Conversations over Chlamydia

April 14, 2017

Summary: As the most common sexually transmitted infection in the world, *Chlamydia trachomatis* is under careful study at Oklahoma State University. Not only is it an infection which causes uncomfortable physical symptoms, it can actually have dreadful long-term effects. A person who has been infected by *Chlamydia* may experience infertility, chronic inflammatory diseases, and even blindness. These potential hazardous health risks contribute to the interest in researching the bacteria *Chlamydia trachomatis.* Currently, research teams are working toward enough understanding of the bacteria to create a vaccine against *Chlamydia*, which would aid millions of people worldwide.

When a host cell (the human cell in the case of a person infected with *Chlamydia*) is infected, the bacteria enters the host cell. The process of that same bacteria particle exiting the host cell can occur in 2 different ways. Lysis occurs when the host cell membrane denatures and the bacteria leaves the cell. An extrusion occurs when a particle leaves the host cell. So far, extrusions have only ever been observed in a certain type of *Chlamydia*.