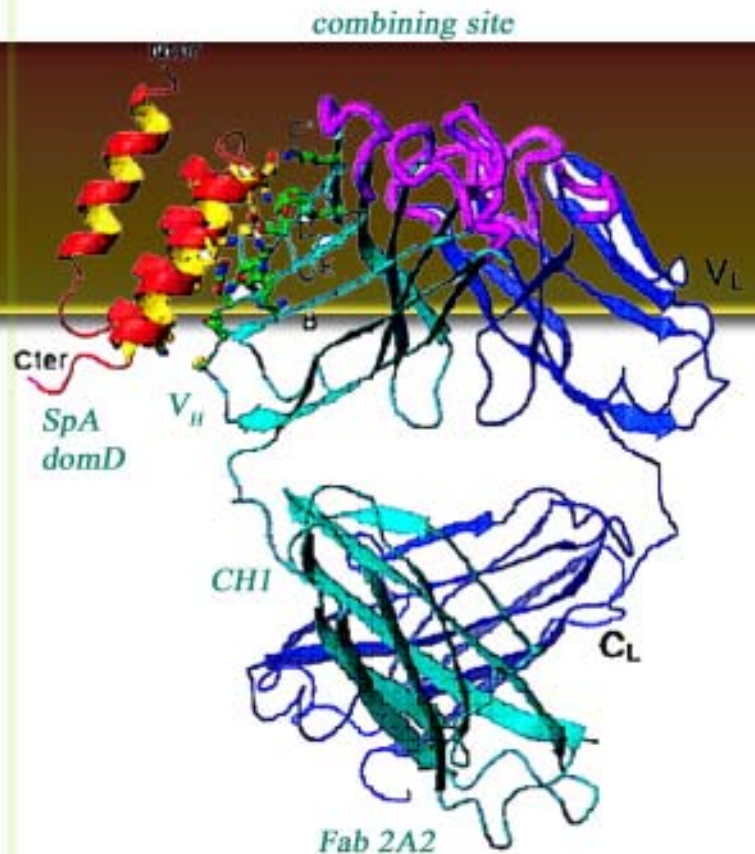


Department of Biological Sciences
Seminar Announcement

Date: 15 Aug 2003, Friday
Time: 4 - 5 pm
Venue: LT 20
Host: A/P R M Kini

All are welcome



Modulating immunogenicity by protein engineering

By **André Ménez**
Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique (CEA)

Proteins are antigens that can stimulate class II immune response leading to the antibody production. However, the quality of an immune response is rarely ideal, being either too weak when the objective is to develop a vaccine or undesired when a protein is to be used for as a therapeutic agent. How can we modulate the immune response of a protein at will? Some of our recent studies have shown that the engineering of appropriate fusion proteins can dramatically increase the presentation and hence the immune response of a protein antigen. Subsequently, intrinsic parameters of a protein that are responsible for its specific immunogenicity have been identified. As a result, we show that modest changes in the protein sequence can have considerable effects on this parameter, and hence on the intensity of the immune response, offering new perspective to design vaccine- or drug-based proteins with modulated immunogenicity.