Research Interests

My research interests are stem cell biology in human tissues, with the aim of understanding the role of stem cells in the maintenance of normal tissue architecture and the progression to malignancy.

My research group focuses on:

• Using mutations in mitochondrial and genomic DNA as clonal markers, combined with the analysis of methylation patterns in non-expressed genes (i) to locate the stem cell niche in a number of tissues, including the prostate, gastrointestinal and liver epithelia; and (ii) to explore clonal expansion of mutant clones in Barrett’s oesophagus, gastric intestinal metaplasia and colorectal adenomas.
• To follow the development of pre-tumour clones in the colon during pre-neoplastic evolution in Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis.
• Clonal evolution in colorectal adenomas and inflammation-associated cancer
• The design of methods to explore neutral drift in stem cell divisions in normal human tissues.

Major Funders
• Cancer Research UK

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