Low profile and hideouts in the transmission strategy of *Plasmodium falciparum*

The gametocytes of *Plasmodium falciparum*, responsible for transmitting the malaria parasite from humans to mosquitoes, are unique among the human malaria species for requiring almost ten days for their maturation. The evidence that this process occurs in the bone marrow of the infected person opened fundamental questions on this obscure aspect of *P. falciparum* biology. Various lines of research on cell mechanical properties, cell adhesion phenotypes, and surface exposure of parasite ligands in different stages of gametocyte maturation are aiming to provide answers towards a model of this host-parasite interplay critical for *P. falciparum* transmission.

Contact: D. Soldati-Favre & M. Brochet