A Journey through Syphilis: How does Treponema pallidum cause such a complex disease?  
by Sheila Lukehart, PhD

Syphilis is a disease that comes and goes, with manifestations affecting many different organ systems. The clinical course is the result of interactions between the host’s immune response and the bacterium's ability to overcome or evade that response, a duel that can last a lifetime. This presentation will focus on our evolving understanding of these host and bacterial mechanisms, and their implications for syphilis control.

Sheila Lukehart is Professor of Medicine and Global Health, and Adjunct Professor of Microbiology, at the University of Washington in Seattle, WA. She is recognized for her work on syphilis and Treponema pallidum, and was awarded the 2007 Distinguished Career Award from the American STD Association. Dr. Lukehart has focused her research on molecular pathogenesis of syphilis, host immune responses to Treponema pallidum, neurosyphilis, syphilis-HIV interactions, and antibiotic resistance in T. pallidum. In addition, Dr. Lukehart is Director of the University of Washington STD & AIDS Research Training Program.

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