With an SSI/ISID Fellowship, Dr. Alain Kenfak recently concluded an internship at the Infectious Diseases Service of University Hospital of Lausanne. He participated as co-investigator, under the supervision of Dr. Matthias Cavassini, to research activities among subjects followed at the HIV outpatient clinic. The main topic of his studies was hepatitis E infection. During his time in Lausanne, he worked on the following projects.

**Incidence and Risk Factors for Chronic Elevation of ALT Levels in HIV-Infected Persons without Hepatitis B or C Virus Co-Infection**

*Published in Clinical Infectious Diseases (CID)*

Due to the lack of data regarding elevated ALT levels among HIV-positive patients without chronic viral hepatitis, a study was done of the incidence of and risk factors for chronic elevation among a total of 2365 participants, of ALT levels (greater than the upper limit of normal at 2 consecutive semi-annual visits) in participants of the Swiss HIV Cohort Study without hepatitis B virus (HBV) or hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection who were seen during the period 2002–2008.

**Hepatitis E Virus Sero-prevalence and Chronic Infection in HIV Patients with Unexplained ALT Elevation: The Swiss HIV Cohort Study**

*Abstract presented at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*

The aim of this study was to investigate the prevalence and role of HEV among a large cohort of HIV infected patients with a history of persistent elevated ALT without HBV or HCV co-infection. Screening was carried out on participants of the Swiss HIV Cohort Study, enrolled between 1988 and December 2008, without HBV/HCV infections and with chronic ALT elevation (values >60 U/L at ≥2 consecutive visits) for the presence of anti-HEV IgG. HEV IgG serology (Genelabs Diagnostics HEV ELISA) was performed on the latest stored plasma sample independently of the last ALT values. When available, in subjects with a positive serology, HEV serology and blood HEV real-time TaqMan PCR was performed on a plasma sample stored 3 months prior to the first documented elevated ALT value. In those patients, HEV PCR was also performed on samples stored at the time of and 3 months after the first documented elevated ALT.

**Hepatitis E infection among blood donors in Switzerland**

*Abstract accepted for the Congress of the Swiss Society of Internal Medicine*

In the light of the recent high Hepatitis E virus (HEV) sero-prevalence found in developed countries, an assessment was made on the HEV sero-prevalence among blood donors in the southwest of Switzerland. 550 consecutive blood donations from the Service Régional Vaudois de Transfusion Sanguine of Epalinges were screened for the presence of anti-HEV IgG. HEV IgG serology (Genelabs Diagnostics HEV ELISA) was performed on the latest stored plasma sample independently of the last ALT values. When available, in subjects with a positive serology, HEV serology and blood HEV real-time TaqMan PCR was performed on a plasma sample stored 3 months prior to the first documented elevated ALT value. In those patients, HEV PCR was also performed on samples stored at the time of and 3 months after the first documented elevated ALT.

Dr. Kenfak also participated to the writing of some case reports of patients followed at the clinic:

- An oropharyngeal leishmaniasis mimicking a cancer: in press (Clinical Infectious Diseases)
- Periurethral abscess following a gonococcal urethritis: (in submission)

This 15 months training was a very exciting personal and professional experience. It offered me new skills and perspectives in the field of infectious diseases; and as young investigator, it was a great opportunity to be involved in such a prolific research unit. I am grateful to ISID and SSI for supporting this project. I would like to thank specially Dr. Cavassini and all the Infectious Disease Service staff, for their kindness and their support.