



DIPARTIMENTO DI FARMACIA E BIOTECNOLOGIE

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## **AVVISO DI SEMINARIO**

Il giorno venerdì **18 Ottobre 2019**  
alle ore **14:30**  
presso Aula A /Ex Farmacologia), via Irnerio 48, Bologna

**Prof, Andrea Carolina Entrocassi, Ph.D.**  
Clinical Biochemistry Department, Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry,  
University of Buenos Aires, Argentina  
(ospite Prof.ssa Bolognesi)

terrà un seminario dal titolo:

**EPIDEMIOLOGY OF CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS  
INFECTION ON VULNERABLE POPULATIONS IN  
BUENOS AIRES. A STUDY OVER PREGNANT  
WOMEN AND MSM**

Collegli e studenti sono cordialmente invitati

*Commissione Ricerca e Attività Correlate - FaBiT*

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## ABSTRACT

*Chlamydia trachomatis* is an obligate intracellular bacteria causing the most frequent bacterial STI worldwide. The WHO estimates 131 million new cases per year. Genital infections with *C. trachomatis* (genotypes D to K) are mostly asymptomatic, leading to complications such as pelvic inflammatory disease or ectopic pregnancy, and it has been associated to preterm birth. On the other hand, *C. trachomatis* genotypes L1 to L3 cause Lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV), a systemic disease affecting local lymph nodes. Lymphogranuloma venereum was considered endemic in Asia, Africa and the tropical region of South America, until in 2003 an outbreak of rectal LGV was reported in the Netherlands among men who have sex with men (MSM), mainly HIV infected.

In Argentina, the prevalence of *C. trachomatis* infections among vulnerable population as young pregnant women or MSM was not well described until a few years ago. Also, the epidemiological associations of these infections with other STI, inflammation markers and population demographical features among these vulnerable groups were yet to be searched.

As partial findings of an ongoing study, we found that the prevalence of *Chlamydia trachomatis* infections on the studied groups was high. Among pregnant woman this prevalence was significantly diverse according to the age group, being higher in younger than 23 years old (21.7%) than in older than 22 years old (6.8%). We also found that including the assessment of the anal and pharyngeal sites on this group avoided the loss of almost 25% of infected pregnant women, and increased the overall prevalence of *C. trachomatis* infection from 13.72% to 17.97%. This allowed the diagnosed patients to reach a proper treatment, and to avoid the transmission to genital sites where chlamydial infection can affect the pregnancy outcome.

Also, half of the studied patients with proctitis were infected by *C. trachomatis*, and almost 80% of those had LGV with a genotype distribution that is different from the European outbreak. So, we can conclude that in Buenos Aires, Argentina, as well as in European countries, rectal lymphogranuloma venereum must be suspected in HIV infected MSM suffering proctitis and having a history of unprotected anal sex.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH



I'm an Assistant Professor of Clinical Microbiology, at the Clinical Biochemistry Department of the Facultad de Farmacia y Bioquímica, Universidad de Buenos Aires. I'm a Biochemist and a Pharmacist, and got my PhD on the microbiology area.

I work on basic, clinical and epidemiological research of *Chlamydiae* infection on humans and animals since 1998, at the Laboratorio de Clamidas, Facultad de Farmacia y Bioquímica, UBA. I also work doing prevention and promotion regarding sexual health on vulnerable communities, through an university extension project I started ten years ago.

I coordinate the Latin American Chlamydia network (CLAMINET), directed by Prof. Marcelo Rodriguez Fermepin, and I have been involved in the organization of the last five International Workshops on Chlamydial Infection in Humans and Animals.