Cytomegalovirus, the silent pandemic

Cytomegalovirus (CMV) infects most of the world’s population. An important pathogen among transplant and other immunocompromised patients, postnatal CMV infection rarely causes overt disease among immunocompetent individuals. However, CMV is the most common congenital infection (cCMV) in Canada and worldwide, and causes hearing loss and other permanent neurodevelopmental deficits in over 1 in every thousand children born. Furthermore, CMV is increasingly recognized to have insidious effects on health among all infected individuals, though profound effects on the immune system. As such, the development of a CMV vaccine is a major public health priority. No vaccine to prevent CMV is currently available, though several are in clinical trials. Barriers to achieving an effective CMV vaccine include its extremely genetic variability, and the fact that reinfection with different strains appears common. Furthermore, most cCMV cases occur among women who were sero-immune prior to conception (so-called “non-primary” infections), which are due to either reinfection or reactivation of a pre-existing latent infection during pregnancy. Our work focuses on informing CMV vaccine development, by characterizing the genotypic variants that are transmitted and cause infection and reinfection among women and children, and developing tools to accurately assess the rate of CMV reinfection and immune protection afforded by natural infection, as well as by vaccination.

Le mardi 17 janvier 2023 à 10 h 30

CENTRE DE RECHERCHE DU CHUM
900, rue Saint-Denis
5e étage, amphithéâtre R05.212A, Montréal (QC) H2X 0A9

Pour joindre la réunion – plateforme zoom :
https://umontreal.zoom.us/j/81307667661?pwd=RnBqc3crL1B5V3BkMUhmTDBEaURYdz09
ID de réunion : 813 0766 7661 / Code secret : 977400

Information : Manon Livernois, manon.livernois.chum@ssss.gouv.qc.ca