IMCB Invited Speaker

Speaker : **Prof. Mariano Garcia-Blanco**
Charles D. Watts Professor of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology,
Director, Duke Center for RNA Biology,
Duke University School of Medicine, USA

Date : 12 November 2012 (Monday)

Time : 11:00AM - 12:00PM

Venue : Level 3, IMCB Seminar Room 3-46, Proteos, Biopolis

Host : Dr. Frederic Bard

Seminar :

Discovery of flaviviral host factors using genome scale RNAi screens

The study of dengue virus (DENV) and yellow fever virus (YFV) host factors should provide fascinating details about these ribonucleoprotein machines and has the real potential of revealing new antiviral targets. To identify proteins that impact DENV and YFV replication and interact with viral RNAs we used genome-scale RNAi screens, and RNA chromatography coupled with quantitative mass spectrometry. The strengths and weaknesses of these approaches will be discussed, with an emphasis on the good, the bad, the ugly, and the beautiful about genome scale RNAi screens.

About the Speaker :

Mariano A. Garcia-Blanco M.D., Ph.D., is the Charles D. Watts Professor of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, Professor of Medicine, Director of the Center for RNA Biology at Duke University, and Professor of Emerging Infectious Diseases at the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School, Singapore. He has made important discoveries about alternative RNA splicing and disease. He pioneered the imaging of splicing in tissues and tumors of living animals, which revealed unexpected plasticity in cancer. He has also discovered scores of host factors for pathogenic RNA viruses providing needed targets for anti-viral therapy. Professor Garcia-Blanco obtained his AB in Biochemical Sciences at Harvard College, and his M.D. and Ph.D. (in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry) at Yale University. He obtained postdoctoral training in RNA biology with Nobel laureate Phillip A. Sharp at MIT. He is a Fellow of the Association of American Physicians and was recently elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

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