



BENJAMIN GOURBAL

From France to Sweden



Project: **Comparative immunology**

Research topic: **Medecine & Health**

Swedish Institution: **Gothenburg University**

French Institution: **University of Perpignan**

Dates of mobility: **18/08/2015 to 25/08/2015**

Program: **SFVE-A (ex-TOR)**



PRESENTATION

[Benjamin Gourbal](#) is Associate Professor at the Laboratory Ecology and Evolution of Interactions ([IHPE](#)) at the [University of Perpignan](#). He is specialized in comparative immunology and the evolution of immunity. He works mainly on invertebrate innate immune systems and compatibility polymorphisms, using a model of the snail *Biomphalaria glabrata* and its trematode parasite *Schistosoma mansoni*. He obtained his PhD in Parasitology from the [Sorbonne University](#) (previously University Pierre et Marie Curie) in 2002 and was habilitated in 2012.

ACTIVITIES IN SWEDEN

Gourbal travelled to Sweden to meet with the [Mucin Biology group](#) at the [Department of Medical Biochemistry](#) at the [Sahlgrenska Academy](#) (the Medical Faculty) of the [University of Gothenburg](#). It is a major research group in mucosal immunology. Gourbal visited Director of the Laboratory Prof. [Gunnar Hansson](#), and Prof. [Tore Samuelsson](#) (specialized in mucin phylogeny and evolution), who analyzed the mucin sequences observed by Gourbal's team with the help of mucin databases in Gothenburg.

Gourbal also held a presentation on immune priming and they discussed the expression pattern of identified mucin following snail infection. The results of the collaboration demonstrated a shift from the classical innate cellular immune response to a humoral immune response in the *Biomphalaria* immune priming process. Hence, they established the need to study mucosal immunity and envisaged future collaborations.