



**Prof. Björn Andersson**

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Björn Andersson is professor of Genome analysis at the Department of Cell and Molecular Biology, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden. Dr. Andersson's research group has been active for over twenty years and it was formed around a genome sequencing activity, following his involvement in the early stages of the human genome project. The two main sequencing projects were initially the *Trypanosoma cruzi* genome project and a project for comparative human sequencing in selected loci. *T. cruzi* is a protozoan parasite that is the causative agent of Chagas disease, which is a severe infectious disorder that affects millions of people in South and Central America. The complete genome sequence was published in a theme issue of Science in July 2005. This has been continued by functional genomics, more detailed studies of the genome and large comparative genomics studies in order to understand Chagas disease, combined with the development of advanced bioinformatics tools. Other parasitology projects in the group have involved Leishmania and Plasmodium comparative genomics and antigenic variation.

The other main focus of the group is human microbiome studies focused on the virome and on skin diseases. The former has resulted in the publication of several new human viruses.