First International Symposium on the Functional Infectomics of Influenza A Virus

University of British Columbia
16 & 17 April 2010

Supported by:
The University of British Columbia, Office of the Vice-President Research and International, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) hosted three informative lectures on new insights into the influenza A virus biology, epidemiology, human/animal interface, and development of preventative and therapeutic strategies in light of the 2009 H1N1 Pandemic. Keynote lectures were delivered by esteemed international experts:

**Dr. Malik Peiris**  
Scientific Director, Pasteur Research Institute University of Hong Kong  
*From Avian Flu to Swine Flu: Epidemiology and Pathogenesis*

**Dr. John Pasick**  
Head of Classical Swine Fever & Avian Diseases National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease  
*Pandemic H1N1 Virus and the Human/Animal Interface*

**Dr. Suryaprakash Sambhara**  
Chief Immunology Section, Influenza Division, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - Atlanta  
*Preventive and Therapeutic Strategies against Avian and Swine Influenza Virus Infections: Challenges and Opportunities*

**Organized by:**  
**Dr. François Jean**  
Team Leader, CIHR Team Grant on the Functional Infectomics of Influenza A Virus  
Scientific Director, UBC Facility for Infectious Disease and Epidemic Research
Keynote Lectures
Life Sciences Centre
Friday April 16, 2010

Dr François Jean
Dr Malik Peiris
Dr John Pasick
Dr Prakash Sambhara
On Friday afternoon, a workshop was held for members of the team to share their research to date. After each presentation the group were encouraged to ask questions and provide feedback on the results and techniques. The session enabled the presenters to receive valuable input from experienced scientists from varying backgrounds. Presentations were given by:

**Ms. Vanessa Silva**, Research Assistant, Jean Laboratory  
*Novel fluorescence-based high-throughput screening assay for inhibitors of highly pathogenic influenza A hemagglutinin (HA)-mediated cell-cell fusion*

**Dr. Sandra Diederich**, Postdoctoral Fellow, Jean Laboratory  
*Impact of cellular enzyme inhibitors on the replication of highly pathogenic avian influenza A viruses*

**Ms. Linda Vrbova**, Graduate Student, Stephens Laboratory  
*From the Bench to Public Health Practice and Policy*

**Dr. Suki Lee**, Postdoctoral Fellow, Peiris Laboratory  
*Systems-level comparison of host-responses elicited by avian H5N1 and seasonal H1N1 influenza viruses in primary human macrophages*

**Ms. Emma Kate Loveday**, Graduate Student, Jean Laboratory  
*Dynamic modulation of the host cell microRNA-ome by swine-origin 2009 influenza A (H1N1) virus*

**Dr. Tom Wennekes**, Postdoctoral Fellow, Withers Laboratory  
*Mechanism-based Neuraminidase Inhibitors and Probes*
On Friday evening, a dinner for all participants was held at The Observatory Restaurant on Grouse Mountain. The evening was generously supported by febit inc and thoroughly enjoyed by both visiting guests and local Vancouverites.

Highlights from the evening were the opportunity for participants get to know each other and share their learnings from the day; as well as the delicious meal and spectacular view.
On Saturday morning Dr. François Jean led an informal discussion on the past 18 months of work undertaken by the CIHR Team Grant. The session enabled the group to provide their thoughts on what had been achieved, based on the previous day’s presentations, and suggest new ideas for continued success in the international collaboration.

The 2009 H1N1 Pandemic established a critical need for all participants to focus their attention on the new strain, and this in turn shifted the original scope of work as outlined in the grant application. While a new direction for the team, the work completed has added significant value to the understanding of the influenza A virus as well as opportunities to contribute to the global management of future pandemics.
For further information on research conducted by the CIHR Team Grant on the Functional Infectomics of Influenza A Virus, please contact:

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