Research Interests
My main research areas are in Adhesion, Integrins and Metastasis. My research group’s main interests are:

- The biology of tumour invasion, specifically the roles of integrin adhesion molecules, using quantitative, 3-dimensional, organotypic invasion assays, that we continue to develop.
- We have concentrated on the role of $\alpha_\nu\beta_6$, not detectable on most normal tissues, but upregulated in many solid tumours, and an important new therapeutic target. By understanding its biology we hope to develop novel therapies.
- $\alpha_\nu\beta_6$-directed imaging and therapy for cancer is almost a reality. We have identified and used a peptide highly specific for $\alpha_\nu\beta_6$ as a radiotracer for high resolution imaging of $\alpha_\nu\beta_6$-positive (i.e. potentially more aggressive) cancers. We hope clinical trials should commence 2015.
- With collaborators we have also developed human antibodies to $\alpha_\nu\beta_6$ that we are developing for human anti cancer therapy.

Major Funders
- Breast Cancer Campaign
- DebRA
- Medical Research Council
- Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund
- BBSRC

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Recent Publications


