

Analysis of gene expression in the Leishmania life cycle : Leishmania (Viannia) braziliensis and Leishmania (Viannia) peruviana model

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Propositions

Belonging to the thesis

ANALYSIS OF GENE EXPRESSION IN THE LEISHMANIA LIFE CYCLE: *Leishmania (Viannia) braziliensis* and *Leishmania (Viannia) peruviana* model

1. Parasite factors play an important role in the differences in human pathology observed between *L. (V.) braziliensis* and *L. (V.) peruviana* infections. (*This thesis*)
2. *L. (V.) peruviana* branched off from the *L. (V.) braziliensis* and acquired its 'peruviana' character and adaptation of the transmission cycle during the southward colonization in the Peruvian Andes. (*This thesis*)
3. Knowledge of the *Leishmania* parasite and its vector species can lead to appropriate intervention measures when the transmission is taking place in a limited area. (*This thesis*)
4. The RNA-mediated interference pathway (RNAi) recently found in the genome of *L. (V.) braziliensis* will allow manipulation of gene expression for further analysis of the genes indentified in this thesis as virulence factors. (*This thesis*)
5. Kinetoplastid pathogens are very well adapted to their hosts and evade immune response using antigenic variation, intracellular and organ sequestration, and alteration of immune responsiveness.
6. The discovery of DNA vaccines has renewed hope for vaccine development against parasites, specially Leishmaniasis and Chagas disease.
7. Using an approach based on molecular biology allows understanding of biological processes at the level of molecules such as DNA, RNA, and proteins; but it can interfere with the general overview of the problem addressed.
8. The Global climate change during the past years has produced alteration in the dynamics of parasite transmission and also in the host-parasite interaction.
9. Any disease affecting human beings should be important to the scientific community, so the word "neglected disease" should not be in the scientific vocabulary.
10. To do science in a developing country is difficult but not impossible; the adversities increase our imagination.

Dionicia B. Gamboa Vilela
Maastricht, 4th September 2008