Spores, Proteinases, and Fibrinogen: Casting a New Mould for Allergic Disease

Professor David B. Corry
Professor of Medicine and Pathology and Immunology
Chief, Section of Immunology, Allergy, and Rheumatology
Director, Biology of Inflammation Center Cullen
Endowed Chair in Immunology
Baylor College of Medicine

Abstract
Despite decades of intensive research, the incidence of asthma has reached record levels in the United States and modern therapies remain non-specific, often ineffective and sometimes dangerous. Moreover, there is no widely available diagnostic or prognostic test for asthma and modern therapy offers no hope of cure. New insights into the pathogenesis of asthma made by our laboratory, however, offer hope that the dismal status of asthma clinical management can be relatively rapidly improved. In this presentation, I demonstrate in molecular detail why modern therapy often fails and may actually promote more severe disease. I further present new data that point to underlying fungal airway infections occurring in many patients with asthma and related allergic diseases and develop a new molecular pathogenesis model of allergic inflammation and disease. These new findings suggest novel means of diagnosing, prognosing, and treating asthma and related afflictions that for the first time offer the potential for durable cures.

Selected Publications


