1107-92-383 Yuan Li, Laura A.L. Dillon, Kacey L. Caradonna, V. Keith Hughitt, Cecilia F. Dupecher, Kwame Okrah, Hector Corrada Bravo, Barbara A. Burleigh and Najib M. El-Sayed* (elsayed@umd.edu). Simultaneous interrogation of the transcriptomes of pathogens and their host cells. Preliminary report.

We have adopted a novel approach aimed at characterizing host-pathogen infectomes. We define the infectome as the component of the pathogen's genome/transcriptome/proteome that allows it to subvert the functions of host cell molecular machineries, receptors, and signaling proteins, as well as the portion of the host cell's -omes that play a role in the infection process. Our screens include the use of a combination of 1) bioinformatic tools aimed at predicting surface and secreted components, 2) simultaneous interrogation of the host and pathogen transcriptomes during infection and intracellular survival and 3) high-throughput protein-protein interaction screens between a selection of host and pathogen proteins informed by the first two steps. The application of this approach to Trypanosoma cruzi and Leishmania major, two intracellular pathogens that parasitize mammalian cells is yielding significant biological insights into host-pathogen interactions. The identification and quantification of co-regulated genes has provided evidence regarding the mechanisms used by each of the two parasites to elude host defenses. We have also gained novel insights into host-pathogen interactions that influence establishment and maintenance of intracellular infection in mammalian host cells. (Received January 19, 2015)