Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

2018 Seminar Series

Wednesday 29th of August
12-1pm
Bio21 Institute Auditorium
30 Flemington Road, Parkville

Dr Tony Kenna

Principal Research Fellow, Faculty of Health, Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, QUT

Functional immunogenomic approaches to understand inflammatory pathways in immune-mediated diseases

A/Prof Tony Kenna is a cellular immunologist and currently Principal Research Fellow at Queensland University of Technology. His research career has focused on human immunology and identification of novel therapeutic approaches for treatment of immune-mediated diseases. Immune-mediated inflammatory diseases such as ankylosing spondylitis (AS), psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis and systemic sclerosis are highly heritable, telling us that genetics plays an important role in their pathogenesis. The genomics revolution of the last decade has greatly expanded understanding of the genetic architecture of many immune-mediated diseases. The next step of discovery is to determine how newly identified genetic variants alter immune cell and immune system function(s). Working closely with leading human geneticists A/Prof Kenna's research integrates world-first genomic data with cellular and molecular immunology to define some of key drivers of disease pathogenesis. His lab has identified important roles for the transcription T-bet in AS pathogenesis and defined immune cell subsets driving inflammation in AS. Recently his group has begun to interrogate immune dysfunction in populations of T cells and NK cells in AS which is advancing understanding of the dominant immunopathogenic models in AS.

ALL WELCOME. Please join us for a light lunch after the seminar!
Further information: Matthew Dixon (matthew.dixon@unimelb.edu.au)