



GLOBINF

Centre for Prevention of Global Infections



Meeting Announcement

Date: August 30, 15.00–16.00

Venue: Rikshospitalet, Auditorium A3.3067

Studies of infectious diseases in an endemic area: Immunology research at the Armauer Hansen Research Institute (AHRI), Ethiopia



Abraham Aseffa
AHRI, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

AHRI was established as a biomedical research facility in a disease-endemic country, Ethiopia. Initially, from 1969, the work focused on the immunology of leprosy working together with clinicians at the ALERT leprosy hospital on the same compound to address the influence of immune reactions on pathogenesis of the disease, in particular on development of “reactions” and associated nerve damage. Early findings were essential for introduction of immunosuppressive therapy during reactions, and later in prophylaxis of nerve damage. Currently, the major emphasis at AHRI is on tuberculosis. While leprosy prevalence has fallen below 1 per 10,000 population, Ethiopia ranks 7th among the TB high burden countries globally, and TB is a major killing disease often combined with HIV positivity. Major topics are: immunologic markers for tuberculous infection and development of latency or clinical disease, and the role of worm infestation as a predisposing factor for disease progression. Other research questions include studies of tuberculous lymphadenitis, HIV-TB co-infection, drug resistance and significance of bovine TB in the country. AHRI is building capacity to conduct TB vaccine trials in 2006/7 as part of the European Union – funded Tuberculosis Vaccine Development (TB VAC) Consortium. A well-equipped biomedical laboratory, experienced researchers and a network of international and national partners are explored to give AHRI a comparative advantage in translation research of TB in a high-endemic country.

Refreshments will be served after the meeting. Open to all. Welcome!

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Norwegian Society for Immunology (NSI)
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