

Centre for Cell Therapy & Regenerative Medicine Annual Research Symposium

12th April 2017 – 8.45am-5.00pm
Curtin University

Building 213, Room 104

Plenary Speakers

Professor Andrew Elefanty
MB BS FRACP PhD

“Dissection of haematopoietic differentiation from human pluripotent stem cells”

*Blood Cell Development and Disease Laboratory
Murdoch Childrens Research Institute
Victoria*

Andrew Elefanty trained as a physician and completed a PhD in leukaemogenesis at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research supervised by Prof Suzanne Cory. He subsequently worked on globin gene regulation with Prof Frank Grosveld at the National Institute for Medical Research in Mill Hill, London before returning to the Hall Institute to pursue interests in developmental haematopoiesis and the differentiation of mouse embryonic stem cells. He moved to Monash University in 2002 to initiate studies with human embryonic stem cells. In July 2012, his laboratory relocated to the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute. His work has focused on human pluripotent stem cell differentiation, with a special interest in haematopoietic lineages. His laboratory wishes to generate cells to model blood diseases in vitro and for transplantation. The laboratories of Andrew Elefanty and Ed Stanley have generated genetically modified human stem cell lines in which lineage-specific fluorescent reporters allow monitoring of differentiation.



Professor Geoff Laurent
PhD, FRCP (Hon), FRCPATH, FMedSci

“From muscle to lung regeneration: having fun and getting funded”

*Centre for Cell Therapy & Regenerative Medicine
University of Western Australia, Perth*

Professor Geoff Laurent is the Director of the Institute for Respiratory Health and Director of the Centre for Cell Therapy and Regenerative Medicine at The University of Western Australia.

Prior to his appointment at the University of Western Australia in 2012 he was Director of the Centre for Respiratory Research, Vice-Dean of Enterprise and Head of the Research Department of Internal Medicine at University College London. Professor Laurent has published over 250 articles in international journals of medicine and biomedical research. He received the European Respiratory Societies Presidential Award for his contribution to lung science and is a Past President of the British Association for Lung Research. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Biochemistry and Cell Biology and has edited several books including a four volume Encyclopaedia of Respiratory Medicine.

Professor Laurent has led the development of research programs investigating key mediators regulating inflammation and tissue remodelling in fibrotic diseases. He has made fundamental discoveries relating to the key cytokines, lipid mediators and proteases regulating fibroblast function in fibrosis. These discoveries have led to partnerships with industry to develop new drugs to treat chronic lung diseases. These achievements were recognized when he was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences in 2006.



Professor David Becker
PhD

“Targeting gap junctions to promote tissue repair”

*Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore*

Professor David Becker obtained his BSc in Biology in 1985 and his PhD in 1988 at University College London. In 1994 he was awarded a Royal Society Research Fellowship and in 2008 was made full Professor at UCL. In 2013 he moved to Singapore to join the newly formed Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine. He has published 110 research articles and book chapters, with >4,000 citations and a Publication H-Index of 30 and acts as a reviewer for many international journals and international grant funding agencies. For his translational research he has 30 worldwide patents pending and granted. In 2006 he was a founding scientist of CoDaTherapeutics Inc, which has raised over USD\$70M to develop Nexagon, a drug, which promotes the healing of chronic wounds. Nexagon has shown efficacy in phase 2B clinical trials on venous leg ulcers and is now being trialed on diabetic ulcers. It is phase 3 ready for treating persistent epithelial defects in eyes.

