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## Free-living Amoebae infections: Emerging pathogens under the radar

Free-Living amoebae present a few genera that are able to act as opportunistic pathogens and have been recognized as causative agents of Lethal Encephalitis and Amoebic Keratitis. Among them *Naegleria fowleri*, *Balamuthia mandrillaris* and *Acanthamoeba* species infection cases are dramatically rising worldwide. No standardized diagnostic tools and a lack of fully effective anti-amoebic Agents are of high concern. Regarding therapy against these amoebae, the existence of a highly resistant cyst stage in the amoebic life cycle is the main obstacle in the development of fully effective therapeutic agents. In this speech, the experience and most interesting cases gathered in our laboratory in TB recent years regarding diagnosis and treatment are presented.

## Biography

Jacob Lorenzo-Morales studied Biology at the University of La Laguna where he earned a degree in biology in health, molecular and marine branch in 2001. He entered the Department of Parasitology, Ecology and Genetics that year, as a student of third cycle for the realization of his doctoral thesis on free-living amoebae. In 2003 he graduated as Diploma in Molecular Oncology. In June 2006, he defended his doctoral thesis with "European Mention" and qualified with distinction cum laude. After this stage, began his postdoctoral career at the *Centre for Integrative Physiology, School of Biomedical Sciences, University of Edinburgh*. He has published 46 articles on parasitology in international journals indexed in the JCR and four book chapters (two international). As Scientific Secretary participated in the last two editions of the International Congresses of free-living amoebae (*Free-living amoebae Meeting*; FLAM FLAM 2009 and 2011) and has served as editor of the journal *Experimental Parasitology* in 2010. He has participated in several projects funded research MINECO and the Canary Islands Government and private entities. Recently, in 2012 he obtained a Ramón y Cajal contract, joining with him to the University Institute of Tropical Diseases and Public Health of the Canary Islands, where, at present, performed their research in the laboratory of free-living amoebae led. He is the current secretary of the National Association of Researchers Ramon Y Cajal (ANIRC).

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