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Dissection of the Molecular Mechanisms of Mycobacterium tuberculosis Pathogenesis

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Mycobacterium tuberculosis is a leading cause of death due to infection globally. The alarming rise of drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB) cases has made it clear that we are not equipped to successfully battle the TB epidemic. In order to develop new therapies, a better understanding of M. tuberculosis pathogenesis is required. Both the disease outcome and pathology of TB are driven by the immune response mounted in the host. Infection with M. tuberculosis elicits inflammatory host responses that are necessary to control infection but can also cause extensive tissue damage and drive changes in the pathogen's physiology that result in antibiotic tolerance and persistence. This talk will highlight our molecular dissection of the host-pathogen interactions that contribute to the outcomes of M. tuberculosis infection and how we can target these interactions with new strategies to treat TB.