudden burst on day 1 and abrupt reduction of CD4+CD8+ cells on day 2 and remained at the same level thereafter, and a gradual reduction of sub-phenotype of CD41+CD61+CD62P- cells during the first few days after the infection. These comprehensive analysis and observations are impossible being documented in natural infection. Perhaps these immunological parameters may be a crucial factor, which may dictate in understanding the complicated pathogenesis of DHF/DSS.
DENGENE ECONOMIC BURDEN IN THE AMERICAS: ESTIMATES FROM DENGUE ILLNESS

Laurent Coudéville1, Donald S. Shepard2, Betzana Zambrano3, Gustavo Dayan1
1Sanofi Pasteur, Lyon, France, 2Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, United States, 3Sanofi Pasteur, Swiftwater, PA, United States

Despite the growing burden of dengue, the global economic impact of this disease remains poorly documented. Information on dengue costs is now available for several countries but, to our knowledge, no estimate of the total costs induced by dengue worldwide or for endemic regions has been published to date. The objective of this study was to estimate the economic burden induced by dengue cases in the Americas using available information on costs and reported cases. Reported costs for 5 American countries (Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, Venezuela) (as reported previously) were used to estimate dengue costs in other American countries after adjusting for 1) differences in purchasing power parity with World Bank data, 2) differences in medical costs using the WHO-CHOICE database 3) differences in income using GDP per capita provided by the World Bank. Results are expressed in 2008 US dollars. Information on the number of dengue and dengue hemorrhagic fever cases and related deaths were those reported by PAHO over the 2000-2007 period corrected for under-reporting (using a factor of 6 for the base case, 1 to 10 in sensitivity analysis). The annual economic burden induced by dengue in the Americas was estimated to exceed $1 billion on average for the 2000-2007 period. Variations in incidence led to ranges in economic burden from $0.5 billion in a low incidence year (2004) to $2.1 billion in a high incidence year (2007). This economic burden is unevenly distributed among the 5 sub-regions identified by PAHO: 65% for the Southern cone (mainly because of Brazil), 16% in the Caribbean region, 10% in the Andean region, 9% in Central America and Mexico and less than 1% in North America. In conclusion, compared to previous country specific analyses, this study provides information on dengue costs for the entire American continent. Since the costs of vector control activities as well as the possible consequences of large outbreaks on the economic activity were not factored in, these results may still underestimate the overall economic consequences of dengue.

DENGE MENGEOENCEPHALITIS IN INDIA AND BANGLADESH

Jaimie S. Robinson1, Robert S. Lanciotti1, Marc Fischer1, David Featherstone1, Ravi Vasanthapuram1, Anita Desai1, Nalini Ramamurty1, Anwarul Haque Chowdhury2, Hardeep Sandhu3, Kathleen F. Cavallaro2, Barbara W. Johnson1
1Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Fort Collins, CO, United States, 2WHO, Geneva, Switzerland, 3NIMHANS, Bangalore, India, 4WHO-SEARO, New Delhi, India, 5IPH, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 6Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, United States

Dengue virus (DENV) is the cause of one of the most important arthropod-borne diseases worldwide. There are an estimated 100 million dengue fever cases and 250,000 deaths due to DENV infections per year. Outcomes of dengue infection include asymptomatic infection, dengue fever (DF), and dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF). Despite a few reports of DENV isolation from or genomic RNA detection in cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) from some encephalitis cases, meningoencephalitis clinical syndrome has not been widely attributed to DENV infection, particularly in areas where multiple flaviviruses co-circulate and one, such as Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV), is well-known to be associated with neuroinvasive disease. In collaboration with WHO, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Ministries of Health of India and Bangladesh, laboratory-based syndromic surveillance was undertaken for Acute Encephalitis and Meningitis Syndrome (AMES) at five sites in India and three sites in Bangladesh from March 2007 to September 2008. The AMES case definition is a person of any age, at any time of year with the acute onset of fever and either a change in mental status or new onset of seizures. From these cases, serologically confirmed Dengue associated cases accounted for 6.3% (N=121) of samples tested. To further investigate DENV as an etiology of meningoencephalitis in this study, CSF from AMES patients with Dengue IgM positive or equivocal results and with sufficient remaining volume were tested further by serotype-specific DENV real-time RT-PCR and nested RT-PCR, followed by genomic sequencing, and virus isolation. Of the samples tested (N=41), 68% (N=28) were DENV positive by at least one assay and 48% (N=17) were positive by more than one of the assays used. A ~500 bp region of the DENV genome coding for the nonstructural 5 protein was sequenced from 6 of the samples, 92% of the DENV RNA positives were identified as DENV-1, and 1 was identified as DENV-4. In conclusion, DENV infection should be considered as an etiology of meningoencephalitis in India and Bangladesh.

EFFECTS OF INTEGRATION OF NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASE INTERVENTIONS ON VOLUNTEER HEALTH WORKER WORK-TIME IN NIGERIA

Kathryn Welte1, Deborah McFarland1, Darin Evans2, John Umaru3, Abel Eigege3, Priscillia Dewa2
1Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, United States, 2The Carter Center, Atlanta, GA, United States, 3The Carter Center, Jos, Nigeria

The Carter Center, in conjunction with the Nigerian Ministry of Health and with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, has expanded health services and integrated six neglected tropical diseases endemic to Nigeria. The primary mechanism for delivery of new and integrated packages is the community health worker (CHW) who, as a result of these expanded services, is distributing more drugs and products than before. Community leaders and CHWs are key actors in the integration strategy yet limited research has been done to show how the integration of NTD interventions impacts the workload of CHWs. The objective of this study was to quantify the CHW workload across varying intervention packages and to identify changes in workload associated with integration. The study team developed survey for CHWs and then interviewed 55 CHWs in 16 communities across 15 local government areas in Plateau and Nassarawa states. Survey data were analyzed using EpiInfo. Nearly sixty four percent (63.7%) of CHWs were involved in expanded and integrated interventions and 77.1% of that group reported an increase in workload ranging from 1 to 30 days extra work. There are a multitude of factors that influence amount of time spent on CHW work besides the distribution itself. The increase, decrease or lack of change in work-time caused by expanded or integrated interventions relies heavily upon the size of the coverage area, community cooperation, level of sensitization needed by the community towards the new drugs, the number of VHWs in the community and drug availability.

PERCEPTIONS ABOUT HEALTH PROCESSES AMONG COMMUNITY MEMBERS FROM SMALL RIVERINE POPULATIONS IN THE PERUVIAN RAINFOREST

Angela M. Bayer1, Cinthia M. Carhua2, Juan F. Sanchez3, Martin Beltran1, Hugo R. Ruz1, Carol Zavaleta4, Eric S. Halsey3, Joel M. Montgomery1, John W. Sanders1, Andres G. Lescano1
1United States Naval Medical Research Center Detachment, Lima, Peru, 2Peruvian Ministry of Health, Yurimaguas, Peru, 3National Center of Intercultural Health, Peruvian Ministry of Health, Lima, Peru, 4U.S. Air Force Wright-Patterson Medical Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH, United States

Little is known about the processes that community members in the tropical rainforest of Peru follow to address day-to-day health issues. Therefore, the objective of this study was to describe the processes that...
the inhabitants of Loreto, Peru utilize to address the health problems of young children and adults. This study was conducted in four small- to medium-sized communities along the Marañon and Huallaga rivers in the Peruvian Amazon. Focus groups were held with 34 community members aged 18 years or older recruited using purposive sampling. Participants documented the processes that community members follow to address important health problems faced by children under five years of age, adult males and adult females. Data were analyzed by synthesizing and comparing the flow diagrams produced by participants. For cases of pediatric diarrhea and pneumonia, the majority (75%) of participants wait three to six days prior to taking their child to a health facility. Home treatment provided during the wait consists of primarily natural remedies (65%) and some self-prescribed medication (35%) prior to formal medical treatment. Adult males typically wait one to two days prior to seeking professional care for stomach pain and approximately 80% of males never seek skilled care for presumed malaria. Most adult women (65%) with a urinary tract infection or vaginal discharge use natural remedies for one to four days before going to a health establishment. One-third of women wait one day before seeking professional care for vaginal bleeding. Natural remedies for different populations and health problems included drinks with herbs, fruit peels and bird beaks; baths with herbs, flowers and barks; and cigarette smoke. It is important to note that natural remedies often included medication acquired from a pharmacy. In conclusion, residents of these Peruvian Amazon communities utilize multiple methods to address health problems at home, based on their own diagnoses of their health issues and perceptions of which treatments are most appropriate. Further research needs to be performed to determine the best methods to optimize the utilization of appropriate health care and prevention services.

446

PREVALENCE OF INTESTINAL PARASITES, ANEMIA AND MALARIA IN SMALL RIVERINE POPULATIONS IN THE PERUVIAN RAINFOREST

Juan F. Sanchez1, Angela M. Bayer1, Victor E. Gonzaga1, Connie Fernandez1, Martin Beltran1, Hugo R. Ruiz1, Tadeusz Kochel1, Paul C. Graf1, Kirk D. Mundal1, Carol Zavaleta1, Eric S. Halsey2, Ryan C. Maves1, Joel M. Montgomery1, John W. Sanders1, Andres G. Lescano1

1U.S. Naval Medical Research Center Detachment, Lima, Peru, 2Peruvian Ministry of Health, Yurimaguas, Peru, 3National Center of Intercultural Health, Peruvian Ministry of Health, Lima, Peru, 4U.S. Air Force Wright-Patterson Medical Center, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, United States

People living in the tropical rainforest of Peru are at high risk of acquiring infectious diseases. It has been previously estimated that 60-100% of the population has intestinal parasites and that the prevalence of anemia is 44% in children under 5 and 33% in adult women. This study, conducted in rural Loreto, Peru, aimed to determine the prevalence of anemia in this population and intestinal parasitosis in young children. We included 264 children under 5, for anemia and malaria. The prevalence of Giardia lamblia (30%), Blastocystis hominis (30%), Entamoeba coli (29%), Trichuris trichiura (26%) and Giardia lambila (19%). We evaluated 1,002 participants, including 264 children under 5, for anemia and malaria. The prevalence of anemia was highest among children (37.5%), followed by their mothers (28.5%) and 15-49 year olds (12.2%). Plasmodium vivax was identified in a single participant, resulting in a prevalence of 0.1% in the sample group. In conclusion, the high prevalence of anemia in this population and intestinal parasitosis among children are similar to previous reports and suggest continued deficiencies in nutrition, hygiene, and public health infrastructure. Further information on nutritional patterns, quality of health services, and access to potable water and sanitation should be sought to identify potential areas of intervention.

THE EFFECT OF WILDLIFE TRANSMISSION ON RABIES VACCINATION THRESHOLDS IN TANZANIA

Meagan C. Fitzpatrick1, Stephen Davis1, Katie Hampson2, Sarah Cleaveland3, Jeffrey P. Townsend4, Alison P. Galvani4

1Yale University, New Haven, CT, United States, 2University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom, 3University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Vaccination of domestic dogs is the primary form of rabies prevention in the developing world. However, the circulation of the virus through co-existing wildlife populations may have an effect on the vaccination threshold required to eliminate the disease. We have developed a model that uses type reproductive numbers instead of the traditional R0 to determine the vaccination threshold required for interruption of disease transmission in settings where domestic and wildlife populations coexist. We have applied our model to contact tracing data from the Serengeti and Ngorongoro districts in Tanzania. Our model demonstrates that the circulation of rabies virus through the wildlife population does raise the level of vaccination coverage required to eliminate rabies infection from domestic dogs, but not so substantially as to be prohibitive to control efforts.

STRENGTHENING MANAGEMENT CAPACITY OF PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN INTEGRATED INTERVENTIONS FOR NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASE (NTD) TO SUPPORT A MORE EFFECTIVE END EFFICIENT DELIVERY OF INTEGRATED INTERVENTIONS IN THE NIGERIA

Josef Amann1, Janna Brooks1, Emmanuel Miri2, Abel Eigege2, Priscillia Dogonyaro2, Deb McFarland3, Frank Richards4

1Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, United States, 2The Carter Center, Jos, Nigeria, 3Emory University, Atlanta, GA, United States, 4The Carter Center, Atlanta, GA, United States

Most control and treatment programs for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) focus on a single disease. Integrating these interventions could increase their effectiveness and reduce costs, easing the strain on public health systems. In addition to the technical challenges of integrating the different NTD protocols, public health staff face significant managerial challenges, including supervision, data management, and procurement logistics for drugs and intervention supplies. Integration also faces a natural resistance to a change of doing business, sharing resources, and assuming new responsibilities. Strengthening the management skills of NTD control personnel empowers them to address these challenges within the context of an active service delivery program. In Nigeria, The Carter Center assists the ministries of health of two states (Plateau and Nasarawa) in integrated disease control activities for onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, lymphatic filariasis, trachoma, malaria, and Vitamin A supplementation. In collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Emory University, The Carter Center established the Sustainable Management Training Center (SMTC) to combine organizational change management strategy with a hands-on learning approach. Trainees apply newly learned skills to solve real management problems at their workplace while implementing the integrated interventions. Since July 2007, the SMTC has trained 118 personnel involved in integrated interventions in Plateau and Nasarawa state. Currently 30 applied management improvement projects are underway to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the integrated interventions by using available local human capacity and institutional resources. One management improvement project resulted in an increase of the percentage of health facilities.
reporting data on NTD cases from 11% to 82%. The SMTC program shows that management strengthening improves integrated interventions and could benefit other countries as they adopt similar approaches to NTD control.

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICES - A CASE STUDY IN RURAL GHANA
Samuel A. Abariga
Tufts Medical Center, Boston, MA, United States
The practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) has attracted a great deal of condemnation worldwide. The practice is often carried out on woman and might be influenced by various cultural and religious beliefs. A cross-sectional survey in the Sissala district of the Upper West region of Ghana was carried out to evaluate the views of men and women, regarding the practice. A total of 197 respondents, 21% male, were selected through both systematic and simple random sampling and a structured interview guide was administered in 2000. Clinical examination of victims of FGM (n=30) was also carried out to identify the type(s) of FGM, defined as clitoridectomy or type I (surgical removal of the clitoris), excision or type II (surgical removal of the clitoris and part of the labia minora) and infibulation or type III (removal of the clitoris, labia minora and major). Of the 136 women interviewed, 84% had undergone FGM. Type I 17(56%) and type II 12 (41%) were the most prevalent. Most women (86%) had the operation done at infancy. Naming ceremony (62%) and rite of passage (9%) were carried out on the same day respectively. FGM as an Islamic requirement was the most predominantly cited reason by both victims (33%) and men (38%). Other reasons such as, chastity, fidelity in marriage, enhancement of matrimonial opportunities, promotion of female hygiene, and peer pressure were also cited as reasons for the practice. Knowledge of complications of the practice was generally very poor. Only 30% of victims and 47% of men were aware of any complications. In conclusion, the prevalence of FGM in some parts of Northern Ghana is still high. Contrary to earlier findings, this study has identified that the targeted age group for FGM in the Sissala district are infants. FGM as an Islamic requirement, carried out on the same day with naming ceremony, might also explain the trend towards infants.

TOWARDS INTEGRATION OF NTD PROGRAMS IN TANZANIA: COORDINATION, COLLABORATION OR CONSOLIDATION?
Mwele N. Malecela1, Peter Kilima2, Upeno Mwingira1, Bernard Kilembe1, Mbutolwe Mwakitalu1, Ursuline Nyandindi1, Charles D. Mackenzie4, Oscar Kaitaba1, Edward Kirumbi1, Peter Mmbuji2, Donan Mmbando2, Edwin Michael2
1National Institute for Medical Research, Dar-es-salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, 2Public Health Consultant, Dar-es-salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, 3Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Dar-es-salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, 4Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, United States
Five diseases have been targeted for preventive chemotherapy by WHO. These are Onchocerciasis, Lymphatic Filariasis, Schistosomiasis, Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis and Trachoma. In Tanzania single disease programmes to control and in some instances to eliminate these diseases were established between mainly between 1998-2004. Most of the programmes were linked to global single disease partnerships with little or no linkage to other similar programs in country and weak linkages to the health system. Taking into consideration the global focus on an integrated approach to control of these diseases, and building on the successes of the single disease programs, Tanzania is implementing integrated NTD control. The overall aim is to maximize the use of the minimum resources that exist whilst increasing efficiency and ensuring timely delivery of these effective interventions. The approach has been to use Community Drug Distributors (CDD’s), Community own Resource Persons (CORPS) and in some instances schoolteachers to distribute the drugs for the five diseases at different time intervals This paper will describe the processes leading to integration in Tanzania and will mainly focus on integration in the activity and organizational domains. The paper will describe the development of an integrated strategic plan, governance, joint training programs and a common Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy. It will also discuss where integration is occurring (national, district and village) and how it is occurring. This programme initially began in two regions of Tanga and Morogoro and has expanded to three additional regions covering a total population of 9 million people. The achievements and challenges will be discussed at the various levels in these regions. The challenges include coordination of activities at the various levels and the complications linked to moving away from a single disease approach. The opportunities created by the integration process will also be addressed mainly in the context of strengthening a sub-district workforce that is capable of delivering effective interventions. The successes of this “rapid impact package” in the five regions of Tanzania will also be discussed.

UNDER-UTILIZATION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASE SYNDROMES IN RURAL AZERBAIJAN
Danielle V. Clark1, Afraif Ismayilov2, Sevinj Bakhishova2, Huseyn Hajiyev2, Tahir Nuryev2, Saleh Piraliyev2, Sadigulla Bagirov2, Afga Astanova2, Maqsud Qasimov2, Matthew J. Hepburn3
1Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Silver Spring, MD, United States, 2Anti-Plague Station, Baku, Azerbaijan, 3Center for Hygiene and Epidemiology, Quba, Qusar, Xachmaz, Azerbaijan, 4Raytheon Technical Services Company, Baku, Azerbaijan, 5United States Army Research Institute for Infectious Diseases, Fort Detrick, MD, United States
Information on utilization of health services during an infection is essential for development of effective medical intervention strategies, including targeted education programs and public health efforts. Data on the prevalence of infectious syndromes provides information not otherwise available in populations with low health care utilization. A two-stage, probability-proportional to size sampling design was used to select 40 villages in northern Azerbaijan with populations <500 people. After providing informed consent, volunteers responded to a questionnaire recording demographics, health care utilization, and history of clinical syndromes. In the last 5 years, 6/768 (0.8%) volunteers reported being hospitalized for an infection, 6/768 (0.8%) visited a physician, 27/768 (3.5%) stayed in bed, and 144/768 (18.8%) took antibiotics without consulting a physician. In contrast, 338 illness episodes leading to antibiotic use were reported in a 5 year period with substantial regional variation observed. Only 4.5% of volunteers reported having any chronic medical conditions. Severe illness in the last 5 years included fever lasting more than 1 week (7), seizure (24), paralysis (3), and coma (3). Sixty seven (9%) reported illness in the last 2 weeks, consisting primarily of headache (28%), fatigue (15%), and joint pain (12%). Death of a family member in the last 5 years was reported for 78 households, with cardiovascular disease (21) and unknown (14) as the predominant causes. In conclusion, we observed a remarkably low utilization of health services, despite reported symptoms that would merit use. Widespread availability of antibiotics may deter health care use, and may contribute to the development of antibiotic resistance in this population. Research into the underlying causes of these health seeking behaviors should be conducted with the goal of improving health care delivery.
SOCIAL CHANGE, ASTHMA AND ALLERGY IN LATIN AMERICA (SCAALA): PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

Philip Cooper1, Laura C. Rodrigues2, Neuza Alcantara-Neves3, Alvaro Cruz4, Mauricio L. Barreto3
1Instituto de Microbiología, Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador, 2Department of Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom, 3Federal University of Bahia, Salvador, Brazil

Asthma is a chronic inflammatory disease of the Airways. Although there is clear genetic susceptibility, the asthma epidemic in recent decades has been explained by social and environmental changes. IgE-mediated asthma is recognized as extremely important in developed countries, but there is growing awareness of the importance of non-atopic asthma. The findings from SCAALA (Social Change Asthma and Allergy in Latin America), a multidisciplinary research network based in Brazil and Ecuador investigating the social, environmental, and genetic determinants of asthma, broadly support this - in population-based studies among children in urban Brazil (Salvador) the proportion of wheezy children with positive allergen skin tests (SPT+) is only 34.4%, not much higher than the proportion of SPT+ in non-wheezers (26.8%), giving a population attributable fraction (PAF) of 26.5%. For rural Ecuador the corresponding numbers are 12.0% and 10.2%, respectively (PAF= 2.2%). Further, risk factors associated with atopic and non-atopic asthma in both populations were distinct. The findings have important implications for asthma prevention and control in Latin American populations.

COST EFFICIENCIES OF NTD INTEGRATION

Deborah McFarland1, Darin Evans2, William Adamani3, David Alhern3, Abel Eigege3, Emmanuel Mrii3, Frank Richards2
1Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University, Atlanta, GA, United States, 2The Carter Center, Atlanta, GA, United States, 3The Carter Center/ Nigeria, Jos, Nigeria

Integration of interventions for NTDs is ongoing in two states in central Nigeria. One key programmatic objective is to assess whether cost efficiencies are gained as a result of integration. We assess the direct costs of integration in the health system using data collected over 3 years (2006-9), both retrospectively and concurrently. Health personnel at MOH state and LGA levels and NGO personnel involved in NTD implementation keep a daily work log of NTD activities to ensure that real time data on the key input of personnel time and effort are captured. Over 100 health personnel have completed monthly work logs that reflect changes over time from a single focus NTD to integrated NTDs. The activities have not substantively changed but efficiency has been gained in terms of time allocation of personnel, per diems and transport expense. This has resulted in an overall cost savings of $X from the baseline year 2006. The cost per NTD treatment varies from $X to $X across the LGAs as a result of different NTD packages and different roll out modalities. Inputs at the community level have also been monitored to assess the impact of integration.

DETERMINANTS OF UTILIZATION OF OUTPATIENT HEALTH CARE IN GHANA

Samuel A. Abariga
Tufts Medical Center, Boston, MA, United States

Ghana is a low-income country with an estimated population of 24 million. Its health care system is a combination of public and private facilities as well as traditional healers. It remains unclear what factors influence utilization of health care in developing countries. Health care utilization, formal or informal, public or private, may be determined by several factors, including socioeconomic and demographic factors.

Differences in perceptions regarding etiology of disease and confidence in health care providers may also determine the utilization of health care. Using multiple logistic regression, the probability of outpatient health care utilization by an individual, in event of illness, was computed as a function of age, ethnicity, gender, marital status, employment, geographic location, income, education and religion. Data for this analysis are the Ghana living standards survey round four (GLSS4, 1999) data, obtained from the Ghana Statistical Service. Overall, 25694 eligible household members were covered by the surveys and included for analysis. Utilizing health care was defined as consulting either a trained health care provider, traditional birth attendant (TBA), or a traditional and/or spiritual healer in the event of an illness. Per capita household expenditure was used as a proxy for income. Data was analyzed using SPSS statistics package (SPSS Inc, version 14, Chicago, IL) The results indicate that age, being married, divorce, male gender, basic education and income had a statistically significant impact on the utilization of health care. (P<0.05). Basic compared to secondary and tertiary education, significantly increased an individual's log odds of seeking care (P< 0.05). A progressively higher income level, was significantly associated with an increased log odds of seeking and utilizing health care (p<0.05). In conclusion, the trend towards utilization of care by people with basic education could be explained by the broad definition of utilizing care, which includes the consultation of unconventional providers which are often not patronized by the highly educated. Affordability of health care, by virtue of a high income level, spousal influence and the vulnerability of the elderly to illness might explain the significant impact of these variables on health care utilization.

APPLICATION OF HIGH DENSITY RESEQUENCING MICROARRAY RPM-TEI V. 1.0 FOR ANALYSIS OF SOIL AND DUST SAMPLES FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

Tomasz A. Leski, Michael Gregory, Baochuan Lin, Anthony Malanoski, David Stenger
Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, DC, United States

US personnel deployed to the Middle East as well as local population are subjected to high levels of airborne desert dust containing a significant fraction of particles in the inhalable size range. The dust is capable of carrying a range of toxic chemicals and diverse microbial organisms associated with their surfaces. Clinical syndromes associated with exposure to the desert dust that were not directly attributable to physical action of sand were reported but not much is known of their possible infectious origin. In the presented study the composition of the microbial communities associated with this dust was investigated by molecular methods on samples of surface sand or airborne dust from 15 sites in Kuwait and 4 sites in Iraq. Total nucleic acids were extracted from the samples and length heterogeneity PCR (LH-PCR) was employed to determine bacterial or fungal species richness and diversity. The nucleic acid preparations were also studied using high density resequencing microarray for detection of tropical and emerging infections (RPM-TEI v. 1.0), which was designed to detect a wide range of bioterror agents including most category A, B and C agents according to Center for Disease Control classification. LH- PCR indicated that samples harbor a variety of fungal and bacterial organisms. The sequences detected using RPM-TEI microarray included sequences from mycobacteria belonging to a class of rapidly growing mycobacteria. Other organisms detected included bacillus, brucella, clostridium and Coxiella burnetti. Many of those pathogens are associated with infections or respiratory illness and some of them (bacillus, coxiella) are known for their resistance to drying and ability to be spread over long distances. The presence of infectious agents in the inhalable desert dust may pose a health hazard warranting further investigation to determine their impact on human health. Better understanding of microorganisms present in environmental samples is also necessary for efficient detection of bioterror agents.

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VIRUS ECOLOGY AND GLOBAL HEALTH: THE SHOPE LEGACY

Richard Shope
Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, United States

In this talk, I will discuss the Shope legacy in the arena of virus ecology and global health. My grandfather, Dr. Richard Shope was an internationally renowned virologist and the person who first isolated the influenza virus in swine in 1931, observing the ecosystem of Iowa pig farms. My uncle, Dr. Robert Shope was the world's most distinguished arbovirologist, known for his skillful detective work tracking down viruses in tropical ecosystems. Both were pioneers in using ecological approaches in their epidemiological studies, with implications for global health. In November 2003, University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) celebrated the completion of a biosafety level 4 laboratory, the first in the U.S. at an academic institution, the laboratory was named in Bob's honor (“The Robert E. Shope, M.D. Laboratory”). UTMB also established in his honor a Fellowship in Emerging Viral Diseases Research (“The Robert E. Shope, M.D. Memorial Fellowship”). Bob Shope was one of the early voices alerting policy-makers to the global health concerns of emerging infectious diseases. My name is Dr. Richard Shope III. I was born into the Shope family of virologists and had the opportunity to be immersed into science early on. I am a Science Educator with the Urban Ecology Working Group at Loyola Marymount University, helping inform teachers and students about urban ecology and the global health implications of climate change as it impacts urban regions, through a nationwide project, the Urban Science Corps, in which science-savvy undergraduates work as science coaches in urban communities. With the recent H1N1 outbreak and the movement of tropical disease into previously temperate climates, this presentation highlights the historical relevance of the Shope legacy, and current highlights of research conducted by recipients of the Robert E. Shope International Fellowship. I will also discuss the success of the Urban Science Corps, and its potential as a vehicle of global health education.

THE ROLE OF COMMUNICATION SCHOLARSHIP IN THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF DISEASES OF GLOBAL IMPORT

Margaret Ann Romoser1, Patrice M. Bussanelli2, Lynn M. Harter1, Gary L. Kreps3, Arvind Singhal4, Emily Zielenki-Gutierrez5
1Ohio University, Athens, OH, United States, 2Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, United States, 3George Mason, Fairfax, VA, United States, 4University of Texas, El Paso, TX, United States, 5Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Ft. Collins, CO, United States

Communication is inherent in all aspects of tropical public health and medicine. However, communication scholarship and practice remain largely misunderstood, underfunded and underutilized, as acknowledged in the WHO Bulletin special edition on health communication (August 2009). Health communication theory and practice are essential to efficient and effective planning and implementation of public health programs. Endeavors such as: Conducting formative research to learn how health and disease are understood in rural communities in the developing world; attempting to alter individual and/or community attitudes and behaviors to improve public health; preparing messages for public media, including times of epidemics and/or disasters; and advising policy makers charged with local, regional and national public health policy all require practical and focused expertise that emerge from communication scholarship. Communication scholarship can help provide answers to questions such as: How can communication scholarship and practice enhance the planning, implementation and evaluation of interventions for improvement of tropical public health? What are the most effective mechanisms to facilitate collaboration and cooperation among professionals in communication and tropical public health? How can strategic communication promote the health of vulnerable populations? What is the role of narrative in health and healing? How is communication an agent for social change? Communication scholars share their perspectives on these and related issues where research, clinical practice, global public health and communication intersect.

SPATIAL HETEROGENEITY OF SOIL-TRANSMITTED HELMINTHS: IMPLICATIONS FOR RAPID ASSESSMENT AND CONTROL

Hugh J. Sturrock1, Pete W. Gething2, Archie C. Clements3, Jan H. Kolaczkinski4, Narcis B. Kabateiene5, Simon Brooker1
1London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, United Kingdom, 2Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom, 3School of Population Health, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, 4Malaria Consortium Africa, Kampala, Uganda, 5Vector Control Division, Ministry of Health Uganda, Kampala, Uganda

Recent years have seen a renewed interest in the study and control of Neglected Tropical Diseases, such as soil-transmitted helminths hookworm, Ascaris lumbricoides and Trichuris trichiura. A vital prerequisite to the implementation of drug campaigns to reduce the morbidity associated with this group of parasites is a sound understanding of geographic distributions of infection. In resource poor settings this requires rapid, cost effective survey techniques to identify populations at risk, which currently do not exist for soil-transmitted helminths. An important part of developing rapid survey techniques is the consideration of levels of spatial autocorrelation of the parasites concerned, as increasing levels of spatial autocorrelation lead to decreased precision of mean estimates. Semivariogram analysis revealed that hookworm displays spatial autocorrelation over large scales, and A. lumbricoides and T. trichiura display either spatial autocorrelation over small scales, or are randomly distributed. Using computer simulations of STH infection at public primary schools in Kenya, the effect of these varying levels of spatial autocorrelation on the performance of different sampling strategies will be investigated and results discussed.
a higher prevalence of STH than rural Vellore (5.7% vs. 2.6%, p=0.22). Hookworm (2.3%) was the commonest helminth detected, followed by Ascaris (2%) and Trichuris trichiura (1%). Ascaris and Trichuris were more prevalent in urban children (p=0.003) whereas hookworm was more common in rural schools (p=0.002). Preliminary data suggests MDA to be effective in the control of STH infection under field conditions. Rural-urban differences in prevalence of STH in Vellore could be due to withdrawal of MDA program for past one year. Overall prevalence of STH in both districts seems to have declined over years.

GENDER, AGE AND SOIL-TRANSMITTED HELMINTH INFECTIONS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

Theresa W. Gyorkos
McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada

Gender and age considerations are important as large-scale deworming programs are planned to prevent and control soil-transmitted helminth (STH) infections (ie. Ascaris, Trichuris and hookworm infections). These considerations take into account peak prevalence and intensity of infections (eg. programs targeting school-aged children) and potential health impact (eg. antenatal care programs targeting pregnant women). In addition, a comprehensive gender and age lifecycle approach may provide further insight into the development and long-term effects of STH-attributable disability and disease risk. The objective of this study was to investigate gender and age differences in STH occurrence during childhood. Data were obtained from a comprehensive baseline nutrition and parasitological survey of 7-9 (n=168) and 12-14 (n=190) month-old children living in and around Iquitos in the Peruvian Amazon. Stool specimens were examined using the Kato-Katz method. All three STH infections begin to be acquired by 7-9 months of age (1.8%, 1.2%, 1.2%, respectively), with Trichuris infections progressing to 20.3%, and Ascaris infections to 11.8%, by 14 months of age. Hookworm infection did not increase between these timepoints. Boys and girls differed in terms of proportions infected with Ascaris and Trichuris at both age intervals, with girls having statistically significantly more Trichuris infections than boys by 12-14 months of age (p=0.039). Furthermore, of the 7 children with moderate and heavy infections (mostly Ascaris), six were in the 12-14 month age group and six were girls. These data, and data from other studies, illustrate differential profiles of gender and age in STH occurrence over the human lifespan. By mapping out STH prevalence and intensity over the lifespan, new insight may be obtained into the underlying determinants of infection.

ANTHELMINTHIC USE IN THE FIRST TRIMESTER: LIMITATIONS OF CURRENT EVIDENCE AND IMPLICATIONS FOR LARGE SCALE DEWORMING PROGRAMS

Theresa W. Gyorkos
McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada

Large-scale deworming programs are advocated as an effective and efficient way of reducing the burden of disease due to soil-transmitted infections in high risk groups. One such high risk group is pregnant women, mainly because of hookworm-attributable anemia. Alleviating anemia during pregnancy has been shown to improve both maternal and infant health. However, there is concern about the inadvertent administration of anthelmintics to adolescent and adult pregnant women in their first trimester. This study was undertaken to review the evidence on inadvertent exposure to anthelmintics in the first trimester. Evidence on anthelmintic use during the first trimester of pregnancy was obtained from an extensive search of the peer-reviewed scientific literature. A total of 8 papers were identified. Two were single case reports; one summarized notifications to a pharmaceutical company; and 5 were epidemiological studies (3 cross-sectional and 2 case-control). The outcome of the two case reports (one with mebendazole use and the other with albendazole) were two healthy babies. The outcomes of half of the notices (25/49) to the pharmaceutical company were unknown. All of the epidemiological studies, conducted between 1996 and 2005, in different countries, contained methodological flaws, seriously limiting the interpretation of the data and, consequently, the conclusions drawn. These limitations include: incomplete data, inadequate inclusion/exclusion criteria, no statistical adjustment for important confounders, inappropriate comparison groups, unknown denominators, and incomplete reporting. Deworming programs targeting adolescent and adult women of reproductive age risk inadvertent exposure to anthelmintic drugs in the first trimester when pregnancy status may be unknown. Cumulative evidence to date is uninformative. Research is urgently needed to address this issue to ensure that deworming programs aimed at women of reproductive age are safe and beneficial.

REDUCTION IN HOOKWORM INTENSITY OF INFECTION FOLLOWING TREATMENT WITH PRAZIQUANTEL IN LEYTE, THE PHILIPPINES

Nitin Aggarwal, Stephen T. McGarvey, Luz P. Acosta, Mario A. Jiz, Jialing Leenstra, Hannah M. Coutinho, Remigio M. Olveda, Jonathan D. Kurtis, Jennifer F. Friedman

1Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Providence, RI, United States, 2Epidemiology Section, Department of Community Health and International Health Institute, Brown University, Providence, RI, United States, 3Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Manila, Philippines, 4Center for International Health Research, Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, RI, United States, 5Center for International Health Research, Rhode Island Hospital, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Providence, RI, United States, 6Center for International Health Research, Rhode Island Hospital, Department of Pediatrics, Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Providence, RI, United States

This study was undertaken to assess the effectiveness of praziquantel in reducing the prevalence and intensity of hookworm infection among children and young adults in Leyte, The Philippines. Only one prior study conducted among children has examined the effect of praziquantel for hookworm infection, finding treatment reduced prevalence and intensity. Additional investigations in the context of different helminth co-infections, across varying ecological settings, and in broader age ranges are needed. We enrolled 626 males and non-pregnant females between 7-30 years of age who were infected with Schistosoma japonicum and otherwise healthy as part of an immunoepidemiological study of S. japonicum. At enrollment, three stool samples were collected and each examined in duplicate by the Kato-Katz method to quantify the intensity of infection with S. japonicum, hookworm, Ascaris and Trichuris. All subjects were treated with a one-time split dose (60mg/kg) of Praziquantel. Stools were re-examined by the same methods every three months for 18 months following treatment. Paired t-test analysis showed a significant difference in hookworm eggs per gram (epg) at all time periods post-treatment when compared to baseline. The prevalence of hookworm infection declined from 61.0% at baseline to 46.2% at 3 months, and stayed relatively constant until 12 months, after which the prevalence went up to 54.6%. Three months post-treatment, there was a 41.5% decrease in the geometric mean epg per gram (epg) among individuals infected at baseline. No significant declines in the geometric mean epg were observed for either Ascaris (0.17%) or Trichuris (0.11%) from baseline to three months. In conclusion, this study corroborates an earlier study conducted in an S. mansoni endemic area of Africa that found praziquantel reduced both the prevalence and intensity of infection with hookworm. We found similar efficacy in a broader age range with S. japonicum co-infection, suggesting that in areas where both are endemic, praziquantel may further reduce morbidity, particularly related to anemia.
CATHEPSIN B- AND L-LIKE CYSTEINE PROTEASE ACTIVITIES DURING THE IN VITRO DEVELOPMENT OF HYSTEROThYLaLCiUm ADUncUM (NEMATODA: ANISAKIDAE), A WORLDWIDE FISH PARASITE

David Malagón1, Manuel Díaz-López2, Rocío Benítez1, Francisco Javier Adroher1

1Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Granada, Granada, Spain, 2Departamento de Biología Aplicada, Escuela Politécnica Superior, Universidad de Almería, Almería, Spain

Proteinases play an important role during the life-cycle of the parasites, and in the pathogen-host relationship as virulence factors. Hysterothyacium aduncum is a worldwide fish parasite nematode which has been related to non-invasive anisakidosis and to allergic responses to the fish consumption in humans. Cysteine proteinases have been related to the allergy to plant pollens, deterrents and dust mites. Here, we study the occurrence of two families of cysteine proteinases (cathespins B and cathespin L) along the in vitro development of H. aduncum in a modified RPMI-1640 medium that enables development of the third larval stage (L3) into the mature adult. The L3s of this anisakid, isolated from fish Trachurus trachurus (intermediate/paratenic host), were used to start the culture. Samples for enzyme determination were as follow: L3 from fish, L3 after 48 h of cultivation, L4 after 14 days of cultivation, immature adult after 21 days of cultivation, and mature adult after 42 days of cultivation. Specific fluorescent substrates were used to determine the cathepsin activities (Z-FR-AMC for cathepsin B/L and Z-RR-AMC for cathepsin B). The detected activity with substrate Z-PR-AMC was identified as cathespin L, with an optimum pH 5.5 (range 3.5-6.5). Cathespin B activity was only identified with Z-RR-AMC, with an optimum pH 7.0-7.5 (range 5.0-8.0). The cultivation of the parasite led to an increased activity of both cathespsins (1.8-fold for cathepsin B and 6.3-fold for cathepsin L). These activities varied according to developing of the worm in culture time. So, the cathespin L activity remained almost constant during ontogenic stages, at the same time as the cathepsin L one decreased after last molting (M4). According these activity variations and the optimum pHs, we suggest the cathepsin L is related to digestive processes while the cathepsin B could be involved in the cuticle remodulation, among other possible functions.

INTENSITY AND PREVALENCE OF SOIL TRANSMITTED HELMINTHS IN HAITIAN COMMUNITIES

Aissatou Diawara1, Ray Kaplan2, Patrick Lammie3, Roger Prichard1

1McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada, 2University of Georgia, Athens, GA, United States, 3Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, United States

Soil transmitted helmhnts (STH) infections are a major health problem in developing countries, including in Haiti. In the context of lymphatic filariasis elimination programs, mass drug administration (MDA) with albendazole (ALB), a benzimidazole (B2) drug, and diethylcarbamazine (DEC) is administrated annually. In addition to reducing microfilaraemia, treatment reduces the intensity and prevalence of intestinal worms. The degree of selection pressure for drug resistance imposed by MDA has not been adequately monitored. A survey of A. lumbricoides, Trichuris trichiura and hookworms was conducted, in one urban and four rural Haitian communities of the West department where MDA had not been conducted previously. Six months before the first MDA, stool examinations (n = 448) of these naïve communities were carried out by quantitative (McMaster) and concentration (sugar flotation) techniques. Prevalences of 5.8%, 12.8% and 13.6% were found for A. lumbricoides, T. trichiura and hookworms, respectively. When all available people from each community were re-examined 1 week before the MDA, the prevalence of STHs remained high. Post-MDA sampling is being conducted in the same communities to evaluate the drug efficacy. Moreover, molecular analysis will be done on STH eggs and larvae to assess the frequency of the genotypes associated with benzimidazole resistance.
ascariasis was associated with a modified Th2-like response (i.e. IL-5+/IL-10+). The data from gene expression and microRNA arrays provide novel insights into the genes and immunological pathways affected by chronic ascariasis.

468

A NOVEL AND POWERFUL CLASS OF NEMATICIDES FOR SOIL-TRANSMITTED NEMATODE INFECTIONS

Yan Hu, Sophia Georgiouch, Alan Kelleher, Cheng-Yuan Kao, Chang-Shi Chen, Raffi V. Aroian
University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA, United States

Soil-transmitted nematodes, hookworm, Ascaris, and Trichuris (HAT), are amongst the most prevalent human parasites, infecting more than 1 billion of the poorest peoples around the world. We have limited number drugs for treating these parasites, and, for practical reasons, only one (albendazole) is commonly used in mass drug administration (MDA). All our current drugs have limitations as used in MDAs, including moderate efficacy against hookworms, low efficacy against Trichuris, and threat of drug resistance. Therefore there is great need for new human anthelmintics and anthelmintic combination therapies. We are developing Crystal (Cry) proteins from the soil bacterium Bacillus thuringiensis as new anthelmintics. This bacterium has evolved a large family of proteins that are designed specifically to target and kill invertebrates while being safe to vertebrates. We have found that some of these proteins are able to cure helminth infections in mice model and hamster model of human helminth diseases. Here we will discuss our latest work on the development of these proteins, including efforts to develop Cry proteins as effective single dose anthelmintics and as combination anthelmintic therapies with nicotinic acetylcholine receptor agonists such as tribendimidine. In particular, we will highlight how we can use the free-living nematode C. elegans to develop more potent Cry protein variants and study anthelmintic combination interactions. We will then discuss how this data translates into efficacy studies in helminth infections in mice.

469

CHARACTERIZATION OF THE IMMUNE RESPONSE TO THE LARVAL PHASE OF ASCARIS SUUM INFECTION AND IDENTIFICATION OF ASCARIS ANTIGENS EXPRESSED DURING THAT PHASE

Maria A. Garcia Fernandez1, Henry J. Pollack1, Daniel Eichinger2, Peter J. Hotez1

1New York University School of Medicine, Division Pediatric Infectious Diseases, New York, NY, United States, 2New York University School of Medicine, Department Medical Parasitology, New York, NY, United States,

Ascaris suum infection occurs in greater than 25% of worldwide population with an estimated total of 1.2-1.4 billion infected people; it is immunologically comparable to A. suum porcine infection and in some regions, the two can co-exist. A. suum infection, similar to A. lumbricoides, results from fecal-oral transmission with ingestion of infective eggs that hatch in the intestine; Larvae released in the intestinal lumen access the venous portal circulation where they mature. Final larval maturation occurs with migration to the lungs, at day 7 of infection, where larvae penetrate alveoli and small airways inducing an inflammatory response including production of IgE, mast cell degranulation, histamine release and eosinophilia. Larvae are swallowed and mature into the adult form in the small intestine, where females lay infective eggs. This project consists of immunoscreening an Ascaris suum lambda phage gt11 larval cDNA library obtained from the USDA with serum from previously infected animals challenged with re-infection. Samples of serum from day 7 after inoculation will be used to identify the most frequent immunogenic A. suum antigens during the larval phase of the disease. The most frequent antigens will be useful in development of better diagnostic assays and in the understanding of A. lumbricoides infection. Presently, diagnosis of human ascariasis is made from microscopic detection of eggs in stool, which occurs when the parasite has matured into an adult form in the intestinal lumen. This method therefore targets the chronically infected population but does not permit diagnosis in the early stages of the infection when larval migration causes significant asthma-like pulmonary pathology, most frequently in children. The significance of this study lies in its enormous potential in the understanding of immune response to A. lumbricoides infection, particularly to the larval stage responsible for the pulmonary manifestations, with the ultimate goal of developing improved diagnostic tools.

470

EFFICACY OF SECOND-LINE THERAPY (PROTEASE INHIBITOR BASE-REGIME) AFTER NON NUCLEOSIDE REVERSE TRANSCRIPTASE INHIBITOR (NNRTI) BASED HIV TREATMENT FAILURE

Supat Chamnanchanunt
Tropical Medicine, Bangkok, Thailand

Failure of first-line therapy (NNRTI) is unavoidable in a proportion of HIV infected patients. According to WHO guidelines, protease inhibitor (PI) base-regime is widely used as second-line therapies. In source-limited countries are problematic, because the expense of PI. This study aimed to assess the efficacy of the second-line therapies according to single/double PI base-regime. Additionally, whether the use of boosted indinavir shows a difference in the efficacy. This descriptive, observational retrospective study was retrieved medical records during 2004-2006 at Bamrasnaradura Infectious Diseases Institute, Thailand. Single and double PI base-regimes were compared according to CD4+counter, plasma viral load (pVL), bodyweight, and adverse events. If boosted indinavir is enclosed, were reviewed. Of 86 patients were included, 66.3% were male, 64 of 84 (76.2%) were classified as CDC category C3. Of 52 (60.5%) patients received GPO-vir as first-line regime. The median time from detection of treatment failure to start of second-line therapy was 39 (0-237) weeks, the median CD4+counter and pVL at start of second-line therapy were 13 (0-872) cells/mm³ and 98,900 (141-750,000) RNA copies/mL, respectively. The initial bodyweight was 54 (31-83) kg. At 24±12 and 48 ± 4 weeks, the increasing of CD4+ counter, median pVL, bodyweight and adverse events showed no significantly different between single and double PI base-regimes, regardless of indinavir used. Eight cases had a treatment failure. In conclusion, distributions of complete pVL suppression increasing CD 4+ count and bodyweight were similar in single and double PI base-regimes at 48 ± 4 weeks. Boosted indinavir as the most used PI in this patient group, did not show a significantly different to other protease inhibitors. This study gives the importance knowledge of selected second-line regime. Especially, the resource-limited country.

471

EFFECT OF HIV-1 SUBTYPES A AND D ON DISEASE PROGRESSION IN HIV INFECTED PATIENTS WITH SEPSIS IN UGANDA

Najah I. Doka1, Christopher C. Moore1, Shevin T. Jacob2, David Meyla3, Harriet Mayanja-Kizza3, Patrick Banura3, Steve Reynolds3, Michael Scheld1, Wen Yuan1

1University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, United States, 2University of Washington, Seattle, WA, United States, 3Makerere University, Infectious Disease Institute, Uganda

Whether the different subtypes of HIV-1 affects HIV disease progression is well known. While various studies have shown no association, most recently, some studies in Brazil as well as Uganda have shown that HIV disease progression can be affected by the subtype. In Uganda, subtype D has been attributed to faster HIV disease progression compared with subtype A. This study aimed to assess the efficacy of the second-line therapies according to single/double PI base-regime. Additionally, whether the use of boosted indinavir shows
to subtype A, with a mortality hazard ratio of 1.26. Given the high prevalence of sepsis in HIV infected patients and the high mortality in these patients attributed to sepsis, we set out to determine if severity of sepsis or mortality due to sepsis would be greater in patients infected with HIV-1 subtype D compared to subtype A. A prospective cohort study was done enrolling HIV infected patients (including both incident and prevalent cases) who presented with sepsis. Participants were enrolled from a larger cohort of patients with sepsis who presented to Mulago and Masaka Hospitals in Uganda from 2008 to 2009. HIV-1 subtyping was done by sequencing of the gag and env gene, followed by phylogenetic analysis. Information collected included; participants' demographics, CD4 count, antiretroviral drug use, severity of sepsis, WHO clinical stage and opportunistic infections (prior and present). Outcomes of interest were in-hospital and 28 day mortality. Of the 41 samples subtyped, 25 were subtype A (71.4%) and 10 were subtype D (28.6%). Both groups were similar in age and gender distribution, CD4 count (<50), ARV use, and WHO clinical stage. In the subtype A group, 8 patients (32%) died in the hospital, compared to subtype D with 3 (30%) deaths. Neither the mortality rate nor the time to death was statistically different. Length of stay in the hospital was not statistically different between the two subtypes either. In conclusion, so far, no difference is seen between the two subtypes in terms of disease progression, however given the small sample size, further studies of larger samples would be needed.

472

HIV DISEASE AND BLOODSTREAM INFECTIONS AMONG FEBRILE PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS IN NORTHERN TANZANIA

John A. Crump1, Habib O. Ramadhani2, Anne B. Morrissey1, Levina Msuya1, Grace D. Kinabo1, Werner Schimana3, Coleen K. Cunningham1, John A. Bartlett1, Hugh Reyburn3

1Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC, United States, 2Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre, Moshi, United Republic of Tanzania, 3London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, United Kingdom

Few studies describe the contribution of pediatric HIV and of HIV co-infections to hospital admissions in sub-Saharan Africa. We prospectively studied febrile pediatric admissions to one hospital using modern laboratory methods. We enrolled consecutive admitted patients aged ≥2 months and <13 years with current or recent fever during one year in Moshi, Tanzania. A standardized clinical history and physical examination were done and hospital outcome recorded. HIV antibody testing, standard aerobic blood cultures and malaria film were done. Early infant HIV diagnosis by HIV-1 RNA PCR was done for those aged ≤18 months. HIV-infected patients also received serum cryptococcal antigen testing and CD4-positive T-lymphocyte percent (CD4%). Of 480 patients enrolled, the median age was 43 months (range 5 months-13 years), 205 (42.7%) were female, and 68 (14.2%) were HIV-infected. Provisional clinical diagnosis of HIV disease was made in 50 (10.4%) and of malaria in 282 (58.8%). Of HIV-infected patients the median (range) CD4% was 17 (0, 56%) and 2 (2.9%) had positive serum cryptococcal antigen tests. Of 447 (93.1%) with blood cultures, 18 (4.0%) grew pathogens. Of blood cultures with pathogens, 63 (33.3%) were Strepotococcus pneumoniae; 5 (2.8%) Salmonella Typhi; 3 (16.6%) Escherichia coli; and 4 (22.2%) grew other pathogens. Plasmodium falciparum was identified on blood film of 7 (1.7%). HIV infection was associated with S. pneumoniae (odds ratio 30.0, p<0.001) bloodstream infection (BSI), but not with S. Typhi, E.coli, or P. falciparum BSI. Inpatient death occurred in 36 (7.5%) patients. In conclusion, S. pneumoniae is a leading cause of bloodstream infection among pediatric admissions in Tanzania and is closely associated with HIV infection. Malaria is over-diagnosed clinically, whereas the prevalence of HIV is underestimated. HIV and HIV co-infections contribute to a substantial proportion of pediatric febrile admissions underscoring the value of routine HIV testing.

473

THE EFFECT OF AIDS BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION ON CHINESE OVERSEAS WORKERS

Ruixin Hu

Liaoning International Travel Healthcare Center, Shenyang, China

The objective of this study was understand the knowledge, attitude, behavior and concept mastering of AIDS that the Chinese overseas workers have. Explore effective methods of AIDS related behavioral intervention, to better prevent AIDS. We independently designed a survey form, adopting the anonymous questionnaire (KABP) method. We had 1855 Chinese overseas workers who came to our center for health check do the survey twice before and after AIDS behavioral intervention. The overseas workers had certain understandings to AIDS, but they only had a vague knowledge of AIDS high-risk behavior, and didn’t know much about prevention. The majority of overseas workers were willing to receive interventional education. In conclusion, there are risky factors which could lead to AIDS spread among overseas workers. It’s imperative to do behavioral intervention on them.

474

MOLECULAR CHARACTERIZATION OF HIV-1 IN NICARAGUA

Gladys Carrión1, V. Alberto Laguna-Torres1, Felix Sánchez2, Miguel Orozco3, Manuel Alfaro1, Roberto Cieza1, Tadeusz Kochel1

1Naval Medical Research Center Detachment, Lima, Peru, 2Ministerio de Salud, Managua, Nicaragua, 3Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios de la Salud (CIES), Managua, Nicaragua

The first case of HIV/AIDS in Nicaragua was not discovered until 1987, and to date there is no published data regarding the distribution of HIV genotypes in Nicaragua. In 2007, a collaborative project was established to evaluate the genetic distribution of HIV-1 in Nicaragua. We analyzed a total of 106 strains from HIV-seropositive samples and classified the strains genetically. Of these strains 93 (88%) grouped within subtype B in the gag gene and 74 (70%) grouped within subtype B in the env gene. The remaining gene sequences could not be amplified initially and remain to be classified. Genetic variability in a subtype may introduce diversified motifs, which may serve as markers of the geographic origin of certain HIV-1 strains and their Circulating Recombinant Forms. Therefore we further analyzed the V3 loop of the env gene product to identify specific motifs that may be indicative of genetic heterogeneity among the subtype B strains. The prevalent tetrameric amino acid sequences within the V3 loop were found to be GPGR (51%), followed by GPGK (13.4%), GPGS (7.5%) and HGPG (1.3%). In summary, through molecular genotyping we documented the predominance of subtype B among HIV-positive Nicaraguan patients, although a subset of the HIV-1 strains remain to be identified. Not all B subtype strains shared the same characteristics, which may be indicative of different origins among subtypes. Phylogenetic analyses will be useful to document the relationships between the Nicaragua subtypes and other Central America subtypes. Further studies are necessary to determine the extent of genetic variability within other genomic regions of the HIV-1 strains.

475

DECREASED ANTIVIRAL ANTIBODY RESPONSES IN SHIV1157IP-INFECTED Rhesus Macaques Coinfected WITH SCHISTOSOMA MANSONI

SuFey Ong1, S. Michele Owens1, Agnes L. Chenine2, Ruth M. Ruprecht2, W. Evan Secor1

1Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, GA, United States, 2Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, United States

The effect of schistosome infections on host immune responses has been proposed to increase infection with HIV-1 and perhaps contribute to the apparent discrepancy of HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa compared...
MOLECULAR CHARACTERIZATION OF CRYPTOSPORIDIUM ISOLATED FROM HIV-INFECTED PATIENTS IN MALAYSIA

Johari Surin, Asma Iqbal, Mohammed Mahdy, Benedict Sim, Aedeeba Kamarudin, Yvonne Lim

1University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2Hospital Sungai Buloh, Selangor, Malaysia

Cryptosporidium isolated from HIV-infected patients in Malaysia which were initially identified by using modified Ziehl-Neelsen staining technique were confirmed by nested PCR targeting a partial region of the SSU rRNA gene. PCR product were purified and sequenced in both directions and consensus sequences were aligned with sequences of Cryptosporidium SSU rRNA gene in the Genbank to determine the genotypes. The overall prevalence of Cryptosporidium based on microscopy and nested-PCR were both 18.6%. C. parvum were identified in 14 patients, C. felis and C. hominis were found on 1 patient respectively. The predominance of C. parvum suggests a higher probability of zoonotic transmission among the HIV-infected patients in Malaysia. Most of the patients had CD4 count lower than 50.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF ACUTE CHAGAS DISEASE IN THE PERUVIAN AMAZON

Cesar J. Ramal Asayag, Rufino Cabrera Champe

1Loreto Regional Hospital, Punchana, Peru, 2Dirección General de Epidemiología, Lima, Peru

In December 2007, a case of acute Chagas disease in an 8 year old girl well documented case of the disease in Loreto Department in the Peruvian Amazon indicated that Trypanosoma cruzi was endemic in the region. Further review demonstrated 9 reported cases since 2003 primarily in remote indigenous communities. In March 2008, study of family members of the acute case and a seroprevalence study in residents of the community of San Pedro de Shishita (45 households) located about 1 hour by fast boat from Pevas was carried out. Trypanosoma cruzi infection of the index case was confirmed by trypomastigote morphology in thick smears and blood culture of epimastigotes and observation of amastigotes in histological sections of heart muscle of Balb/c mice experimentally infected with blood from the index case. Among the 16 family members of the acute case, none were positive by thick smear (n=16) or xenodiagnosis (n=3). ELISA and indirect immunofluorescence (IIF) in 104 community members including family members, 1 individual (26 y/o female) had antibodies to T. cruzi (0.96%). Entomological collections were carried out in and around the household of the acute case; samples of Panstrongylus geniculatus and Rhodnius pictipes were collected in the bedroom of the acute case, in the peridomestic area of the house and in nearby households. None of the triatomid bugs collected were infected with T. cruzi during the investigation which occurred 3 months after the case was detected. In the same population 6 of 104 (5.76%) were positive for Plasmodium vivax and 3 (2.88%) for microfilariae. The case had no travel history outside her community indicates active transmission of T. cruzi within the jungle regions of Peru.

CONCOMITANT-DISTANT LESIONS AS A POTENTIAL RISK FACTOR FOR ANTIMONY TREATMENT FAILURE IN ULCERATED CUTANEOUS LEISHMANIASIS IN PERU

Cristian R. Valencia

von Humboldt Institute of Tropical Medicine, Lima, Peru

Increased rates for failure in leishmaniasis antimony treatment have been recently recognized worldwide. While several factors could influence treatment strategy and outcome, disease severity (associated with, but not restricted to, the size and the number of lesions) has a broad and notable

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variability on the outcome of this treatment. To determine risk factors for antimony therapy failure in ulcerated cutaneous leishmaniasis patients, we assessed several “lesion severity” parameters in a randomized case-control study conducted in Peru. Among 87 antimony-treated patients, 18 cases (21%) failed the treatment, as judged by the persistence or worsening of existing lesions or the appearance of new lesions, while 69 cases (79%) were cured based on the complete scarring of lesions and the disappearance of inflammatory signs within 3 months following treatment completion. The measurements for severity included the size and number of lesions, and the occurrence of concomitant-distant lesion defined as the appearance of multiple lesions in different parts of the body (head, arms, trunks and legs) within a range of 15 days. The probability of treatment failure was modeled in a multiple logistic regression after adjusting for potential confounders including the disease time, the size of leishmanian skin test, as well as basic clinical, epidemiologic, and demographic parameters. The best multiple logistic regression model explained 49% of the variability of failure and remarkably showed a 23-fold increase in the risk of treatment failure in patients presenting concomitant-distant lesions compared to other patients (OR=22.8, 95% CI: 1.4–365.8). This high risk factor was only surpassed by the L. (T) braziliensis species as a main risk factor (OR=37.9, 95% CI: 3.0–484.8) (2). Another interesting finding was that the total area of lesions appeared to be a protective factor after normalization (OR=0.46, 95% CI 0.23–0.92). We found a positive correlation between the concomitant-distant lesions and treatment failure. Since monitoring the concomitant-distant lesions is relatively simple and non-invasive, it could serve as a potential indicator to predict treatment failure, after adjusting for patient age and occupation and parasite genotype.

480

INSULIN-LIKE GROWTH FACTOR-1 ENHANCES THE INNATE IMMUNE RESPONSE OF MACROPHAGES FROM WELL-NOURISHED MICE BUT CAN NOT RECTIFY THE DEFECTIVE IMMUNE RESPONSE OF MACROPHAGES FROM MALNOURISHED MICE

Gregory M. Anstead, Qiong Zhang, Peter C. Melby
South Texas Veterans Healthcare System, San Antonio, TX, United States

Malnutrition contributes to 55% of all childhood deaths from infectious diseases in developing countries. I have previously described a murine model of human weanling malnutrition in which malnutrition leads to (1) increased visceralization after infection with Leishmania donovani; (2) defective macrophage pro-inflammatory cytokine response (decreased levels of TNF-α, IL-10, and NO and increased levels of IL-6 after IFN-γ/LPS stimulation); and (3) an increased ratio of immunosuppressive prostaglandins compared to pro-inflammatory leukotrienes (after LPS stimulation). Insulin-like growth factor 1 is a hormone produced primarily in the liver that reflects the anabolic/catabolic balance and that also affects immunocompetence and macrophage differentiation. In our model, serum levels of IGF-1 were reduced by 71% in the malnourished mice compared to the well-nourished mice. We hypothesized that IGF-1 primes macrophages for enhanced innate immune response and that in the malnourished mice lower levels of IGF-1 contribute to the defective macrophage pro-inflammatory response. In macrophages from well-nourished mice, pretreatment with IGF-1: (1) increased LPS-stimulated production of TNF-α by 100%; (2) decreased the prostaglandin leukotriene ratio by 75% and IL-6 release by 66%; and (3) had no effect on NO or IL-10 levels. In IGF-1-primed/LPS-treated macrophages from the malnourished mice, there were: (1) trends toward decreased IL-6, TNF-α, and IL-10 release; (2) a small increase in NO (10%); and (3) no effect on the prostaglandin/leukotriene ratio. Thus, in macrophages from well-nourished mice, IGF-1 has significant stimulatory effects on the innate immune response. However, in macrophages from malnourished mice, supplemental IGF-1 is unable to restore the defective pro-inflammatory macrophage mediator response. The IGF-1 resistance of macrophages in this model of poly-nutrient malnutrition may be due to antagonism of IGF-1 action by excessive levels of IL-6 and corticosteroids observed in malnutrition or the absence of adequate zinc for IGF-1 signaling.
Prince Leopold Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium. This is a highly specific card agglutination test for trypanosomiasis that uses Ro Tat 1.2 - a predominant variable antigen type of T. evansi. T. evansi antibody was positive in 22 samples (30.5%), there was no species specificity and except two markets, positive samples were found in all other markets. Thus a significant number of edible fishes in Kolkata were found positive when tested for T. evansi antibody.

483

NOVEL PRIMARY MEANS OF TRANSMISSION OF VISCERAL LEISHMANIASIS

Kyle Metz1, Mark Madsen2, Katherine Gibson-Corley2, Paola Boggiatto2, Marcello Ortigao2, Lyric Bartholomay1, Christine A. Petersen2

1Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, United States, 2Iowa State University, Ames, IA, United States, 3Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, United States

Visceral Leishmaniasis is a fatal zoonotic disease usually associated with tropical areas. In many areas canines serve as the domestic reservoir host. The etiologic agent is an obligate intracellular protozoan, Leishmania infantum. In 1999, an outbreak of a canine visceral leishmaniasis was reported in a Foxhound kennel in New York, and since that report, several other outbreaks have occurred across the United States in additional Foxhound kennels. Our group has been following a cohort of over 500 of these dogs to better determine how this disease is transmitted among dogs in the United States and what factors may predispose to infection and disease. Based on several litters of pups, in one instance whelped in our bio-containment facility, there is strong evidence that transplacental vertical transmission occurs in these dogs, perhaps driving primary transmission within this population. Another possibility for transmission includes a more traditional vector-borne method, as a possible vector species, Lu. shannoni, species, includes a more traditional vector-borne method, as a possible vector of transmission within this population. Another possibility for transmission of disease in these dogs leads to a seropositive incidence approaching 9.8% and a quantitative PCR incidence of 22.8% in our bio-containment facility, there is strong evidence that transplacental vertical transmission occurs in these dogs, perhaps driving primary transmission within this population. Another possibility for transmission includes a more traditional vector-borne method, as a possible vector species, Lu. shannoni, does exist in many arboval river valleys within the United States. Direct contact, through kennel fights and other blood to blood contact have also been suggested as a means of transmission. Transmission of disease in these dogs leads to a seropositive incidence approaching 9.8% and a quantitative PCR incidence of 22.8% in our cohort. Ongoing studies are providing evidence as to which dogs are more likely to be infected and what the risk of zoonotic transmission is in this country.

484

SPATIO-TEMPORAL PERSPECTIVES ON PREVALENCE OF TRYPANOSOMA CRUZI INFECTION IN PERI-URBAN AREQUIPA, PERU

Stephen Delgado1, Ricardo Castillo Neyra2, Victor R. Quispe Machaca3, Jenny Ancca Juárez6, Manuela Verastegui2, César D. Bocángel2, Andrew Comrie1, César Náquira5, Juan G. Cornejo del Carpio6, Robert H. Gilman7, Caryn Bern8, Michael Z. Levy8

1University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, United States, 2Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru, 3Dirección Regional del Ministerio de Salud, Arequipa, Peru, 4Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, United States, 5Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, United States, 6Fogarty International Center, Bethesda, MD, United States

Chagas disease, caused by Trypanosoma cruzi and transmitted by blood-feeding triatomin insects, infects an estimated 8 million people in Latin America. To improve understanding of T. cruzi infection in humans in peri-urban contexts, a cross-sectional seroprevalence study was conducted in the district of La Joya, 30 kilometers from the city of Arequipa. Of 1,333 study participants, 101 (7.6%) were confirmed positive for T. cruzi infection by ELISA and IFA. Prevalence of infection increased significantly by quartile of age: 0.3% (1-13 years), 4.7% (14-24 years), 9.3% (25-37 years), 16.9% (38-90 years); (q2=73.1, df=3, p<0.001). Prevalence of infection also increased significantly by quartile of time of residence within the study area: 1.1% (1-5 years), 4.2% (6-11 years), 7.1% (12-21 years), 18.4% (22-72 years); (q2=81.0, df=3, p<0.001). Kernel density estimate ratio analysis, evaluated with a 50-meter bandwidth, found no areas of substantially increased relative risk of T. cruzi infection that exceeded 95% tolerance limits. K-function difference analysis, evaluated at spatial scales from 10 to 500 meters, found minimal clustering of T. cruzi infection that exceeded 99% tolerance limits. Age-specific seroprevalence patterns suggest that T. cruzi transmission was interrupted in the study area in the recent past. The absence of areas of substantially elevated relative risk of T. cruzi infection, as well as the minimal degree and dispersed scale of clustering of infection, suggest that T. cruzi transmission within the study area has occurred over many years. Together, results of spatial and temporal analysis suggest that T. cruzi infection is endemic in the study area, and that both local transmission and migration may contribute to the prevalence of T. cruzi infection in the region.

485

PREDICTIVE FACTORS FOR UNFAVORABLE OUTCOMES IN THE TREATMENT OF HUMAN AFRICAN TRYPANOSOMIASIS

Mbiyangandu L. Kazumba1, Madishala P. Mulumba1, Desire D. Tshala-Katumbay2

1Kinshasa University, Kinshasa, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2Oregon Health and Sciences University, Portland, OR, United States

We assessed treatment outcomes in patients with stage II human African trypanosomiasis (HAT) treated according to a traditional dosing schedule (TDS, 3 series of 3 intravenous (I.V.) injections, one injection per day with 3.6 mg/kg melarsoprol at 7 day-intervals, n = 95), or a short dosing schedule (SDS, 10 consecutive daily injections of 2.2 mg/kg melarsoprol, n = 160), or difluoromethylornithine (DFMO, I.V. infusion 400 mg/kg/day for 14 days, n = 37). Functional recovery was assessed in relation to the clinical status, dosing schedules, and biological changes in the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). The predictive values of selected parameters were determined through logistic regression multivariate analysis using SPSS software. Unfavourable outcomes i.e. loss of autonomy and/or death (up to 8% and/or 24%, respectively, in the SDS-group) were closely associated to extant neurological impairment at admission (P < 0.01), simultaneous presence of parasites in blood/nymph node juice and CSF, and higher CSF protein content. Studies are needed to refine clinical protocols to help assessing the subject's clinical status prior to drug allocation in HAT, to clarify relationships between CSF modifications and clinical deterioration, and develop novel, safe, and affordable therapies.

487

EXPANDING BELT OF HUMAN AFRICAN TRYPANOSOMIASIS (SLEEPING SICKNESS) IN PALLISA DISTRICT, UGANDA

Loyce Okedi1, A. Patrick1, V. Alioni1, R. Azabo1, C. Sebikali1, M. Okito1, T. Amusugut1, M. Nalapa2, A. Mugyenyi3, A. Kakembo4, J. C. K Enyaru5, S. Aksoy6

1National Livestock Resources Research Institute, Tororo, Uganda, 2Pallisa District Extension, Pallisa, Uganda, 3Coordinating Office for Control of Trypanosomiasis in Uganda, MAAIE, Kampala, Uganda, 4National Sleeping Sickness Control Office, Ministry of Health, Kampala, Uganda, 5Department of Biochemistry, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda, 6Yale School of Public Health, New Haven, CT, United States

This abstract describes the recent Sleeping Sickness epidemic reported from Pallisa district of Uganda. Ever-since May 2008 when a six-month old baby, along with an elderly woman, reported to NaLIRI Sleeping Sickness Hospital from Pallisa District, we set out to find the epicenter of the epidemic with a multi-disciplinary survey that included medical, veterinary and vector biologists to ascertain underlying epidemiological factors creating the outbreak. A visit was made to Budaka to the east and Namutumba to the west of Pallisa district and by July 2008 six more cases were detected in Nabiswa up to Tirinyi where the uncle to the baby died one month after the baby was diagnosed making us believe from...
verbal interviews that he baby-sat the sick child regularly. By Nov 2008 we received an eight year old boy from Putiputi sub-county to the north-east of Kibuku and others from Namutumba across the Mpologoma River. In 2009 a one and half month old child reported and was later established to be related to the eighty year old man who had been admitted earlier to NaLIRRI hospital in 2008. Another multi-disciplinary survey in Tirinyi sub-county will be conducted in June around the home of the elderly man and baby discharged recently after treatment at NaLIRRI to document on the extent of the outbreak and report that a focus had spread to cover 100 square kilometers in one year a focus.

CHARACTERIZATION OF UNKNOWN GPI ANCHORED PROTEINS IN TRYPANOSOMA BRUCEI BRUCEI

Amy F. Savage, Serap Aksoy
Yale University, New Haven, CT, United States

An in-silico screen of the genome of the pathogen Trypanosoma brucei yielded several unknown hypothetical proteins containing glycosylphosphatidylinositol (GPI) anchor structures. GPI anchors typically bind proteins to cell membranes and as such, these hypothetical proteins may be expressed on the parasite surface. Trypanosomes undergo several differentiation steps during development in the tsetse fly. Upon ingestion, bloodstream trypanosomes differentiate into the procyclic form and inhabit the fly midgut. Procyclic parasites migrate to the proventriculus and differentiate into epimastigote cells. Epimastigotes continue to the salivary glands where they attach and differentiate to mammalian infective metacyclic trypomastigotes. Finally, metacyclics develop into the bloodstream form in the mammalian host after inoculation by the fly during a bloodmeal. The genes carrying GPI anchor motifs were searched for signal peptides and other conserved domains. Homology with genes in related pathogens Leishmania major and Trypanosoma cruzi were noted. Of the twelve genes selected for further evaluation, 9/12 had known conserved domains and 9/12 were shared with T. major and T. cruzi. Gene specific primers were designed for each gene. To determine if these unknown genes were preferentially expressed in particular developmental stages, RNAs were prepared from parasite infected salivary glands, proventriculus, and midguts, as well as procyclic culture and bloodstream parasites. cDNAs were prepared and normalized by PCR using trypanosome α-tubulin. The normalized templates were tested with gene-specific primers for the twelve genes. No detectible product was obtained for 3/12 primer pairs. All other primer pairs yielded bands, and showed differential expression in different host tissues. Quantitative PCR will be used to determine the degree of up- or down-regulation. These data will provide further information on the role these genes may play in infection processes in the tsetse fly or vertebrate hosts, and increase our broader understanding of this complex interaction.

MOLECULAR CHARACTERIZATION OF KINESINCAAX IN TRYPANOSOMA BRUCEI

Erin J. Engelson
University of Washington, Seattle, WA, United States

Trypanosomatids including Leishmania species, Trypanosoma cruzi, and Trypanosoma brucei contribute to the infectious disease burden of the world’s most poor nations. Identifying essential proteins in these infectious kinetoplasts will lead to investigation of novel drug targets. These parasites rely heavily on kinesins and microtubules for motor functions as they lack intermediate filament based cytoskeleton components and most actin-based cell motors. One predicted kinesin, KinesinCAAX, conserved in T. brucei, T. cruzi, and Leishmania major, has the CAAX box motif for posttranslational addition of a farnesyl group. This lipid modification creates a hydrophobic tail that allows proteins to interact with the cell membrane, membrane-bound organelles or other cellular proteins. Studies in mammalian cells and yeast have shown that various lipid modifications are essential for activities in the cell such as proliferation and apoptosis. Our data show KinesinCAAX binds and moves along microtubules in the presence of ATP. Functional analysis in T. brucei by RNAi knockdown of KinesinCAAX reveals this protein is essential for parasite viability. KinesinCAAX knockdown parasites have an increase of G2 cells in the cell cycle and a deficit in normal chromosomal replication. Currently we are investigating the localization of KinesinCAAX in T. brucei bloodstream cell lines. We predict KinesinCAAX is a target of the T. brucei protein farnesyltransferase and this farnesyl group addition facilitates interactions with cellular cargo. Posttranslational modifications and farnesylation in particular are novel and little studied areas in the kinesin field and in parasite molecular biology. These studies have significant implications to aid development of therapeutics to combat these infectious parasites.

LEISHMANIA INFANTUM ALDOSRE REDUCTASE: EXPRESSION WITH MOLECULAR CHAPERONES, PURIFICATION AND KINETIC STUDIES

Lidia Barata1, Marta Sousa Silva1, Gonçalo da Costa1, Linda Schuld2, António E. Ferreira1, Ana M. Tomás3, Manfred S. Weiss2, Ana Ponces Freire1, Carlos Cordeiro1
1Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal, 2European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), Hamburg, Germany, 3Instituto de Biologia Molecular e Celular (IBMC), Porto, Portugal

Aldose reductase (EC 1.1.1.21), a NADPH-dependent oxidoreductase catalyzing the reaction of a broad range of aldehydes, has been implicated in the methylglyoxal catabolism (as reported previously), a toxic glycolysis byproduct. Enzyme activity assays in total protein extracts from Leishmania infantum, a trypanosomatid responsible for human leishmaniasis, revealed that this enzyme is active and is part of the methylglyoxal catabolic system. A candidate for LiAKR gene was identified by homology in the L. infantum genome, showing 40% and 51% identity with yeast and human aldose reductase genes, respectively. After unsuccessful attempts to obtain soluble LiAKR in E. coli expression systems, a yeast complementation strategy was adopted and enzyme activity was measured in protein extracts of a yeast null mutant for gtre3 gene (coding for aldose reductase) transformed with an expression plasmid containing the L. infantum gene. Km values for methylglyoxal and NADPH and the specific activity were determined by following NADPH oxidation in presence of methylglyoxal. Being similar to the ones in L. infantum extracts, Km values confirmed the enzyme’s identity. Soluble protein was only obtained by over-expression in engineered E. coli strains containing a chaperone system, DnaK/DnaJ/GrpE, DnaK/DnaJ/GrpE/ClpP, GroESL or DnaK/DnaJ/GrpE/ClpP/GroESL, which were coordinately co-overproduced with the recombinant enzyme’s identity. Soluble protein was only obtained by over-expression in engineered E. coli strains containing a chaperone system, DnaK/DnaJ/GrpE, DnaK/DnaJ/GrpE/ClpP, GroESL or DnaK/DnaJ/GrpE/ClpP/GroESL, which were coordinately co-overproduced with the recombinant enzyme’s identity. The purified LiAKR revealed to be stable and kinetically active. L. infantum aldose reductase was identified for the first time in this trypanosomatid genome. Its expression and purification optimization will be particularly useful for further biochemical and structure-function analysis. As far as drug targeting is concerned, studying this enzyme is of utmost importance, not only to understand the methylglyoxal metabolism in this infectious organism, but also to unearth crucial differences relatively to its human counterpart.
EXPRESSION PROFILING USING LEISHMANIA DONOVANI GENOMIC MICROARRAY FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF NOVEL VACCINE TARGETS FOR VISCERAL LEISHMANIASIS

Paresh Sharma1, Srividya Gurumurthy1, Robert Duncan2, Hira L. Nakhasi2, Poonam Salotra1
1Institute of Pathology (ICMR), New Delhi, India, 2Division of Emerging and Transfusion Transmitted Diseases, Bethesda, MD, United States

Leishmania is a protozoan parasite that causes human diseases widespread in tropical regions around the world, ranging from spontaneously healing skin lesions in cutaneous leishmaniasis to life-threatening visceral disease. In India, Leishmania donovani is responsible for visceral leishmaniasis (VL) and Post kala-azar dermal leishmaniasis (PKDL) while L. tropica is responsible for cutaneous leishmaniasis (CL). During infection the extracellular insect forms (promastigotes) undergo rapid differentiation to intracellular amastigotes that proliferate in phagolysosomes of mammalian macrophages. To identify virulence-related genes in L. donovani we used microarray based expression profiling in Indian isolates at promastigote and amastigote stages as well as in an intermediate stage during transformation. Transcript profiling led to the identification of 67(1.5%) differentially expressed clones in the intermediate stage and 226 (5.3%) in terminally differentiated amastigotes. Majority of the differentially expressed clones corresponded to genes involved in metabolism, cellular organization and biogenesis, transport and genes encoding unknown function. Microarray results were validated by Northern blots and RT-PCR. Among the genes upregulated at the amastigote stage, a trypanosomatid specific protein of 27 kDa (P27), Ubiquitin activating enzyme E1 (LdUba5), Parasite surface antigen 2 (PSA2) and MAP kinase (MAPK) were selected for further studies. Transcripts of all these 4 genes were demonstrated in vivo in VL bone marrow samples by Real Time PCR. Further we evaluated the transcript abundance of these genes in skin lesions of PKDL and CL patients with respect to Leishmania tubulin as internal control, taking two known amastigote specific genes, A2 and A1, as positive control. The results highlighted substantial differences in gene expression patterns in vivo in the three different forms of Leishmaniasis, indicating the involvement of selected genes in the disease pathogenesis. Functional characterization of such genes is underway to elucidate their role in virulence of the parasite and their potential as vaccine targets.

492

AN UNUSUAL HSP70 PRESENT IN RARE LEISHMANIA VIANNIA ISOLATES FROM PERU

Nicolas Veland1, Rosa Pacheco2, Jorge Arevalo1
1Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru, 2Universidad Nacional San Antonio Abad, Cusco, Peru

Cusco is a hyper endemic area for Leishmaniasis in Peru. Most patients are infected with Leishmania (Viannia) braziliensis, although other species like L. (V.) lainsoni and L. amazonensis have been described in a considerable much lower proportion. Six isolates from Cusco, three of them obtained from naturally infected Lutzomyia sandflies and three from patients with cutaneous lesions, presented a very unusual Hae III PCR-RFLP pattern for hsp70 encoding gene. They were quite different from the canonical L. braziliensis pattern present in hundreds of isolates from different endemic areas. On the other hand, PCR-RFLP of the ribosomal internal transcribed spacer (ITS5) confirmed that these parasites belonged to the Viannia and not to the Leishmania subgenus. Hsp70 DNA sequencing revealed the same sequence for both human and insect vector obtained isolates. It presented more than 40 nucleotide substitutions when compared with the hsp70 sequence of 15 Leishmania (V.) braziliensis isolated from Cusco and 5 L (V.) peruviana from the Andean highlands. The latter two species had a hsp70 sequence with a very high homology to the corresponding gene reported for the M2904 international reference strain. Thirty of the substitutions were non synonym codons representing twenty different aminoacid residues. The substitutions did not affect those aminoacids that are strictly conserved along evolution, from yeast to trypanosomes, except for a change of a glutamic acid in two different positions. Firstly, Gln 566 by Asp, which did not change the net charge of the protein. Second, Gln 582 by the polar non charged serine at the C-terminal Substrate Binding Domain. The latter change is a very interesting fact because it has been implied in the contact between the nucleotide binding domain and the α helical sub domain in yeast hsp70 dimer molecules. Parasite identification will establish if we are dealing with a rare hsp70 gene that replaced the canonical one of Leishmania braziliensis or that the six isolates correspond to a novel taxonomic Viannia subgroup.

493

IDENTIFYING MICRONORNAS THAT ALTER MACROPHAGE SUSCEPTIBILITY TO INFECTION BY LEISHMANIA

Joel W. Graff, Anne M. Dickson, Mary E. Wilson
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, United States

Macrophages are a heterogeneous population of innate immune effector cells. Stimulation of macrophages with inflammatory cytokines and microbial products results in M1 macrophage polarization. Macrophages can also be activated by an array of stimuli that result in polarization distinct from the M1 macrophages (M2a, M2b, and M2c). M1 macrophages are associated with stronger microbicidal activity against intracellular pathogens, such as Leishmania, than those with M2 phenotypes. There are many differences in gene expression, cytokine secretion, and display of cell surface markers between the M1 and M2 subsets of macrophages. MicroRNAs (miRNA) are capable of repressing the expression of hundreds of proteins. We hypothesize that the dynamic changes seen in the polarized macrophages are controlled, at least in part, by the action of miRNAs. Recently, three miRNAs (miR-132, miR-146a, and miR-155) were reported to be up-regulated in macrophages stimulated by LPS, which activates macrophages toward M1-like phenotypes. Monocyte-derived macrophages (MDMs) were polarized via stimulation with IFNγ and LPS (M1), IL-4 (M2a), IgG and LPS (M2b), or TGF-β (M2c). RT-PCR revealed unique profiles of CXCL9, IL-10, CD206, and CCL18 transcripts were regulated by the distinct polarized MDM phenotypes. Bio-Plex cytokine assays detected IL-6, IL-1β, and TNFα secretion by M1 MDMs and to a lesser extent by M2b MDMs. Only M1 MDMs produced large quantities of IL-12(p70). These results confirm that our experimental stimulation conditions directed proper macrophage polarization. Surprisingly, MDMs do not induce miR-146a and miR-155 under M1 polarizing conditions or by LPS treatment alone. We have initiated experiments to identify miRNAs regulated in polarized MDMs. The functional relevance of each candidate miRNA will be tested by ectopic introduction of the miRNA into macrophages followed by testing changes in susceptibility to infection by Leishmania. Such observations could ultimately contribute to the development of novel small RNA-based forms of therapy.

494

THE ANTIMICROBIAL PEPTIDES AARP-1 AND RP-1 DEMONSTRATE MICROBICIDAL ACTIVITY AGAINST BOTH LEISHMANIA MAJOR AND LEISHMANIA CHAGASI INFANTUM

Consuelo Veronica G. David, Kevin Bruhn, Michael Yeaman, Noah Craft
Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute, Torrance, CA, United States

Antimicrobial peptides occur naturally and are considered essential to the innate immune system. Kinocidins, a unique group of microbicidal chemokines, function in the bloodstream and consist of a distinct extended N-terminal domain, a C-terminal α-helical domain, and a γ-core structural domains. Direct microbicidal activity is attributed to the C-terminal α-helix that interacts with microbes to alter membrane structure or inhibit macromolecule synthesis. RP-1 and variant AARP-1 are synthetic peptides designed to imitate structure-activity relationships
of certain kinocidin helices. RP-1 has efficacy against Gram-negative bacteria, Gram-positive bacteria and fungi. RP-1 retains efficacy in complex biomatrices such as human blood and blood fractions. Efficacy is greater in these environments than in artificial media. L. major is a cause of cutaneous leishmaniasis; L. chagasi infantum is a cause of visceral leishmaniasis. Leishmania strains engineered to express firefly luciferase were directly exposed to varying concentrations of RP-1 and AARP-1 in vitro. Using bioluminescence as a measurement of parasite viability, we demonstrate that exposure to micromolar concentrations of AARP-1 and RP-1 results in complete killing of both species of Leishmania promastigotes in vitro. Additional work is required, but these results suggest that such peptides have potential to be used therapeutically against visceral and cutaneous leishmaniasis in humans.

495

COMPARATIVE PROTEOMIC ANALYSIS OF IMMUNODOMINANT 30-34 KDA PROTEINS OF TRYPANOSOMA CRUZI BY DIFFERENT MASS SPECTROMETRY METHODS

Giovanni C. da Costa1, Leticia S. Lery1, Hercules Moura2, Vanda M. von Kruger1, Regina H. Peralta3, John R. Barr4, Jose M. Peralta1
1Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, GA, United States, 3Universidade Federal Fluminense, Niteroi, Brazil

Trypanosoma cruzi is the etiological agent of Chagas' disease, an illness that widespread in Latin America, affecting 13 million of people. Transmission usually occurs by infected triatomine bugs, but in non-endemic areas, as U.S. and Europe, transmission by contaminated blood transfusion is the major route of infection. Detection of antibody to T. cruzi by serological techniques is the main choice for diagnosis of infection in the chronic phase of the disease. Crude extracts, purified and recombinant proteins, as well as synthetic peptides of the parasite are used as antigens. Differences in protein profiles obtained from different strains of the parasite and differences in the human humoral immune response can lead to variations in sensitivity and specificity rates in endemic and non-endemic areas in different parts of the world. Furthermore, the absence of a gold standard method generates the interest in searching for new antigens. In previous work, parasite proteins of 30 to 34 kDa have demonstrated high specificity for diagnosis of Chagas' disease when immunoblot analysis was used. Identification and characterization of such proteins are needed. Recently, proteomic approaches have been successfully used as tools for discovering new antigenic molecules of T. cruzi and other parasite agents. In the present study, a 30-34 kDa protein fraction was purified by preparative electrophoresis and initially analyzed by two-dimensional electrophoresis (2-DE) and mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF and MALDI-TOF/TOF). The results were compared with those obtained by LC-MS/MS (ESI-Q-TOF) analysis. The total comparative analysis showed 26 protein types with emphasis to heat shock protein 70, P28, ribosomal proteins and prostaglandin F2α synthase (PGF2 synthase) which was shown to be the predominant. The 2-DE/western blot analyses using monoclonal antibodies and sera samples from chagasic patients showed high percentage of reactivity with the PGF2 synthase, indicating that this could be a candidate to be used as antigen in the serodiagnosis of Chagas' disease.

496

TRYPANOSOMA CRUZI -INDUCED INFLAMMATION IN ADIPOSE TISSUE

FNU Nagajothi1, Mahalia S. Desrusseaux1, Louis M. Weiss2, Philipp E. Scherer3, Herbert B. Tanowitz4
1Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY, United States, 2University of Texas Southwest, Dallas, TX, United States

Trypanosoma cruzi infection causes an intense inflammatory response. We reported that adipose tissue is an important target of T. cruzi infection in a mouse model. In this report we describe the response of adipose tissue to this infection through the synthesis and release of adipokines, cytokines and chemokines and their contribution to various signaling pathways and systemic inflammation during acute and chronic infection. CD1 mice were infected with the Brazil strain and brown adipose tissue (BAT) and white adipose tissue (WAT) were analyzed 15 and 100 days post infection by immunoblot and qPCR. Both types of adipose tissue displayed a massive infiltration of macrophages upon infection, a down-regulation of adiponectin (a fat-derived adipokine), a change in peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor-γ (PPARγ), an up-regulation of the major three MAPks (ERK 42/44, p38, pJNK) and an increased expression of Toll-like receptors-2, 4 and 9. In addition, infection caused an up-regulation of cytokines (TNF, IFNγ, Itgb2 and Ltb) and an increase in the expression of Ccl2, Ccl5, Ccl7, Ccl8, Ccl4, Ccl6, Cxcl9, Cxcl10 and Il-1α, Il-1β, Il-18 and Il-17. Interestingly, we found that different signaling pathways are involved in the regulation of immune response in infected BAT and WAT. In infected BAT, a down-regulation of PPARγ, activation of TNF and IFNγ as major pro-inflammatory markers and up-regulation of additional cytokines and chemokines was observed. In contrast, WAT displayed an up-regulation of PPARγ, TLR-9 and ERK42/44 while no significant changes in mRNA expression levels were seen for TNF and IFNγ. In infected WAT, PPARγ antagonizes many effects of TNF. TNF secretion in infected BAT suppresses adiponectin, an anti-inflammatory adipokine as well as PPARγ, resulting in an inflammatory phenotype of the adipocytes. Overall, these data implicate adipose tissue as an important target of T. cruzi infection contributing to the systemic inflammatory response seen in this infection.

497

EVALUATION OF INHIBITORY EFFECT OF A TRYPANOSOMA BRUCEI CALCIUM CHANNEL ANTIBODY (ANTI-TBCC1) IN VITRO

Kiantra I. Ramey1, Zuzana Kucerova2, Winston Thompson1, Jonathan K. Stiles1
1Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, United States, 2Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, United States

Trypanosoma brucei is a protozoan parasite that causes Human African Trypanosomiasis (HAT, sleeping sickness). 2-300 million people are exposed to this disease and an estimated 50,000 deaths occur annually in sub-Saharan Africa. Thus, new targets are sought for development of effective vaccines or drugs against infection. Existing drugs used to treat HAT are toxic and often times lethal and vaccines developed against HAT have been unsuccessful due to parasite evasion of the host's immune system by antigenic variation. An in vitro drug study using commercially available Ca2+ channel blockers effectively inhibited parasite proliferation and survival at micro Molar concentrations when compared to Pentamidine controls, indicating the presence and importance of L-type Ca2+ channel in survival. A putative L-type T. brucei Ca2+ channel (TBCC1) was identified and characterized and specific anti-TBCC1 antibodies were produced and used to locate the channel in pericellular, nuclear and flagellar pocket regions by immunocytochemistry. We hypothesized that treating parasites with anti-TBCC1 antibodies will interfere with Ca2+ homeostasis and proliferation in parasites. To test this hypothesis we performed antibody blocking assays testing different concentrations of anti-TBCC1 on blood stage cultures of T. brucei in vitro. The results indicate that anti-TBCC1 is immunogenic, binds pericellular and nuclear membrane, interferes with Ca2+ homeostasis, and inhibits T. brucei proliferation in vitro.

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DETECTION OF TRYPANOSOMA CRUZI ANTIGEN IN SKELETAL MUSCLE OF FETUSES WITH MORPHOLOGICAL STRUCTURAL ANOMALIES FROM MICE WITH ACUTE CHAGASIC INFECTION

Maritza E. Alarcon, Mary C. Perez, Loredana Gonalaves, Ana Lugo-Yarboh, Elio A. Moreno
Universidad de los Andes, Merida, Venezuela

The congenital Chagas disease is a public health problem that allows the uncontrolled transmission of parasites from one generation to other. In this study the NMRI mice (Mus musculus) female were inoculated intraperitoneally with 2x10^3 metacyclic trypomastigotes from the M/ HOM/BRAS/Y Trypanosoma cruzi strain. To obtain pregnancies, mice were mated with males at day 15 after infection. The results showed high levels of patent parasitemia in the mice with 30 days of infection and 20 days of pregnancy in comparison with infected unmaled mice. The infected pregnancy mice were sacrificed at day 20 of gestation and the fetuses with their placentas were removed and evaluated. The infection by T. cruzi in pregnancy mice with highest parasitemia affect the intrauterine developement of some of their fetuses. Morphological and structural muscular-skeletal anomalies similar to protuberances were found in 3 (15%) fetuses from two mice infected. In one fetus the protuberances were seen on the body dorsal side and another on the left footpad base; another fetus developed his right footpad came out from right part of his face and another fetus developed a lump in the left leg above the subscapular region. Histological sections of placenta, heart and skeletal muscle of the fetuses staining with Hematoxin and Eosin, showed inflammatory infiltrate with lymphocytes, macrophages and monocytes, and discrete myositis and myocarditis. The immunocytochemical assay using Peroxidase anti Peroxidase, showed T. cruzi antigen in the placenta and skeletal muscle of the fetuses with morphological alterations. The amplification of DNA of T. cruzi by Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) showed positive reaction in 18% of placental tissue from mice infected pregnant. The samples of heart and skeletal muscle of the fetuses infected with T. cruzi did not show DNA of T. cruzi. The presence of T. cruzi antigen in the skeletal muscle of fetuses with morphological anomalies from two mice infected, might be related with the virulence, tropism and to be associated with the biological and genetic characteristic of T. cruzi strain used in experimental infection of female mice.

CHARACTERIZATION AND EXPRESSION OF A NOVEL SECRETORY NUCLEASE, LmexNuc, IN THE HUMAN PATHOGEN LEISHMANIA MEXICANA

Yunuen Hernandez, Courtney Kiphart, Manju B. Joshi, Dennis M. Dwyer
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, Bethesda, MD, United States

Leishmania spp infect over two million people each year worldwide, causing a range of symptoms from simple cutaneous to fatal visceral disease. Leishmania promastigotes reside and multiply extracellularly within the gut of their sand fly vector and as obligate intracellular amastigotes within the phagolysosomal system of mammalian macrophages. All Leishmania are purine auxotrophs and thus must salvage both the growth and development of this human parasite.

ANTIMALARIAL DRUG DISPENSING AMONG COMMUNITY DRUG PROVIDERS IN IBADAN NIGERIA: A CROSS-SECTIONAL SURVEY

Catherine O. Falade, Okezie O. Enwere, Olusegun G. Ademowo

1University of Ibadan, Ibadan Nigeria, 2Imo State University Teaching Hospital, Orlu, Imo State, Nigeria

The drug of choice for the treatment of uncomplicated malaria in Nigeria was changed from chloroquine to artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT) with a preference for artemether-lumefantrine in January 2005. Drug providers play an important role in provision of antimalarial drugs in the community. This study aims to evaluate the knowledge,
FTY720 TREATMENT DURING EXPERIMENTAL MALARIA: POTENTIAL ADJUNCTIVE THERAPY FOR CEREBRAL MALARIA?

Constance A. Finney, W. Conrad Liles, Kevin C. Kain
University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada

FTY720 is a sphingosine-1-phosphate (S1P) agonist. S1P is a tightly regulated signaling sphingolipid which binds a number of different receptors expressed on various cell types, resulting in receptor internalisation followed by later recycling. S1P binding has been implicated in cell migration, endothelial function, apoptosis and inflammation. FTY720 differs from S1P by inducing prolonged receptor internalisation, thereby extending the effect of S1P receptor signaling. To date, FTY720 has been shown to reduce lymphocyte migration and endothelial activation in models of autoimmunity. Based on the hypothesis that increased inflammatory lymphocyte trafficking to the cerebral vasculature and increased endothelial activation and dysfunction are key features of human cerebral malaria (CM), we assessed the potential of FTY720 as treatment for experimental CM in the Plasmodium berghei ANKA (PbA) model. C57BL/6 mice treated daily with FTY720 starting one day prior to PbA infection showed significantly improved survival on day 15 compared to non-treated animals (p<0.05). Circulating as well as splenic lymphocytes were decreased in the drug-treated mice. On day 5 of infection, we also observed a decrease in the inflammatory markers IFN-γ and TNF (p<0.05) in the FTY720-treated group. The impact of FTY720 treatment on endothelium function was examined using the WfF − ang1 ratio, two markers of endothelial activation and integrity. In uninfected mice, WfF levels are low and ang1 levels are high resulting in a low ratio, whereas the opposite is true in PbA-infected mice. FTY720-treated mice showed significantly decreased endothelial activation as reflected by a decreased ratio compared to non-treated mice. These data indicate that FTY720 improves survival and maintains endothelial integrity in the PbA model of CM and suggest a potential role for this class of compounds as adjunctive therapy in treating CM. However, further research is required to assess its possible use in human malaria.
mefloquine (N=53). Study participants entered a treatment phase of 3 days followed by a 39-day follow-up period. The presence of auditory changes compared to baseline was investigated at days 3 (1 hour after last dose of study medication) 7, 28 and 42 following treatment initiation. At each of these days, audiometric tests (e.g. tympanometry, pure-tone air conduction thresholds) and ABR measurements were performed under standardized conditions by trained audiology technicians. ABR testing was done using a validated stationary auditory evoked potential system. Results from ABR analysis were reviewed by a qualified clinician unaware of the patient allocation. The primary assessment was ABR at day 7. An increase in ABR Wave III latency (in either or both ears) of greater than 0.30 msec was to be classified as auditory nerve abnormality. A 15% or higher incidence rate of patients showing abnormal auditory function was considered clinically relevant. Final results will be presented and the clinical relevance of potential findings will be discussed.

**COHORT STUDY IN ZAMBIA EVALUATING THE SAFETY OF ARTEMETHER-LUMEFANTRINE (AL; COARTEM®) AND SULFADOXINE-PYRIMETHAMINE (SP) IN PREGNANT WOMEN WITH SYMPTOMATIC MALARIA**

Christine Manyando1, Rhoda Mkandawire2, Lwpia Puma1, Moses Sinkala4, Evans Mpabalwani3, Eric Njenuj1, Melba Gomes4, Verena Walter2, Raymond Schlienger2, Mailis Virtanen2, Frank Sullivan8

1Tropical Diseases Research Centre, Ndola, Zambia, 2District Health Office, Choma, Zambia, 3District Health Office, Ndola, Zambia, 4District Health Office, Lusaka, Zambia, 5Department of Pediatrics and Child Health, University Teaching Hospital, Lusaka, Zambia, 6World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, 7Novartis Pharma AG, Basel, Switzerland, 8Consultants in Toxicology, Brighton, United Kingdom

Safety data on artemisinins in pregnancy are limited. A prospective cohort study was conducted in Zambia to compare the safety of AL and SP in pregnant women who received these drugs to treat symptomatic malaria. The primary objective was to evaluate the perinatal mortality rate (i.e. stillbirth or neonatal death <7 days after birth). Secondary objectives included gestational age-adjusted birth weight. Exploratory objectives included the assessment of spontaneous abortions (<28 weeks gestation); preterm deliveries (<37 completed weeks); neonatal mortality (<28 days after birth); maternal mortality; birth defects; neurodevelopmental deficits in infants. Post-delivery follow-up was <6 weeks for mothers and <12 months for live newborns. Data from 1001 pregnant women (AL n=495; SP n=506) and 933 newborns (AL n=466; SP n=467) were analyzed. There were no clinically relevant differences in rates of perinatal mortality (AL 4.2%; SP 5.0% of newborns/stillbirths), neonatal mortality (both groups 2.3%); stillbirths (AL 1.9%; SP 2.7%); preterm deliveries (AL 14.1%; SP 17.4% of fetuses) or gestational age-adjusted low birth weight (AL 9.0%; SP 7.7% of newborns). Seven women in the AL and 5 in the SP group had spontaneous abortions. Including umbilical hernia, which is a common defect in this population (AL 4.7%; SP 2.7%), birth defect rates were 6.5% for AL and 4.1% for SP. Two infants (AL) had chromosomal aberrations. Of 6 maternal deaths (AL 1; SP 5), 3 (SP) were due to comorbid infections. Besides pregnancy related events, the most common adverse events were infections (AL 12.3%; SP 13.0%), mainly malaria (AL 3.4%; SP 6.7%) and syphilis (AL 4.8%; SP 4.0%). At one site where the Shoklo infant neurological development (ND) test was performed, there was no difference between exposure groups at 12 months of age (total score: [mean {SD}] AL: n=288, 98.0 (6.5); SP: n=224, 97.0 (8.2)). These data suggest that exposure to AL compared to SP in pregnancy is not associated with particular safety risks in terms of perinatal mortality, malformations or infant ND.

**PHARMACOVIGILANCE OF INTERMITTENT PREVENTIVE TREATMENT IN INFANTS WITH SULFADOXINE-PYRIMETHAMINE**

Alexandra De Sousa

UNICEF, New York, NY, United States

Intermittent preventive treatment in infants (IPTi) using sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine (SP) administered with DPT/OPV and measles vaccines is a promising new malaria control strategy. In 2007, UNICEF launched an IPTi implementation study in 20 districts in 6 African countries. A pharmacovigilance (PV) study was conducted in two countries to estimate the incidence of adverse events (AEs) following SP-IPTi administration; and efforts to strengthen spontaneous PV reporting was evaluated in all 6 countries. Cohort event monitoring (CEM) was performed in 5 districts in Ghana and Madagascar for 7-8 months, where health staff/volunteers made follow up home visits 7-10 days after SP administration to obtain information on AEs. Activities aimed at strengthening training and supervision for PV spontaneous reporting were implemented in 6 countries. Of the 23,998 (28% of eligibles) successfully followed after ≥1 SP doses, only 67 where followed after all three doses. No cases of Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS) were identified (95% upper confidence limit 1/8,000 infants). The rate of moderate AEs probably linked to immunization/IPTi was 1.75/1,000 doses. All AEs observed are also commonly found after vaccination, except for diarrhea. In the passive surveillance, where half-million doses of SP were given to 217,392 infants, there was no spontaneous reporting of mild AEs, and moderate/severe cases reported were <1% of those detected by active follow up. There was one serious AE, but it was not SJS. No cases of SJS were identified, though few children were followed up for all doses, and cases could have occurred after follow-up or in the children not followed. For this reason, a retrospective review of hospitalizations in the CEM study area has been initiated to rule out additional SAEs. Passive surveillance may be insufficient to detect even serious side effects, and alternatives such as active hospital-based surveillance for the detection of severe events should be considered.

**GENERATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF A 5K ANTIMALARIAL COMPOUND COLLECTION**

Kelli L. Kuhnen1, Kerstin Gagaring1, Rachel Borboa1, Carolyn Francek1, Zhong Chen1, David M. Plouffe1, Frantishek Supek1, Lai Yin1, Thierry Diagnana2, Jennifer Taylor1, Arnab K. Chatterjee1, Richard J. Glynnne1

1Genomics Institute of the Novartis Research Foundation, San Diego, CA, United States, 2Novartis Institute for Tropical Diseases, Singapore, Singapore

The availability of large compound libraries and the ability to screen them in an automated fashion is largely restricted to the pharmaceutical industry, yet is a resource with great potential in the field of drug discovery for neglected diseases. We describe here the results of screening 650,000 compounds for their activity in inhibiting proliferative growth of the human pathogen Plasmodium falciparum, the plasmodium species responsible for the majority of deaths due to malaria. We have generated a collection of ~5K antimalarial hit compounds, annotated with antimalarial activity against parasite proliferation in vitro culture, as well as for potential cytotoxicity in the mammalian hepatocellular carcinoma cell line Huh7. In addition we have assessed this collection for rapidity of activity, synergy with currently marketed drugs, and activity in a variety of P. falciparum target-based biochemical assays (see ASTMH abstract “Linking anti-Plasmodium compounds to their protein targets via high-throughput enzyme activity assays” by G. Crowther et al.). Finally, we have also screened this antimalarial compound collection for cross-reactivity to other parasites including Leishmania donovani (leishmaniasis) and Trypanosoma brucei (trypanosomiasis). All compounds screened were
A standard comparator drug for pre-clinical studies is Chloroquine (CQ), but it remains the standard comparator drug for pre-clinical studies. As pharmacokinetic data for CQ in mice are limited, evaluating combination treatments and pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic relationships in murine models is problematic. Hence, we have conducted a detailed investigation of the pharmacokinetics of single and multiple-dose CQ in the murine malaria model. Male Swiss mice (n = 125; mean weight 32 ± 3 g) with a 2-5% P. berghei parasitaemia and a parallel group of uninfected, healthy mice (125; 34 ± 3 g) were given a single dose of 50 mg/kg CQ by i.p. injection. Blood was harvested from groups of 5 mice from each group at regular intervals over 7 days and the plasma was analysed by HPLC for CQ and desethyl-CQ concentrations. In the multiple dose study, malaria-infected (125; 29 ± 3 g) and control mice (125; 31 ± 3 g) received 50 mg/kg/day CQ for 5 days. Pharmacokinetic parameters were determined using non-compartmental analysis, except the rate constant for desethyl-CQ formation and t½ for CQ, which were estimated using a two-compartment model. In the single-dose study, the elimination t½, CL and V for CQ were 47 hr, 9.9 L/hr/kg and 4.7 and 163 hr in malaria-infected mice. The t½, CL and V for CQ were 3.3 and 53 hr in healthy mice and 4.7 and 163 hr in malaria-infected mice. The estimated formation rate (1.5-3 hr) of desethyl-CQ suggests that the metabolite clearance is formation rate-dependent. Pharmacokinetic parameters in the multiple-dose study were similar. The median survival time of malaria-infected mice given 50 mg/kg single dose CQ was 8 days, whilst the multiple-dose mice survived until the 30-day study end-point, with parasitaemia <1%. We conclude that CQ exhibits biphasic elimination in the murine malaria treatment model and the long elimination t½ of CQ should be considered when interpreting data from animal studies.

A STUDY OF INTERMITTENT PREVENTIVE TREATMENT AND HOME BASED MANAGEMENT OF MALARIA IN A RURAL AREA OF THE GAMBIA

Kalifa A. Bojang1, Sanie Sesay1, Maimuna Sowe1, David Conway1, Paul Milligan2, Brian Greenwood2

1MRC Laboratories, Banjul, Gambia, 2London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, United Kingdom

Malaria remains an important cause of mortality and morbidity among children and pregnant women. The global malaria control strategies include prompt treatment with an effective antimalarial drug, vector control using ITNs or indoor residual spraying (IRS) and intermittent preventive treatment (IPT). However, individually these interventions provide only imperfect protection. Thus, there is a need to investigate whether additional control measures provide added benefit in reducing mortality and morbidity. During the 2008 malaria transmission season, 1245 children under 5 years of age were randomly allocated to receive IPT or placebo from village health workers (VHWs) based in primary health care villages. Treatment with a single dose of sulfadoxine/pyrimethamine plus three doses of amodiaquine or placebo were given to all study subjects at monthly intervals on three occasions during the peak malaria transmission season (September, October, and November). In addition, VHWs were trained to administer treatment with Coartem to children if they develop symptoms compatible with malaria during the malaria transmission season. The primary end point was incidence of clinical attacks of malaria detected by passive case detection during the study. Results of the trial will be presented.

A TWO-GENERATION STUDY OF THE REPRODUCTIVE TOXICITY OF PIPERAQUINE IN MICE

Kevin T. Batt1, Brioni R. Moore1, Verity Stirling2, Kenneth F. Ilett2, Madhu Page-Sharp1, Keith B. Shilklin3, Ivo Mueller4, Stephen J. Rogerson4, Harin A. Karunajeewa2, Timothy M. Davis4

1Curtin University, Perth, Australia, 2University of WA, Perth, Australia, 3PNG Institute of Medical Research, Goroka, Papua New Guinea, 4University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia

Antimalarial treatment options in pregnancy are compromised by inadequate safety data for newer drugs and widespread parasite resistance to conventional agents. Piperaquine (PQ) and dihydroartemisinin may be a promising combination for the management of malaria in pregnancy, due to proven efficacy in 3-day malaria treatment regimens. In humans administered PQ phosphate (PQP) at total doses up to 60 mg/kg over 2-3 days, the most common adverse effects are leucopenia, elevated serum albumin, elevated ALT and transient, mild prolongation of the QT interval. In a recent murine study, we found that PQP (1,500-3,000 mg/kg over 5 days) caused mildly abnormal white cell counts, elevated ALT and low serum albumin. Liver and kidney histopathology revealed minor inflammatory effects and occasional evidence of renal toxicity, respectively. As there is a paucity of reproductive toxicity data for PQ, we have investigated the effects of PQ on pregnant mice (F0) and two generations of their offspring (F1 and F2) using a design consistent with the requirements of ICH Guideline S5. PQP (0-300 mg/kg/day) was given to pregnant Swiss mice from gestational days 14-18. Two F1 pups from each litter were mated within matching dose groups at maturity (8 weeks). Remaining F1 and all F2 mice were euthanized at 4 weeks for determination of biochemical and haematological indices, plasma PQ concentrations and assessment of liver and kidney histopathology. There were no significant differences in growth rates, nor any dose-related developmental abnormalities observed in F1 and F2 mice. Leucocytes were mildly elevated and serum albumin was reduced in the highest dose group (300 mg/kg/day PQP). Plasma PQ concentrations in F1 mice were approximately 10% of maternal levels and PQ was detected at 8 weeks in F1 mice from dams that received 100 or 300 mg/kg/day PQ. Our results revealed minor inflammatory effects and occasional evidence of renal toxicity, respectively. As there is a paucity of reproductive toxicity data for PQ, we have investigated the effects of PQ on pregnant mice (F0) and two generations of their offspring (F1 and F2) using a design consistent with the requirements of ICH Guideline S5. PQP (0-300 mg/kg/day) was given to pregnant Swiss mice from gestational days 14-18. Two F1 pups from each litter were mated within matching dose groups at maturity (8 weeks). Remaining F1 and all F2 mice were euthanized at 4 weeks for determination of biochemical and haematological indices, plasma PQ concentrations and assessment of liver and kidney histopathology. There were no significant differences in growth rates, nor any dose-related developmental abnormalities observed in F1 and F2 mice. Leucocytes were mildly elevated and serum albumin was reduced in the highest dose group (300 mg/kg/day PQP). Plasma PQ concentrations in F1 mice were approximately 10% of maternal levels and PQ was detected at 8 weeks in F1 mice from dams that received 100 or 300 mg/kg/day PQP. Our reproductive toxicity study of PQ in mice showed no significant toxicity in two generations of offspring but small changes in leucocyte counts and serum albumin were observed. We conclude that monitoring women and their infants for known adverse effects is recommended when PQ is used in pregnancy.

PHYSIOLOGICAL HIGH THROUGHPUT B-HEMATIN GROWTH ASSAY

John N. Alumasa, Katherine B. Nickley, Paul D. Roepe

Georgetown University, Washington, DC, United States

We have developed a simple high throughput assay for testing hemozoin crystal growth inhibition under physiologic conditions. The assay utilizes the differential solubility of crystalline and non-crystalline forms of FPIX in 2.5% (w/v) SDS and alkaline bicarbonate buffer. Notably, the optimized assay incorporates the use of a lipid catalyst, physiologic temperature, and physiologic levels of heme and other reagents. We find that catalysis by monoacylglycerols is very similar to phosphatidylcholine and other lipids at 37°C. The assay requires no hemozoin purification steps and utilizes inexpensive, non-hazardous reagents. Using known antimalarials and a rationally designed set of CQ analogs incorporating mono-, di- and tribasic derivatives, we test for possible correlations between in vitro hemozoin
inhibition and in vivo antiplasmodial activities under various conditions. We find that, when corrected for variable levels of vacuolar accumulation, there is no obvious correlation between hemozoin inhibition and parasite growth inhibition for CQ analogues.

512

ABSOLUTE BIOAVAILABILITY OF CIS-MIRINCAMYCIN AND TRANS-MIRINCAMYCIN IN HEALTHY RHESUS MONKEYS, AND EX-VIVO ANTIMALARIAL ACTIVITY AGAINST PLASMODIUM FALCIPARUM

David Saunders1, Phisit Kemawoot1, Maneerat Rasameesora1, Victor Melendez2, Rawiwanimerbs1, Colin Ohrt6, Susan Fracisco2, Paktiya Teja-issaavdham1

1 Armed Forces Research Institute of the Medical Sciences, Bangkok, Thailand, 2 Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Silver Spring, MD, United States

Mirincamycin was found to have radical curative activity in a relapsing primate model previously, but pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic relationships were not well described due to analytical methods limitations. We studied the absolute oral bioavailability (F) and ex-vivo antimalarial activity against P. falciparum of cis-mirincamycin (c-MC) and trans-mirincamycin (t-MC) in healthy rhesus monkeys. Four groups of monkeys received c-MC or t-MC, at a dose of 4mg/kg IV or 20mg/ kg PO, compared to vehicle only. Plasma samples were collected at 0, 5, 15, 30, 60 min, 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 24, 48 and 168 hours, and analyzed for pharmacokinetic parameters and ex-vivo antimalarial activity against a W2 clone of P. falciparum. c-MC had an absolute oral bioavailability of 13.6% - slightly higher than t-MC (11.7%). AUC0-48 h of c-MC was about 0.8% of dry weight) and does not produce a suitable amount of biomass per hectare. To improve artemisinin availability, the production of artemisinin is troublesome as total chemical synthesis is economically not feasible and the only plant species known to produce artemisinin, Artemisia annua L., contains only low amounts of this compound (up to about 0.8% of dry weight) and does not produce a suitable amount of biomass per hectare. To improve artemisinin availability, the production in microorganisms is one option, as reported previously, even so the production in alternative highproducing industrial plant species another one. Our aim is to identify a production system with higher yield per ton plant material, and a production system which allows growing more tons per hectare. Research on the biosynthesis of sesquiterpene lactones in chicory led to the discovery that a chicory cytochrome P450 enzyme in vitro also very efficiently oxidises amrhoa-4,11-diene to artemisinic alcohol, as reported previously. Therefore we are establishing the suitability of industrial chicory for the production of artemisinin precursors. This will be achieved using a combination of molecular biology, altered subcellular enzyme compartmentation, biosynthesis and in vivo bio-transformation. Chicory is transformed with the A. annua amorphadiene synthase, the enzyme catalyzing the first step in artemisinin biosynthesis, as reported previously. Expression of this gene and amorphadiene formation is optimised by targeting amorphadiene synthase to different subcellular compartments with and without additional substrate delivering enzymes. We anticipate that the (transgenic) amorphadiene is converted by the native chicory P450 to artemisinic acid or dihydroartemisinic acid considering that sesquiterpene double bond reductase activity is also present in chicory. Before stable transformation is done, the different gene combinations are evaluated in a fast transient transformation system in chicory. Preliminary results show that the approach works and that high yields of artemisinin precursors are feasible.

513

INDUSTRIAL CHICORY AS PRODUCTION PLATFORM FOR ARTEMISININ

Teun van Herpen1, Harro Bouwmeester1, Jules Beekwilder1, Henrig Jansen2

1 Wageningen University, Wageningen, The Netherlands, 2 Dafra Pharma international, Turnhout, Belgium

Artemisinin is a main active ingredient of the most potent anti-malarial drugs currently available, but also displays activity against a range of other diseases such as for example several forms of cancer. Because of its superb anti-malarial activity and the development of new applications the world demand of artemisinin is rapidly increasing. However, the supply of artemisinin is troublesome as total chemical synthesis is economically not feasible and the only plant species known to produce artemisinin, Artemisia annua L., contains only low amounts of this compound (up to about 0.8% of dry weight) and does not produce a suitable amount of biomass per hectare. To improve artemisinin availability, the production

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MONOQUINOLINE ANALOGUES HIGHLY ACTIVE AGAINST THE BLOOD STAGES OF PLASMODIUM IN VIVO AND IN VITRO

Fabian E. Saenz1, Tina Mutka1, Ayo Oduola1, Dennis E. Kyle1
1University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, United States, 2UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR), World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland

New drugs to treat malaria must act rapidly, be highly potent against asexual blood stages, be well tolerated and must be affordable to residents of endemic regions. This was the case of chloroquine (CQ), a 4-aminoquinoline that has been long been used for the prevention and treatment of malaria. However, since 1960's Plasmodium falciparum resistance to this drug has spread to all regions of the world and more recently emerging resistance to chloroquine by Plasmodium vivax threatens the health of hundreds of millions of people. Despite the emergence of CQ resistance, synthetic quinoline derivatives remain a validated lead class for new drug discovery, especially if they are effective against CQ resistant strains of malaria. In this study, we investigated the activity of two monoquinoline derivatives (Ro 61-0732 and Ro 47-8505) and we found these compounds are active against Plasmodium in vivo and in vitro. All the P. falciparum parasites tested show sensitivity in vitro to Ro 61-0732 and Ro 47-8505, including the chloroquine resistant reference clone W2 and several multidrug resistant parasites recently isolated from Thailand and Cambodia (IC50 ranging from 0.97 to 13.51 ng/ml). In addition, these drugs had curative activity in Balb/c mice infected with P. berghei after oral administration. In fact, 80 mg/kg of Ro 61-0732 and Ro 47-8505 were sufficient to cure all the mice tested without signs of toxicity. Parasitemia cleared rapidly following 3 days of treatment in a modified Thompson Test model and no parasites recrudesced during the 30 day experiment. Additional studies are underway to examine the potential use of the monoquinolines in combination therapy with other antimalarials and potentiating compounds. Our findings suggest that these novel monoquinolines should be considered for development as potent antimalarials to treat multiple drug resistant P. falciparum and P. vivax.

ANTI-PLASMODIUM ACTIVITY OF IMIDAZOLIUM AND TRIAZOLIUM SALTS

Walter A. Szarek1, Ian E. Crandall1, Jason Z. Vlahakis1, Carmen Lazar1, Simona Mitu1
1Queen's University, Kingston, ON, Canada, 2University of Toronto/UHN, Toronto, ON, Canada

We have previously reported that sulfated cyclodextrins inhibit the invasion of Plasmodium merozoites by interacting with receptors present on the surface of erythrocytes. The observation that tetrazolium salts formed stable complexes with the inhibitory sulfated cyclodextrin compounds suggested that tetrazolium salts might have anti-Plasmodium activity as well. In an extensive study we determined that tetrazolium salts indeed form stable complexes with the inhibitory sulfated cyclodextrin compounds, and that they appear to interact with a component of the parasite that is both essential and conserved. The use of tetrazolium salts in vivo is limited by the potential reduction of the tetrazolium ring to form an inactive, neutral acyclic formazan; also, the tetrazolium ring may be photochemically unstable. To address these issues imidazolium and triazolium salts were synthesized and evaluated as Plasmodium inhibitors. A total of 8 novel triazolium compounds were synthesized and evaluated and were found to have therapeutic ratios ranging from 1 to >1,000. Further, a total of 22 novel imidazolium compounds were synthesized and evaluated as drug candidates. Many of the imidazolium salts were both highly potent, with active concentrations in the nanomolar range in P. falciparum cultures, and specific to Plasmodium with therapeutic ratios ranging from 2 to 250. Indeed, the new compounds have provided potential drug candidates possessing greater potency and selectivity than the original tetrazolium salts. Moreover, the results corroborate our hypothesis that an electron-deficient core is required so that the compound may thereby interact with a negatively-charged moiety on the parasite merozoite ligand; the side groups in the compound then form favorable interactions with adjacent parasite components and thereby determine both the potency and selectivity of the compound.

SAFETY OF PYRONARIDINE/ARTESUNATE IN CLINICAL TRIALS IN PATIENTS WITH UNCOMPPLICATED ACUTE PLASMODIUM FALCIPARUM OR PLASMODIUM VIVAX MALARIA: RESULTS OF AN INTEGRATED ANALYSIS

Stephan Duparc1, Isabelle Borghini-Fuhrer1, J. Carl Craft2, Sarah Arbe-Barnes3, Robert M. Miller1, Chang-Sik Shin4, Lawrence Fleckenstein1
1Medicines for Malaria Venture, Geneva, Switzerland, 2Former Medicines for Malaria Venture, Geneva, Switzerland, 3Fulcrum Pharma Developments Ltd, Hemel Hempstead, United Kingdom, 4Shin Poong Pharmaceuticals, Seoul, Republic of Korea, 5University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, United States

Pyronaridine/Artesunate (Pyrmax/PA) is a novel and promising artemisinin combination therapy (ACT) developed in Public-Private-Partnership between Shin Poong Pharmaceuticals, Medicines for Malaria Venture and the University of Iowa. This fixed-dose combination of pyronaridine tetraphosphate (PP) and artesunate (AS) in a 3:1 ratio, is developed as an oral treatment OD for 3 days, for uncomplicated Plasmodium falciparum (PF) malaria and for blood stage of P. vivax malaria in adult and pediatric patients. PA should be available from 2010 in Africa and Asia. The clinical program comprised 6 randomized controlled trials; 2 phase II and 4 phase III studies including a total of 4071 patients. Overall, a total of 2815 patients were treated with PA, including 1528 adults (≥18 years), 401 patients 12-18 years and 886 children (<12 years). Integrated analysis of efficacy (ISE) and safety (ISS) were performed on the pooled data and the outputs and conclusions regarding the ISS are discussed here. The clinical trial safety database included 2033 patients from Asia and 2038 from Africa. The integrated safety analysis showed the following: 57.2% of PA patients reported at least 1 adverse event (AE) after baseline. Overall, the rate and type of AEs were generally comparable between the various treatment groups and were of mild or moderate severity. The most frequently reported AEs (headache 10.6%, cough 5.9%, anemia 4.5%, vomiting 4.4%) were unspecific, likely to be related to the signs and symptoms of malaria. There were no deaths and few SAEs (0.6% in PA patients) and most of them were not related to PA. Overall, no changes in vital signs were observed except for a fall in heart rate immediately after treatment probably reflecting the clearance of fever. The pattern of changes seen in clinical laboratory parameters was consistent with acute malaria and its resolution after treatment. All biochemistry changes were transient and reversible and not associated with any symptomatology. PA was not associated with any increased risk of hematologic AEs. PA-treatment was not associated with an increased risk of QTc prolongation. This ISS demonstrated a good safety and tolerability profile of PA in PF and Pv malaria in adult and children patients. PA is a promising new ACT for the treatment of acute malaria in adults and children from 5kg.

SYNTHESIS AND STRUCTURE-ACTIVITY RELATIONSHIPS OF GENZ-644442 ANALOGS: A NOVEL CHEMOTYPE WITH POTENT ACTIVITY PLASMODIUM FALCIPARUM AND P. BERGHEI

Robert H. Barker, Jr.
Genzyme Corporation, Waltham, MA, United States

Genzyme Corporation, Waltham, MA, United States
Genz-644442 was identified as a “hit” from a library of ~73,000 compounds by high-throughput screening campaign performed at the Institute of Chemistry and Cell Biology (Harvard Medical School) and the Broad Institute in collaboration with Genzyme Corporation and www.astmh.org
Malaria Medicines Ventures and later transitioned to ‘Lead Identification’. Genz-644442 has IC50’s of 200, 520, and 285 nM against Plasmodium falciparum strains 3D7, HB3, and Dd2 respectively. In vitro absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion (ADME) studies demonstrated high metabolic stability in human and rat hepatocytes, lack of human CYP inhibition, moderate lipophilicity with a Log D of 3.0, good solubility and permeability characteristics. Additionally, the compound has a good selectivity profile for parasite versus normal human cell lines (>100X IC50). The compound was well-tolerated in mice when dosed over 4 days at doses up to 50 mg/kg/day. Pharmacokinetic (PK) studies in mice showed the compound was well-tolerated in mice when dosed over 4 days at doses up to 50 mg/kg/day. Pharmacokinetic (PK) studies in mice showed that Genz-644442 had a terminal T1/2 of 7.45 h and plasma levels of 30X the IC50 when dosed intraperitoneally at 50 mg/kg. When the racemic mixture was dosed at 50 mg/kg/day for 4 days in mice infected with P. berghei, no parasites were detected on Day 4 post infection; however, parasites recurred by Day 9. In contrast, one enantiomer cured 2/5 mice (no detectable parasites by Day 28 post infection). An efficient chemical route was established to afford access to analogs to probe SAR. Synthesis of a small library of compounds coupled with the in vivo data allowed the program to transition to ‘Late Lead.’ A medicinal chemistry effort to optimize for potency and ADME properties was undertaken and has led to identification of compounds with IC50’s of approximately 10 nM, while maintaining good selectivity and a favorable ADME profile. Compounds are routinely assessed for exposure and tolerated dose before progressing to the P. berghei model. Several compounds have been identified that when dosed PO result in reduction of parasitemia. Efforts are underway to select the best candidates for progression to preclinical and clinical development.

519

A DUAL-SPECIFICITY PHOSPHOTYROSINE PHOSPHATASE OF PLASMODIUM FALCIPARUM AND ITS POTENTIAL AS A NOVEL ANTIMALARIAL DRUG TARGET

Christopher O. Campbell, Bharath Balu, Steven P. Maher, Roman Manetsch, John H. Adams
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, United States

Malaria, resulting from infection with parasites of the genus Plasmodium, is a severe disease resulting in 300-500 million cases of clinical illness and 1-3 million deaths annually. The identification of novel drug targets is critical. We identified an essential protein phosphatase (PF13_0027) expressed in all stages of development that is conserved among Plasmodium species. Bioinformatics analyses identified the presence of an inactive N-terminal rhodanese domain and a dual-specificity phosphotyrosine protein phosphatase II domain possessing the conserved residues required for catalytic activity. The ability to express the recombinant functional phosphatase domain in E. coli has presented the opportunity for further assays evaluating the phosphatase activity, substrate interactions and inhibition with known phosphatase inhibitors. PF13_0027 possesses characteristics similar to both CDC25 and MAPK phosphatases and is potentially a novel target for future therapeutic intervention. Therefore this investigation aims to determine the precise biological significance and evaluate the effectiveness of this phosphatase as a drug target.

520

INHIBITORS OF FAB1 AS POTENTIAL ANTIMALARIAL PROPHYLACTIC AGENTS

Santha Kumar1, Marcus Pereira1, Lisa Purcell1, Andrea Ecker1, Photini Sinnis2, Julia Castro3, Alfonso Mendoza3, Jose Garcia-Bustos3, David Fidock1
1Columbia University Medical Center, New York, NY, United States, 2New York University School of Medicine, New York, NY, United States, 3Diseases of Developing World, GlaxoSmithKline, Tres Cantos, Spain

Our recent studies with Plasmodium parasites have shown that Fab1 (enoyl ACP reductase), a key enzyme in type II fatty acid biosynthesis, is not required for asexual blood stage growth but is essential for the maturation of the preceding liver stage, as reported previously. Therefore we hypothesized that compounds targeting Fab1 might be prophylactic against pre-erythrocytic stage infection. We investigated the suitability of triclosan and two compounds synthesized by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) for their ability to block in vitro liver stage parasite development. GSK compounds 6A and 3A were selected based on biochemical assays that showed potent and specific in vitro inhibition of PfFab1 activity. Results indicate that both compounds alone were able to inhibit the formation of exo-erythrocytic forms (EEFs) at 1.0 and 3.0 μM concentrations. A similar level of potency was observed with the liver stage drug primaquine tested at these concentrations. Triclosan inhibited the formation of EEFs with an IC50 value of 24 μM. Inhibitory activity of these compounds was confirmed in a time course analysis of liver stage parasite development. Triclosan also showed prophylactic activity against P. yoelii in a three-day suppressive test in mice. In this experiment, mice were subcutaneously administered 128 or 256 mg/kg triclosan and inoculated intravenously with sporozoites at the time of the second dose. Results showed a delay to 2% patency of at least 3 days in the triclosan-treated mice as compared to a control group treated with vehicle. Peak parasitemias in the triclosan groups were also markedly lower than in the controls. Using drug-resistant mutant forms of Fab1, determined biochemically, we are currently assessing whether this antiparasite prophylactic activity is mediated through inhibition of this fatty acid synthesis enzyme.

521

THE USE OF TRANSGENIC PLASMODIUM FALCIPARUM IN THE EVALUATION OF IN VITRO ANTIPLASMODIAL ACTIVITY OF ANTIMALARIAL DRUGS AND METHOTREXATE

Olugbenga Akinola1, Olusola G. Gbotoosh1, Christian T. Happi1, Akim Bowumi1, Mofolusho Falade1, Chirat Uthaipibul1, Sunmalee Kamchonwongpisarn2, A.M. Oduola1
1University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria, 2National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Pathum Thani, Thailand

This study reports the development of an alternative, simple, robust method, using transgenic parasites expressing a reporter gene (green fluorescent protein), and the detection and screening of this reporter gene by fluorescent activated cell sorting (FACS). The study also assessed the potential value of Methotrexate as an antimalarial agent. The novel method was compared to the much adaptable microscopic counting, to assess drug susceptibility in a standard in vitro assay. The transmembrane 4 (Tm4) clone of Plasmodium falciparum in continuous culture was transfected and used for the drug screening. Both assay methods were used to determine the inhibitory concentration that resulted in a 50% reduction in parasite viability. Nonlinear regression was used to estimate the 50% inhibitory concentration (IC50) and its confidence intervals. The two methods were observed to have similar reproducibilities, but the FACS method demonstrated a higher sensitivity relative to the results of radiolabelled assays. The mean IC50 value ± standard deviation for transfected parasites by FACS are: Chloroquine 3.41 ± 0.46nM, Pyrimethamine 24.70 ± 2.42nM, Mefloquine 8.37 ± 1.49nM, Dihydroartemisinin 0.22 ± 0.04nM and Methotrexate 29.98 ± 5.96nM, while the mean IC50 values of the normal parasites by microscopy are 2.98 ± 0.28, 28.76 ± 1.34, 10.83 ± 2.19, 0.27 ± 0.07, 33.32 ± 2.13, for Chloroquine, Pyrimethamine, Mefloquine, Dihydroartemisinin and Methotrexate respectively. There was no significant difference (P<0.05) between the methods for the drugs tested except for Mefloquine (P=0.015), chloroquine (P= 0.187), pyrimethamine (P= 0.066), dihydroartemisinin (P= 0.064) and methotrexate (P= 0.075). Methotrexate showed activity against Tm4 clone of Plasmodium falciparum in vitro with IC 50 value of < 40nM. The availability of this simple and highly sensitive reporter signaling assay will provide an easier method for drug susceptibility testing of malaria parasites and it may be an ideal method for high-throughput antimalarial drug screening.

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A HIGH THROUGHPUT SCREEN TO IDENTIFY APICOPLAST-TARGETING ANTIMALARIALS

Eric Ekland¹, Jessica Schneider¹, Rebecca Muhle², David Fidock¹
¹Columbia University Medical Center, New York, NY, United States, ²Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York, NY, United States

Plasmodium falciparum has successfully parasitized a large portion of the world’s population and has resisted numerous attempts at antimalarial control. This Apicomplexan parasite possesses an unusual organelle, termed the apicoplast, which is believed to derive from a secondary endosymbiotic event whereby a protozoan ancestor engulfed a red alga, containing a photosynthetic plastid of cyanobacterial origin. The apicoplast has been implicated in various processes including the synthesis of fatty acids, heme, and isoprenoids. While the exact role of the apicoplast remains enigmatic, it is clearly essential, as antibiotics that interfere with apicoplast translation, such as azithromycin, kill *P. falciparum in vitro* and in vivo. This apicoplast inhibition is unusual in that it manifests itself in the progeny of drug-treated parasites, a phenotype known as “delayed death.” To help elucidate the function of the apicoplast, and to identify potential therapeutic agents, we have developed a luciferase-based high throughput screen to search for antimalarial compounds that appear to target the apicoplast based on their delayed death phenotype. We here report on our results generated from a small library of bioactive compounds that was screened to demonstrate the feasibility of our protocol. Our findings indicate that antimalarial compounds exhibiting a delayed death phenotype are enriched in macrocide antibiotics and drugs that interfere with lipid metabolism. Certain channel blockers and receptor binding compounds, such as serotonin agonists, also demonstrated an apparent anti-apicoplast activity. We are currently validating our hits to confirm that the apicoplast is the target of those drugs exhibiting a delayed death phenotype.

HYPOTHESES OF DRUG RESPONSE DYNAMICS TO EXPLAIN RECRUDESCENCE IN ARTESUNATE RESISTANT PLASMODIUM FALCIPARUM MALARIA

Richard J. Maude¹, Wirichada Pontavornponyo¹, Debashree Das¹, Poravuth Yu¹, Rupam Triputra¹, Kamolrat Silamut¹, Sompong Saralamba¹, Aung Pyae Phyo², Nicholas P. Day¹, Arjen M. Dondorp¹, Francois Nosten¹, Duong Socheat¹, Nicholas J. White¹, Lisa J. White¹
¹Wellcome Trust Mahidol-Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit, Bangkok, Thailand, ²The National Center for Parasitology Entomology and Malaria Control, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, ³Shoklo Malaria Research Unit, Mae Sot, Tak, Thailand

Artemisinin combination therapies are recommended first line therapy for *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria globally. Artemisinin resistant *P. falciparum* has recently been identified for the first time in Pailin, Western Cambodia. If it spreads elsewhere, this resistance has the potential to become a major threat to malaria control efforts worldwide. Although clinically characterized as prolonged parasite clearance times (PCT), the biological substrate of this resistance is unknown. In order to gain a more detailed understanding of artemisinin resistance, parasite clearance data from Western Cambodia were compared with data from North-Western Thailand, where the clinical response to the artemisinins is still adequate. Because clearance times are partially determined by the initial parasite load, we propose a new measure to quantify drug efficacy at the individual and population levels, independent of initial parasitaemia. Initial parasite clearance rates did not differ between patients with or without a recrudescence infection during 63 days follow-up, but were significantly faster in North Western Thailand. Most infections in Western Cambodia appeared to have a similar artemisinin-resistant phenotype, defined by their slower clearance rate, and there was no clear evidence of a highly artemisinin-resistant subgroup. Using this data and the behaviour of the resistant phenotype in in-vitro test systems, we have modeled several hypotheses to explain parasite behaviour during the sub-microscopic period before recrudescence.

ANALYSIS OF CHLOROQUINE TRANSPORT BY PURIFIED, RECONSTITUTED PFCRT

Michelle F. Pague, Jayakumar J. Natarajan, Christian Wolf, Paul D. Roepe
Georgetown University, Washington, DC, United States

Detailed kinetic analysis of transmembranous chloroquine (CQ) transport is needed to further understand the mechanisms behind chloroquine resistance in *Plasmodium falciparum* conferred by mutations in *P. falciparum* Chloroquine Resistance Transporter (PfCRT). Various investigators have proposed that PfCRT may function either as a channel or an active transporter. Using a novel probe (NBD-CQ), wherein the fluorescent NBD tag is attached to a terminal CQ ethyl group, purified isoforms of PfCRT reconstituted into proteoliposomes (PL), and a novel assay involving extra - PL quenching with dithionite, efflux was analyzed under a variety of conditions. Turnover numbers derived from initial rates of efflux show that the outward movement of CQ is membrane potential dependent. These data strongly support our previously reported proposal that PfCRT catalyzes facilitative diffusion of charged CQ.

RESISTANCE TO CHLOROQUINE CYTOTOXICITY IS NOT THE SAME AS RESISTANCE TO CHLOROQUINE CYTOSTASIS

Mynthia Cabrera, Paul D. Roepe
Georgetown University, Washington, DC, United States

Chloroquine resistance in (CQR) *Plasmodium falciparum* parasites is usually characterized in the laboratory by reduced CQ accumulation and an almost 10-fold higher CQ IC₅₀ relative to CQ sensitive (CQS) parasites. However, accumulation of drug is almost always studied without perfusion using low (nanomolar) concentrations of radiolabeled CQ and IC₅₀ is almost always calculated via cytostasis (growth inhibition) assays. This could be misleading, since in the body, micromolar CQ plasma levels kill parasites, they do not slow their growth, and CQR parasites are as resistant to CQ toxicity as they are to CQ cytostatic effects, as reported previously. In addition, we now know that continuous vs. bolus drug dosing results in different parasite stage-specific effects. We have therefore quantified CQ cytotoxicity in CQS vs. CQR parasites using a wide range of external CQ concentrations, and have measured drug accumulation under similar conditions. Results suggest that the mechanism of CQ cytotoxicity resistance is not the same as the mechanism of CQ cytostasis resistance.

EFFICACY OF NON-CONTROLLED INTERMITTENT PREVENTIVE TREATMENT (IPTP) VERSUS CONTROLLED IPTP IN PREGNANT (IPTP) WOMEN IN CÔTE D’IVOIRE

TOURE A. OFFIANAN¹, Penali L. Kone¹, Berenger AA Ako¹, Jambou Ronan², Moussa Kone³
¹Pasteur Institute, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, ²Pasteur Institute, Paris, France, ³Pharmacy Sciences, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire

Malaria in pregnancy is one of the major causes of maternal morbidity and adverse birth outcomes. Intermittent Preventive Treatment with sulfadoxine/pyrimethamine (SP) given routinely to pregnant women irrespective of the presence of peripheral malaria parasites is part of the World Health Organization (WHO) strategy to reduce the risk of malaria in pregnancy and its consequences on the mother and her baby (IPTp). The coverage of the intervention is still low in Côte d’Ivoire. The study was performed in Côte d’Ivoire from January 2008 to March 2009. Two doses of SP, one on the second trimester (after quickening) and one on the

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