

## Seminar

## Lassa virus in West Africa: a silent and neglected killer



[Speaker] Prof. Sylvain BAIZE

[Time] 13:30-15:30PM, May 10, 2017

[Host] Prof. Dimitri Lavillette

[Venue] B207, Life Science Research Building

## [Speaker Introduction]

Research Scientist, UBIVE, Institut Pasteur, Lyon

Head of the Unit of Biology of Emerging Viral Infections

Head of the National Reference Center for Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers

## [Research Focus]

Sylvain BAIZE is the head of the Unit of Biology of Emerging Viral Infections (UBIVE) in the International center against infectious disease in Lyon, France. He was trained in France and Gabon to work on infectious disease of BSL4 agents and his team is working on viral hemorrhagic fevers (VHF) using the sole academic BSL4 laboratory in Lyon, France. The activities of UBIVE are mainly focused on Lassa Arenavirus (LASV) pathogenesis and immune responses. Lassa fever (LF), due to LASV is responsible for 500,000 cases each year, including 6,000 deaths but its geographical area is extending. LASV has been recently listed by WHO as an emerging threat against which urgent preparedness is required. Using comparative biology between Lassa virus and the non-pathogenic Mopeia viruses, his team made big achievements in the comprehension of these viruses-host interactions in vitro and in vivo in non-human primates. In parallel to fundamental research activities, UBIVE hosts the French National Reference Center (NRC) for Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (VHF) and the NRC for Hantavirus.