Monday, November 29, 2010 at 11 a.m.

IGBMC Auditorium

Special Seminar

Reciprocal interactions between stem cells and their niche in adult mammalian epidermis

Fiona WATT

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Adult mammalian epidermis is maintained by proliferation of stem cells and differentiation of their progeny. In undamaged epidermis stem cells in any particular location only give rise to the lineages that are appropriate for that location. However, following wounding or genetic manipulation, any epidermal stem cell is capable of repopulating all of the epidermal lineages, revealing a remarkable degree of plasticity of the adult tissue. My lab is currently using a range of in vitro and in vivo approaches to define the environmental signals that regulate epidermal stem cell fate. Our studies have uncovered the importance of reciprocal interactions between epidermal cells and cells of the dermis, both in normal epidermal homeostasis and in tumour development.

Host: S. Chan

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