Institute of Medical Biology
A*STAR

Seminar Announcement

- All Are Welcome -



Speaker: **Prof Keith Harding**
Cardiff University

Title : **"Wounds and Wound Healing: Opportunities and challenges in clinical practice"**

Date : **19 Nov 2015 (Thursday)**
Time : **4.00pm – 5.00pm**
Venue : **Exploration Theatrette, Matrix Level 4, Biopolis**
Host : **Prof Zee Upton**
(Tel: 6407 0153, email: zee.upton@imb.a-star.edu.sg)

Abstract of the Seminar:

Wounds have existed since the beginning of time. In recent years little attention and focus have been given to the subject. This has resulted in many patients with wounds not receiving optimal care. The number and diversity of wounds seen in clinical practice is such that around 6% of Health Care expenditure is directed to this clinical problem. By comparison in the UK 9% and 12% of health care costs are directed to Cancer and Heart Disease. The is a huge discrepancy between the focus and research interest in these 3 subjects and as such there is significant potential for research in this area to develop transformative changes to patient care.

The changes in disease patterns and demographics globally will ensure that the Clinical Challenge of wound healing will be with us for some time to come. The difficulties of understanding the biology of normal and delayed healing as well as the similarities between cancer and tissue repair at a molecular and cellular level provide unique opportunities for discovery. This coupled with the potential for better means of patient assessment and diagnosis of factors influencing healing would allow for directed or precision medicine to be offered to patients.

The creation of a national Wound Innovation Centre in Wales provides a means of integrating academic, clinical and commercial activities in this area to be developed at a National level. The precedent set by this initiative provides a template for other countries and regions to ensure that a focus on this subject allows them to address one of the forgotten and important challenges in modern medicine.

About the Speakers:

Professor Harding has undergone training in Surgery and General Practice. He has worked exclusively in the area of wound healing since 1991 where he has led an academic self funded group in the Medical School in Cardiff. From 1991-2014 the Wound Healing Research Unit obtained around £45 million of funding from academic grants and links with industry. During that time the group developed the first Masters course in Wound Healing and Tissue Repair. The group also developed and validated the first disease specific quality of life tool in chronic leg wounds. Professor Harding and his colleague Professor Jiang have been awarded patents on a gene signature that predicts which chronic wound will and will not heal.

Professor Harding was the first President of the European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel. He has been president of the European Tissue repair Society and set up the European Wound management Association following a meeting in Cardiff in 1991. In 2014 he was awarded more than £4 million from the Welsh Government to set up The Welsh Wound Innovation Centre and since 2013 has been the University Dean of Clinical Innovation at Cardiff University.