

# IMCB Invited Speaker



**Speaker : Prof. Albert Descoteaux**  
*Professor, INRS- Institut Armand-Frappier,*  
*Université du Québec, Canada*

Date : 7 October 2013, Monday

Time : 11:00AM - 12:00PM

Venue : IMCB Seminar Room 3-46, Level 3, Proteos, Biopolis

Host : Prof. Wanjin Hong

## Seminar :

### ***Leishmania* targets the macrophage membrane fusion machinery to evade host immune responses**

Phagolysosome biogenesis is a host defence process that largely depends on intracellular vesicular trafficking and membrane fusion. The vast majority of fusion events that regulate these processes are mediated by soluble *N*-ethylmaleimide-sensitive factor attachment protein receptors (SNAREs). Numerous pathogens manipulate this membrane fusion machinery as a virulence strategy for either entering host cells, creating conditions favorable to the establishment of infection, evading host responses, or causing pathology. We recently discovered that to impair phagosome maturation and function, the protozoan parasite *Leishmania* targets key players of the SNARE machinery. This seminar will present the mechanism by which *Leishmania* cleaves VAMP8 and will address the consequences of this cleavage on phagosome function.

## About the Speaker :

Dr. Albert Descoteaux obtained his PhD in Parasitology from McGill University (1991). After two postdoctoral fellowships (University of Kentucky 1991-1993 and Harvard Medical School 1993-1995), he took an Assistant professor position at McGill University, before joining the INRS-Institut Armand-Frappier in 1996. Dr. Descoteaux is currently Professor at INRS- Institut Armand-Frappier, and is also Adjunct professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology of McGill University.