SIgN
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SIgN Immunology Seminar



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Mast Cells: Master Regulators of Immune Responses Following Microbial Attack

Host
Dr Alessandra Mortellaro
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Date
Tuesday
28 April 2015

Time
11am – 12pm

Venue
SIgN Seminar Room
Immunos Building
Level 4
Biopolis

Mast cells (MCs), which are highly granulated tissue-resident immune cells have long been been overlooked. MCs are now becoming recognized as critical sentinels for invading microbes and as regulatory cells dictating the nature and intensity of immune responses. This role is dependent on the ability of MCs to detect pathogens and danger signals and promptly release a unique panel of mediators to promote pathogen-specific clearance mechanisms, such as cellular recruitment or vascular permeability. It is increasingly understood that MCs also contribute to the regulated contraction of immune activation to assist wound healing following infection. This overarching regulatory control over innate immune processes has made MCs successful targets to purposefully enhance or, alternatively, suppress MC responses in multiple therapeutic contexts.