The Centre for Blood Research

Wednesday, Nov 16, 2011
12:00pm
in LSC3

Life Sciences Centre
2350 Health Sciences Mall

Dr. Alan Lazarus
Keenan Research Centre of the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael's Hospital

"How does IVIg work in autoimmunity and can we replace it with something better?"

Intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIg) is used to treat autoimmune diseases, such as immune thrombocytopenia (ITP). IVIg is a limited resource, and its dosage and cost are both high. Although considered safe, it is a pooled plasma-derived blood product and will always carry a theoretical risk of transferring infectious disease. Thus, it would be highly desirable to improve the efficacy of IVIg or develop monoclonal antibodies capable of mimicking the clinical effects of IVIg. To explore the potential for monoclonal antibodies as a treatment for autoimmunity, we tested a spectrum of antibodies and found that several antibodies specific for the CD44 homing antigen were effective in ITP and arthritis. The results and implications of this work will be discussed.

Host: Dr. Ed Pryzdial, Clinical Professor Pathology and Laboratory Medicine & Centre for Blood Research

Refreshments will be served 10 minutes before the seminar
Seminar information: 604 822 7407