

Exposure to microorganisms and endotoxins in crop workers

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Microorganisms are biotic factors that may strongly affect farmers' health. They may be present at a particularly high concentration in the air when they are mechanically aerosolized during harvesting and post-harvesting operations. Regular inhalation of these microorganisms and of their constituents (e.g. endotoxins, β -glucans, mycotoxins) has been proposed to be responsible of the high prevalence of respiratory syndromes among farmers. For this reason, general preventive strategies are needed in order to decrease farmer exposure to these bioaerosols. This study aims to identify the factors that reduce the growth of fungi and bacteria in crops.

In agroecosystem, the composition of soil fungal and bacteria communities is greatly influenced by agriculture practices such as the usage or not of tilling, of nutritional additives or of different fungicides. A change in soil microbial community composition may directly affect the concentration in bacteria, fungal particles and mycotoxins deliver in air. In order to test this hypothesis, we sampled soil, plant, grain and air during harvesting from 100 sites randomly distributed through Vaud canton representative of the different agriculture practices. Genomic DNA has been extracted from these samples and fungal and bacteria concentration has been evaluated by Q-PCR on the ITS2 and 16S respectively. The results are interpreted by taking in account the agriculture practice, the Phosphorus : Carbon : Nitrogen ratio of the soil, the altitude and the average of rainy days per year.

Faculty of Biology and Medicine

FBM Research Day

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César Roux Auditorium

Cardiovascular and Metabolic Disorders

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Cover: Yannick Krempf, Department of Cell Biology and Morphology – UNIL

Photos: Epifluorescence microscopy of a mouse heart section showing
a-actinin stained cardiomyocytes provided by Philippe Kiehl
and Thierry Pedrazini, Experimental Cardiology Unit, CHUV (top)
and echocardiographic M-mode image and ECG monitoring of a beating
mouse heart provided by Corinne Berthonneche et al., Cardiovascular Assessment Facility
& Experimental Microsurgery Facility (CAF/EMIF), Cardiomet, CHUV (bottom)

Organisation 2011

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Schedule	Names & Departments	Titles
Morning		
10h15 - 10h30	Stefan KOHLER PACTT – UNIL/CHUV	<i>From the lab to the market: Commercialisation of research results</i>
10h30 – 10h45	Cécile JACOVETTI Department of Cellular Biology and Morphology - UNIL	<i>The role of micro-RNAs in beta-cell mass expansion during pregnancy</i>
10h45 – 11h00	Pedro MARQUES-VIDAL Social and Preventive Medicine CHUV	<i>Prevalence and management of cardiovascular risk factors among migrants in Switzerland</i>
11h00 – 11h15	Francesca AMATI Department of Physiology - UNIL and Service of Endocrinology, Diabetology and Metabolism - CHUV	<i>Skeletal muscle mitochondrial content and electron transport chain activity in older adults at risk for type 2 diabetes: relationship to insulin sensitivity, metabolic flexibility and fatty acid oxidation</i>
11h15 – 11h30	Evrin JACCARD Department of Physiology UNIL	<i>Involvement of the RasGAP-derived fragment N in the resistance of pancreatic beta cells towards apoptosis</i>
11h30 – 11h45	Luca CARIOLATO Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology - UNIL	<i>Characterization of novel hypertrophic pathways activated by the AKAP-Lbc signalling complex in cardiomyocytes</i>
Afternoon		
14h15 – 14h30	Sasha HUGENTHOBLER Euresearch	<i>European funding opportunities for health and health related research</i>
14h30 – 14h45	Mohammed NEMIR Experimental Cardiology Unit CHUV	<i>Cardiac-specific overexpression of the Notch ligand Jagged1 reduces cardiac hypertrophy and fibrosis in response to hemodynamic stress</i>
14h45 – 15h00	Hoshang FARHRAD Service of Nuclear Medicine CHUV	<i>Myocardial Blood Flow Quantification with Rubidium-82 Cardiac PET has Incremental Prognostic Value in Patients with Known or Suspected Coronary Artery Disease</i>
15h00 - 15h15	Muriel AUBERSON Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology - UNIL	<i>GLUT9 and uric acid handling by the kidney</i>
15h15 - 15h30	Fabienne MAURER Service of Medical Genetics CHUV	<i>Mapping genetic variants associated to beta-adrenergic responses in inbred mice</i>
15h30 – 15h45	Maxime PELLEGRIN Service of Angiology CHUV	<i>Critical role of Angiotensin II type 1 receptor on bone marrow-derived cells in the development of vulnerable atherosclerotic plaque in 2-Kidney, 1-Clip ApoE^{-/-} mice</i>