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Abstract

“Link between toxin production and sporulation in Clostridium difficile”

Clostridium difficile is the major cause of nosocomial diarrhea and pseudomembranous colitis. Two of the primary virulence factors for C. difficile pathogenesis are the secreted toxin A and toxin B. These toxins cause colonic injury and inflammation. Another important pathogenic trait of C. difficile is its ability to produce dormant spores, which are responsible for the transmission of the disease and persistence of the organism in the environment. Both toxin production, and the sporulation pathway in C. difficile are known to be influenced by nutrient availability and other environmental stress factors. In this talk I will discuss how sporulation and toxin genes regulatory networks are interconnected and co-regulated.

Bio-Summary

Dr. Revathi Govind is an Associate Professor in the Division of Biology at Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS. She received her PhD in Medical Microbiology at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (USA) and did her post-doctoral studies at Institute Pasteur, Paris, France. Her research focuses on understanding gene regulatory networks that control major virulent traits of C. difficile.