Working group on *A. terreus*

Convenor

S. Arun Balajee,
Mycotic Diseases Branch,
Centers for Disease Control,
1600 Clifton Road,
Atlanta, Georgia – 30333.
404 639 3337
Fir3@cdc.gov

The *A. terreus* working group consists of a diverse group of mycologists, clinicians and molecular biologists; this unique consortium will work towards the common goal of augmenting existing knowledge on the biology, genetic diversity, population dynamics, clinical epidemiology, virulence and antifungal susceptibilities of the emerging fungal pathogen *A. terreus*. The working group will sustain a communication network through which the members can exchange research ideas and thoughts freely and will also function as a portal for the group to meet and exchange research data**.**

Objectives

1. Explore the genetic diversity and population dynamics of *A. terreus*. Under this aim, we propose to:
    a) Develop a comprehensive culture repository comprising of both clinical and environmental isolates of *A. terreus*.
    b) Design a multilocus sequence typing scheme (MLST) for species identification in Section *Terrei*
    c) Using the repository and the MLST scheme, generate data on the genetic diversity and population dynamics of *A. terreus*.
    d) Recognize and validly publish new species
2. Understand the epidemiology of *A. terreus* by
    a) Developing a microsatellite marker panel for strain discrimination and test this panel on several environmental and clinical isolates of *A. terreus*.
    b) Elucidating the clinical epidemiology of *A. terreus*
3. Investigate amphotericin B 'resistance' in *A. terreus* by using fluorochrome based assays
4. Study virulence potential of *A. terreus* in a mini-host model of infection

Members and responsibilities

1. S. Arun Balajee, **Convenor**
   Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, USA.
   fir3@cdc.gov
   Maintain *A. terreus* repository. Design and validate the MLST scheme
2. John Baddley

University of Birmingham, Alabama, USA.
jbaddley@uab.edu
Studies on clinical epidemiology of *A. terreus*, collection of clinical samples

3. Jan Dijksterhuis
   Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures, Utrecht, The Netherlands.
   dijksterhuis@cbs.knaw.nl
   Scanning electron microscopic studies of drug - fungal interaction
4. Cornelia Lass-Flörl
   Medical University of Innsbruck, Austria.
   Cornelia.Lass-Floerl@i-med.ac.at
   Antifungal susceptibility testing
5. Jens Christian Frisvad
   jcf@biocentrum.dtu.dk
   Technical University of Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark
   Extrolite profiling of *A. terreus*
6. Rob Samson and Janos Varga
   ras@cbs.knaw.nl , jvarga@cbs.knaw.nl
   Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures, Utrecht, The Netherlands.
   Contribute to *A. terreus* repository
7. David Nickle
   dnickle@u.washington.edu
   University of Washington, Seattle, USA
   Phylogenetic analysis
8. Corné Klaassen
   c.klaassen@cwz.nl
   Canisius Wilhelmina Hospital, Nijmegen, The Netherlands.
   Design and validate microsattelite markers
9. Dimitrios P Kontoyiannis
   dkontoyi@mdanderson.org
   MD Anderson Cancer Center, Texas, USA
   Virulence potential of *A. terreus*