UAB investigators studying pneumococci

David E. Briles, Ph.D. discovered PspA, investigates the mechanism of action of pneumococcal proteins, animal models of pneumococcal disease, biology of pneumococcal infections, and potential roles of pneumococcal proteins in pneumococcal vaccines. His research is further described at website http://www.microbio.uab.edu/faculty/briles/

Debasish, Chattopadhyay, Ph.D. investigates the structure of pneumococcal virulence factors including PspA with X-ray crystalography. His research is further described at website http://www.microbio.uab.edu/faculty/chatt/

Susan Hollingshead, Ph.D. studies pneumococcal genome and evolution of virulence in streptococcus. She also studies the roles of specific pneumococcal proteins in disease, and the potential of these proteins as pneumococcal vaccines. Her research is further described at website http://www.microbio.uab.edu/faculty/hollingshead/index.html

Moon H. Nahm, M.D. studies structure and function of pneumococcal capsules and the roles that antibodies to capsule have in protecting against pneumococcal diseases. He also investigates the role of lipoteichoic acid in pathogenesis. His research is further described at website http://www.microbio.uab.edu/faculty/nahm/index.html

Alex Szalai, Ph.D. studies the roles of complement and CRP in protection against pneumococcal infections. He also studies the varied mechanisms that these host proteins play in the generation of adaptive and innate immunity to pneumococci, as well as the various processes CRP and complement play in pneumococcal pathogenesis. His research is further described at website http://138.26.61.118/depts/MEB/SOMResearchFaculty/currentfacultydata.asp?s_lname=Szalai&s_keyword=&s_fname=&s_Department_Name=&s_ResearchTitle=&ID=aszalai

Ken Waites, M.D. studies antibiotic resistance of pneumococci in clinical isolates and the role that some of these mutants have on pneumococcal virulence. His research is further described at website http://www.microbio.uab.edu/faculty/waites/index.html

Janet Yother, Ph.D. studies the genetics and biochemistry of pneumococcal capsule synthesis and also studies the specific roles of capsule in virulence and colonization and the relevant interactions of capsule with other virulence factors. Her research is further described at website http://www.microbio.uab.edu/faculty/yother/index.html