**Molecular basis for the transfer of large toxin plasmids in *Clostridium perfringens***

Daouda A.K. Traore1,2,3

1. *School of Life Sciences, Keele University (UK)*
2. *Life Science Group, Institut Laue-Langevin (Grenoble, France)*
3. *BioStruct-Africa*

The transfer of large toxin and antibiotic resistance genes in the pathogenic bacteria *Clostridium perfringens* is mediated by the *tcp* conjugation locus. Functional genetic analysis of the *tcp* locus of the paradigm plasmid pCW3 has revealed that its gene products assemble into a multi-protein complex that distantly resembles a type 4 secretion system (T4SS).

Here, I will provide a brief summary of our current understanding of the DNA system., knowledge that was built upon a combination of structural biology studies and functional microbial genetics.