Why we focus on Lymphoma

There are two main types of lymphoma, Hodgkin's lymphoma (HL) and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL). Both are cancers of the lymphatic system and usually present as swelling of the lymph nodes. Almost 12,000 cases of NHL are diagnosed in the UK each year, making it the 5th most common cancer. The incidence of the disease has more than doubled since 1975. HL is much rarer with almost 2,000 new cases in the UK each year. While this is one of the most curable cancers, the outcome can be dismal for those patients who fail to respond to standard therapy. Therefore, although the outcome for lymphoma patients has improved recently, there is still a need for novel treatments, particularly in elderly patients, and to develop new therapies, we also need to better understand the molecular biology of the disease.

What we do

- We are investigating the genetic mutations involved in lymphoma development, progression and transformation from indolent to aggressive lymphoma.
- A major focus is the role of the tumour microenvironment and how this impacts upon prognosis.
- We are investigating the mechanism of action of novel agents to identify and optimise new treatment approaches in clinical trials.
- We are investigating the role of immunotherapy approaches in these diseases.
- We are investigating the role of stem cell transplantation to improve outcome in patients who have failed conventional therapy.

Key Publications

- Kiaii S, et al. Follicular Lymphoma Cells Induce Changes in T-Cell Gene Expression and Function: Potential Impact on Survival and Risk of Transformation. J Clin Oncol. 2013
- Greaves P et al. Expression of FOXP3, CD68, and CD20 at diagnosis in the microenvironment of classical Hodgkin lymphoma is predictive of outcome. J Clin Oncol. 2013;31:256-262
- Iyengar S et al. P110alpha-mediated constitutive PI3K signaling limits the efficacy of p110delta-selective inhibition in mantle cell lymphoma, particularly with multiple relapse. Blood. 2013;121:2274-2284.
- Bödör *et al.* EZH2 Y641 mutations in FL. *Leukemia* 2011; 25: 726-9.
- Wrench *et al*. SNP rs6457327 in the HLA region on chromosome 6p is predictive of the transformation of FL. *Blood* 2011; 117: 3147-50.

Who does the research

Prof. John Gribben	Tumour microenvironment, Immunotherapy
Dr. Jeff Davies	Immunotherapy, allogeneic stem cell transplantation
Dr. Jude Fitzgibbon	Molecular pathogenesis of lymphoma
Dr. Li Jia	Apoptosis in lymphoma
Dr. Andrejs Ivanov	Apoptosis in response to leukaemia & lymphoma therapies
Dr. Sergey Krysov	B-cell malignancy development & the BCR

Major Funders

- Cancer Research UK
- Kay Kendall Leukaemia Fund
- Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research Fund
- Medical Research Council
- US NIH