



- Two-year postdoctoral position & PhD studentship -

Inflammatory bowel disease and the intestinal eukaryome

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Gastrointestinal diseases are a considerable cause of morbidity and mortality in the western world. Although traditionally seen as a disease of developed nations, there is an increasing incidence globally, possibly linked to changing diets. Inflammatory bowel diseases such as Crohn's disease or irritable bowel syndrome are linked to substantial healthcare costs. These diseases negatively affect the quality of life of patients and therapy is therefore both aimed at treatment as well as improving patient wellbeing.

Microbial profiling studies have indicated that the intestinal microbiome of inflammatory bowel disease patients differs from that of healthy individuals. In patients with inflammatory bowel disease, a decrease in strict anaerobic bacteria and a shift towards facultative anaerobes seem to suggest a role for oxygen in intestinal dysbiosis. Globally, there is an increasing emphasis on aiming to understand the role of the intestinal microbiome on health but the role of microbial eukaryotes tends to be ignored. There are clear links between various diseases and the microbial composition of the gut. Treatments using probiotics aimed at manipulating the gut microbiome, and even faecal transplants from healthy donors, are increasingly used to treat intestinal diseases.

This project is supervised by experts in intestinal disease (Tore Grimstad), clinical histopathology (Emiel Janssen) and intestinal molecular microbiology (Mark van der Giezen). Stavanger University Hospital is involved in several clinical trials (led by clinician Tore Grimstad) aimed at understanding inflammatory bowel disease, treatment and improving quality of life. This project will focus at studying the possible link between intestinal microbial eukaryotes (the eukaryome) and irritable bowel disease.

For more information contact Mark van der Giezen (currently m.vandergiezen@exeter.ac.uk) or see his website at www.vandergiezen.org

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