SIgN Immunology Seminar



Prof Johan Neyts

Laboratory of Virology, Rega Institute for Medical Research, University of Leuven, Belgium

Antiviral therapy: much achieved, but far to go

Host
Dr Katja Fink
Singapore Immunology Network, A*Star

Date
Wednesday
3 September 2014

Time
11am – 12pm

Venue
SIgN Seminar Room
Immunos Building
Level 4
Biopolis

Today, small molecule antiviral drugs are available for the treatment of infections with herpesviruses, HIV, HBV and HCV as well as with influenza viruses. Ribavirin, a broad-spectrum (but aspecific) antiviral, has been approved for the treatment of infections with respiratory syncytial virus, HCV and Lassa virus. Yet, for many other viruses that cause life-threatening infections [many of which are considered emerging and/or neglected] there are no drugs available. Ideally, potent and broad-spectrum (i.e., pan-genus or pan-family virus activity) antiviral drugs should be developed whereby one drug could be used for the treatment of a number of such viral infections. Recent evolution in the development of novel drugs for the treatment of HCV infections and our recent work on the development of antivirals against viruses such as entero- and rhinoviruses, flaviviruses (dengue and others), Chikungunya, rabies, hepatitis E virus and others will be discussed.