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DNA Repair Mechanisms In the Central Nervous System

Professor Robin Franklin
Neurosciences Laboratory (Dept. of Veterinary Medicine), and the
Cambridge Centre for Brain Repair, University of Cambridge

7.30 p.m., Monday 30th April, 2007

The Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Churchill College, Storey's Way, Cambridge

Professor Franklin writes:

The brain and spinal cord are notoriously poor at repairing themselves once damaged by injury or disease.

Yet recent advances in the biology of stem cells and a growing understanding of why regeneration in these structures is poor make scientists more optimistic than ever before that new therapies will emerge that will support healing and recovery from neurological disease.

In this talk Prof Franklin will discuss some of these issues focusing on his own work in repair of myelin, the substance lost in multiple sclerosis, and spinal cord injury.

About the Speaker:

Robin Franklin obtained both his undergraduate degrees from the University of London, a physiology degree from University College London (1985) and a degree in veterinary medicine from The Royal Veterinary College (1988).

His subsequent career has been at the University of Cambridge, first as a Wellcome Trust student, obtaining a PhD in experimental neuropathology (1992), then as a Wellcome Trust-funded post-doctoral fellow, Lecturer, Senior Lecturer and Reader. He currently holds a personal chair as Professor of Neuroscience.

During his research career he has been interested in CNS repair mechanisms and primarily in the biology of myelin repair; he has published over 160 papers and articles on this and related topics. There are currently 6 post-doctoral scientists and 5 PhD students in his laboratory which is part of the Cambridge Centre for Brain Repair and the Stem Cell Medicine Institute.

The Organising Secretary adds……

"Brain damage can occur at any stage of life and for many reasons. The effects are not only devastating for the individuals concerned and for their families, but place enormous demands on health care services and society. Counteracting the effects of damage to the brain or spinal cord represents one of the major current challenges to medical science. Success at repairing the damaged brain will require the harnessing of information gathered from a wide range of disciplines.

The Cambridge Centre for Brain Repair is part of the Department of Clinical Neurosciences, University of Cambridge. The ultimate aim of work in the Centre is to understand, and eventually to alleviate and repair damage to the brain and spinal cord which results from injury or neurodegenerative disease.

The Centre was formed to bring Cambridge scientists working across the many fields of modern neuroscience together in cross-disciplinary research efforts directed at the problems associated with preventing or repairing the effects of brain damage. The approach being taken is both a long term one of trying to understand the underlying disease mechanisms, and a more immediate examination of strategies which might have potential for clinical application. Towards this end a major goal of the Centre is to provide a forum for interactions between investigators in the clinical and basic neurosciences.

The focal point of the Centre is the ED Adrian building on the University Forvie site at Addenbrooke's Hospital. In this location, the main activities of the Centre are well placed to take advantage of, and contribute to, the rich and lively neuroscience environment in Cambridge. The building is immediately next to the Institute of Public Health, the Parke-Davis Neurosciences Research Centre and the *Laboratory for Medicinal Chemistry*[1], and close to the Regional Neurosciences Centre for East Anglia, situated on the south side of Addenbrooke's Hospital.

In addition to providing research facilities for principal investigators working within the building there are strong collaborations with other departments and institutions in Cambridge. The Centre provides clinical testing areas for investigators to evaluate ambulatory patients involved in research studies The Centre is committed to training future generations of investigators by providing a co-ordinated training programme for PhD students and post-doctoral fellows."

(From the website of the Cambridge Centre for Brain Repair)

You will notice a change in my address; I no longer work for Sagentia, so I am organising your CSAR lectures from my home!

Best Regards

Richard Freeman, CSAR Organising Secretary

Coffee available, as usual, in the foyer outside the lecture theatre from ~7.00 p.m.

[1] This Professor Laurie Hall's laboratory; sadly, it exists no more