

BioSys/BioFIG Research Seminar

Host-*Plasmodium* interactions and anti-malarial vaccination

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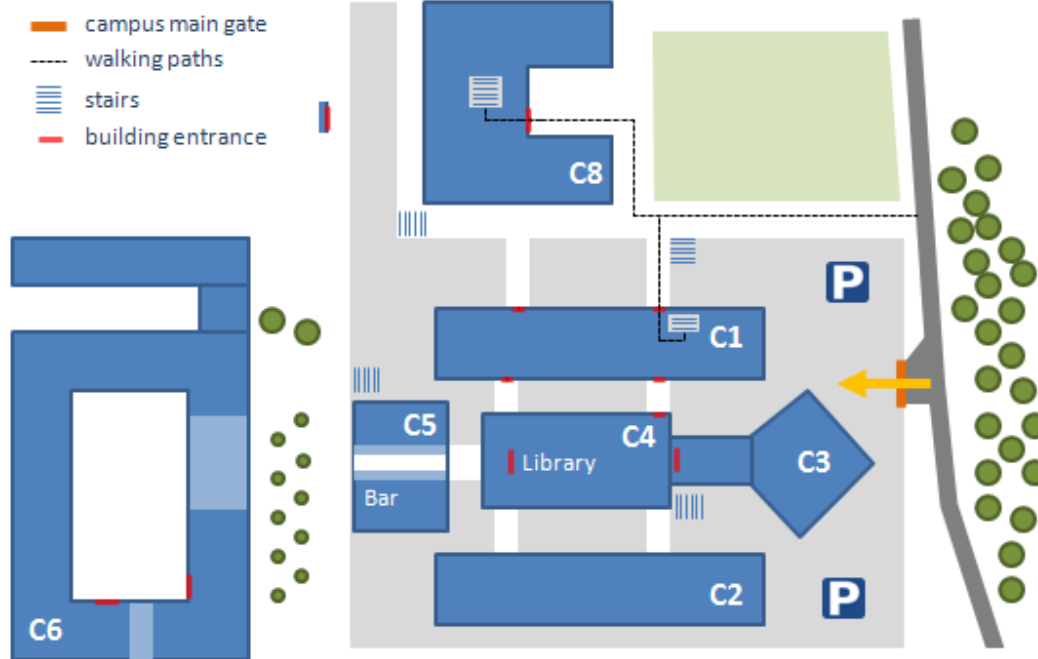
Plasmodium parasites, the causative agents of malaria, undergo two consecutive stages within their mammalian hosts, replicating inside liver cells before infecting red blood cells and causing disease symptoms. Despite being totally asymptomatic, the hepatic or pre-erythrocytic stage of infection holds immense immunologic and prophylactic potential for anti-malarial intervention, and is a powerful source of insight into novel aspects of host-parasite interactions.

In this talk, recent findings regarding host-*Plasmodium* interactions that take place during the liver stage of infection will be discussed, with particular emphasis on the acquisition of nutrients by the developing parasite. Moreover, a new whole-organism pre-erythrocytic vaccination strategy against malaria, based on the use of rodent *P. berghei* parasites as immunizing agents, will be presented. The talk will highlight the richness of *Plasmodium* liver stages as a source of new knowledge about the biology of infection and their potential as tools against malaria.

Date: 17th March 2014 – 11h30

Faculdade de Ciências da UL, Lisboa (Portugal), Building C6 – room 8.2.38

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