

## GHI Floor Seminars

### Special seminar by invited speaker

# Prof. Salomé Leibundgut-Landmann

Institute of Microbiology, ETH Zurich

## *Interleukin-17-mediated Immunity against Fungal Infection*

The cytokine IL-17 has emerged as a central component of the host immune system since its discovery two decades ago. IL-17 has attracted much attention owing to its pathological potential and its ability to promote autoimmune diseases such as psoriasis and rheumatoid arthritis. It has become clear however that IL-17 also plays a key role in host protection from infection, most importantly from fungal infections of the skin and mucosal surfaces.

My laboratory studies IL-17-mediated immunity against the opportunistic fungal pathogen *Candida albicans*. During my seminar I will report on the regulation and function of IL-17 against *C. albicans* infection in the oral mucosa. I will also highlight recent findings on a novel protective mechanism against disseminated candidiasis, by which IL-17 acts indirectly via natural killer cells. In fact, we found that IL-17 acts during steady state to instruct the functional development of NK cells and by this has far reaching consequences that go beyond fungal infections and may be relevant in the context of viral and bacterial infections and possibly even tumors.

Hosted by UPHARRIS

**Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014**



**12:15, SV 1717a**