



MMI Special Seminar

September 13, 2019
Friday Seminar – 12:10-1 p.m.

“Inhibition of Innate Immunity by Vaccinia Virus: A Discovery Tool for Host Restriction Factors”

Research

Geoffrey Smith is Head of Department, Professor of Pathology and a Wellcome Trust Principal Research Fellow in the Department of Pathology at the University of Cambridge. He obtained his PhD (1981) for work with influenza virus at NIMR, London. As a postdoc, together with Michael Mackett, he developed vaccinia virus (the smallpox vaccine) as an expression vector and established the use of genetically engineered viruses as live vaccines. He continued working with poxviruses after returning to UK at Cambridge (1985-9), Oxford (1989-2000), Imperial College London (2000-11) and now as Head of the Department of Pathology in Cambridge. His research studies the interactions of poxviruses with the host cell and immune system.

Currently, he is President of the International Union of Microbiological Societies, Chairman of the WHO Advisory Committee for Variola Virus (smallpox) Research, and a member of the Wellcome Trust Expert Review Group.

Publications

Neidel, S., Ren, H., Torres, A. & Smith, G.L. (2019). NF- κ B activation is a turn on for vaccinia virus phosphoprotein A49 to turn off NF- κ B activation. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*. **116**, 5699-5704.

Soday, L., Lu, Y., Albarnaz, J.D., Davies, C., Antrobus, R., Smith, G.L., & Weekes, M.P. (2019). Quantitative temporal viromics of vaccinia virus infection reveals regulation of histone deacetylases by a virus interferon antagonist. *Cell Reports* **27**, 1920-33 e7.

Lu, Y., Stuart, J.H., Talbot-Cooper, C., Agrawal-Singh, S.A., Huntly, B., Smid, A.I., Snowden, J.S., Dupont, L., & Smith, G.L. (2019) Histone deacetylase 4 is needed for type I interferon signalling and is targeted for proteasomal degradation by vaccinia virus protein C6. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **116**, 11997-12006.

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GBSF 1005

Medical Microbiology &
Immunology
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We hope to see you there!