



Wednesday,
May 19, 2021
At 15:15 – 16:45

Jonas Klingström

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SARS-CoV-2 transmission and pathogenesis

Abstract: Since September 2020, SARS-CoV-2 variants of concerns (VOCs), for instance B.1.1.7, spread around the world, and novel VOCs are likely to emerge. This new situation raises important questions; why do VOCs transmit more effectively, can they cause more severe forms of COVID-19, and can they evade immune responses evoked by vaccines? To address these questions, we investigate the transmission risks in naïve and vaccinated individuals, and we study the SARS-CoV-2 molecular responses in infected cells and on viral particles, aiming to identify differences that can explain why the novel VOCs spreads easier, if they have unique effects on infected cells, and if this correlate with differences in the clinical picture of COVID-19.

Jonas Klingström is an associate professor at the Center for Infectious Medicine, Department of Medicine Huddinge, Karolinska Institutet. His research group studies emerging zoonotic viruses such as Hantaviruses, aiming to understand the mechanisms behind pathogenesis, and the acute and long-term consequences of infection. Since the start of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, in collaboration with several other groups, he has focused on COVID-19.

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