Seminar in Microbiology
Monday, 4\textsuperscript{th} September, 2017
Salle de séminaire, E07.3347.a, CMU

11:30 – 12:30

Prof. Bavesh Kana
DST/NRF Centre of Excellence for Biomedical TB Research University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Can peptidoglycan remodeling reveal novel drug targets and probe for phenotypic complexity in sputum-derived mycobacteria?

Bavesh Kana was appointed as an Early Career Scientist of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and was selected as one of the 200 top young South Africans by the Mail and Guardian newspaper. His work addresses fundamental questions on the pathogenesis and clinical manifestation of tuberculosis, with a specific focus on the identification and characterization of differentially culturable tubercle bacteria (DCTB) in individuals. In addition, he studies remodelling of the mycobacterial cell wall to identify new drug targets. As tuberculosis patients harbour drug tolerant DCTBs that are unable to grow on solid media but whose growth can be recovered in liquid media supplemented with resuscitation promoting factors (Rpfs), Dr. Kana’s lab is also studying Rpfs and they found operationally distinct bacterial subpopulations from the sputum of individuals that have variable dependency on Rpfs, including a Rpf-independent subclass. This new work will be discussed.

Recent publications:

- The essential mycobacterial amidotransferase GatCAB is a modulator of specific translational fidelity. Su et al. Nat Microbiol. 2016.

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