cific IgG to P.falciparum extract antigen (Pf) was measured in samples collected from 175 individuals presenting with *P. falciparum* or *P. vivax* blood parasites and from nonparasitemic individuals. One hundred and forty-four individuals (82,3%) were positive for Pf. Among these, sixty individuals (34,8%) presented specific IgG antibodies to EB200, with titres varying between 1/85 to 1/6912. No reactivity were found for tested sera to either the R23.1, R23.2 proteins or AARP peptides. These results showed the development of specific IgG anti-EB200 in natural *Plasmodium*-infected individuals living in areas where malaria is hipoendemic. Both the EB200-specific IgG1 and IgG3 levels and the affinity of EB200-specific antibodies produced are under investigation in our laboratory.

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IM-125
PREVALENCE OF *TOXOPLASMA GONDII* INFECTION IN PIGS FROM BRAZIL AND PERU, DETECTED BY SEROLOGICAL ASSAYS

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Toxoplasmosis, a high prevalent zoonotic infection, had worldwide distribution and is acquired by ingestion of food contaminated with oocysts from cats stools, the definitive host, or by raw or undercooked meat of warm blood animals, intermediate hosts. Generally asymptomatic, this infection could cause eye involvement, or more severe disease, with deaths or abortions in fetus or immune-compromised patients. This infection had a great importance with the HIV epidemic, affecting 20% of AIDS patients with toxoplasmic encephalitis, a disabling and lethal disease. The sources of the infection, specially those attributed to animal products, was limited research, generally related to the ability of the animal to carry the infection, with few reports dealing with the prevalence of those infection on animals used for human nutrition. To evaluate the seroprevalence of this infection in pigs, we analyze 397 sera from 5 months old pigs of trading abattoirs from São Paulo, Brazil(300) and Lima, Peru(97). We detect specific antibodies by indirect hemagglutination, specific anti-*T.gondii* IgG by ELISA and Western Blotting, with some experiments of antibody avidity with urea as chaotropic reagent. Control sera was obtained from an experimentally infected pig, with week blood collection for antibody titers and avidity assays. This infection evokes a clear specific antibody response, with time increment in antibody avidity. Enzymatic assays, ELISA and WB, provides a high prevalence of specific antibodies in pigs both from Peru(34%) and in Brazil(9%), but a high proportion of animals had very low positive titers, most clearly seen in pigs from São Paulo(36%), that could be explained by maternal transmission of antibodies during delivery. The avidity assays showed no correlation with antibody titers, with most positive animals also with a high avidity index. The hemagglutination assays were less efficient in the definition of infection, with both false negative and false positive sera, despite its feasibility. We cannot avoid that other coccidian swine infection could present crossed reaction in this assay. These data demonstrate that pigs could be considered a significant source of human *Toxoplasma gondii* infection, with care and education in the cooking of pork-containing foods. Some serological improvements are needed in the diagnosis of this infection. A.J. Galisteo Jr. is a fellow of FAPESP(98/1681-0). RM Hiramoto is a fellow of CNPq. This study was a part of the thesis of F.Suárez FAPESP (96/5875-8) and LIMHCFMUSP-49 supported this work.

IM-126
PRIMARY *IN VITRO* STIMULATION OF SPLENIC CBA MOUSE CELLS WITH *LEISHMANIA MAJOR* OR *LEISHMANIA AMAZONENSIS*

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CBA mice are resistant to infection with *L. major* (*Lm*) but are susceptible to infection with *L. amazonensis* (*La*). *In vivo* studies showed that in this model resistance is associated with a Th1 type of cell-mediated immune response, whereas susceptibility is associated with Th2 type. These observation points to the possible role of factors of the parasite in the modulation of immunoregulatory mechanisms of the host response. Several studies have demonstrated that early events, occuring in the first week after infection, determine the type of the immune response mounted by the host. The primary *in vitro* stimulation (PIV) assay has been proposed to dissect the early events involved in the establishment of the immune response in leishmaniasis and a good correlation with the *in vivo* response have been described. Thereby, we used this system to search for differences in the model of CBA infection with *Lm* or *La*. CBA splenocytes were primed *in vitro* with *Lm* or *La* and supernants of the cultures from the first to the seventh days were assayed by ELISA for the presence of IFN-g, IL-4, IL-5 and IL-10. Additionally, NO production was measured by Griess reaction. Our results show that the amounts of IFN-g, IL-10 and NO increased in function of the time of stimulation, the number of parasites used and the concentration of spleen cells added in the