Monday, December 8
12:30-1:30pm in JBJ 504

"Spotted Fever Group Rickettsiae: Molecular Mechanisms of Disease"

Juan J. Martinez, PhD
Department of Pathobiological Sciences
LSU School of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Martinez will discuss his lab's recent work on the elucidation of key protein-protein interactions in rickettsial pathogenesis and how these interactions contribute to the disease process. There will be a special focus on the molecular mechanisms by which SFG rickettsiae evade complement mediated killing in the circulation.

Dr. Juan Martinez is a born and raised-Chicagoan who is a recent transplant to the South. He was educated at the University of Illinois, Washington University in St. Louis and The Institut Pasteur in Paris France, and his lab's primary interests are to understand the contribution of conserved outer-membrane proteins expressed by rickettsial species to pathogenesis. They specifically focus on a family of auto-transporter proteins termed Sca for surface cell antigens and how these proteins interact with specific mammalian receptors and fluid phase proteins in the hematophagous circulation.