Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology
A*STAR

SEMINAR ANNOUNCEMENT

We would like to invite you to attend this seminar hosted by Prof. Walter Hunziker:

Date: 11 September 2018, Tuesday
Time: 11:00AM – 12:00PM
Venue: Level 3, IMCB Seminar Room 3-46, Proteos, Biopolis

Speaker: Prof. Patrick Humbert, Professor of Cancer Biology and Co-Head of Cancer Research, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia
Title: Cell polarity, tissue organisation and the regulation of cancer progression

Cell polarity, the universal property of all metazoan cells to be asymmetrical, coordinates cell movement, differentiation, proliferation and cell fate decisions, all of which are key to build and maintain the organization of complex epithelial tissues. Loss of polarity and the deregulation of these processes are critical events in malignant progression but precisely how and at which stage cell polarity loss impacts on epithelial development and tumourigenesis is unclear. To provide insight as to how cellular asymmetry can regulate epithelial organ formation and cancer progression, we have studied a number of highly conserved cell polarity proteins first identified in Drosophila as potent tumour suppressors including the Scribble and Pins polarity modules. Using a combination of genetic, biochemical and structural approaches in Drosophila and mammals, I will present some of the recent insights we have obtained into how cell polarity regulators can control cancer initiation and progression, and how these properties may be targeted therapeutically.

Biography:
Professor Patrick Humbert is the Professor of Cancer Biology and Co-Head of Cancer Research at La Trobe University (Melbourne, Australia) and a Senior Fellow of the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia. His major focus is the study of the genetic program that governs the asymmetry of cells and how this regulates stem cell function, the architecture of organs, cancer progression and metastasis.