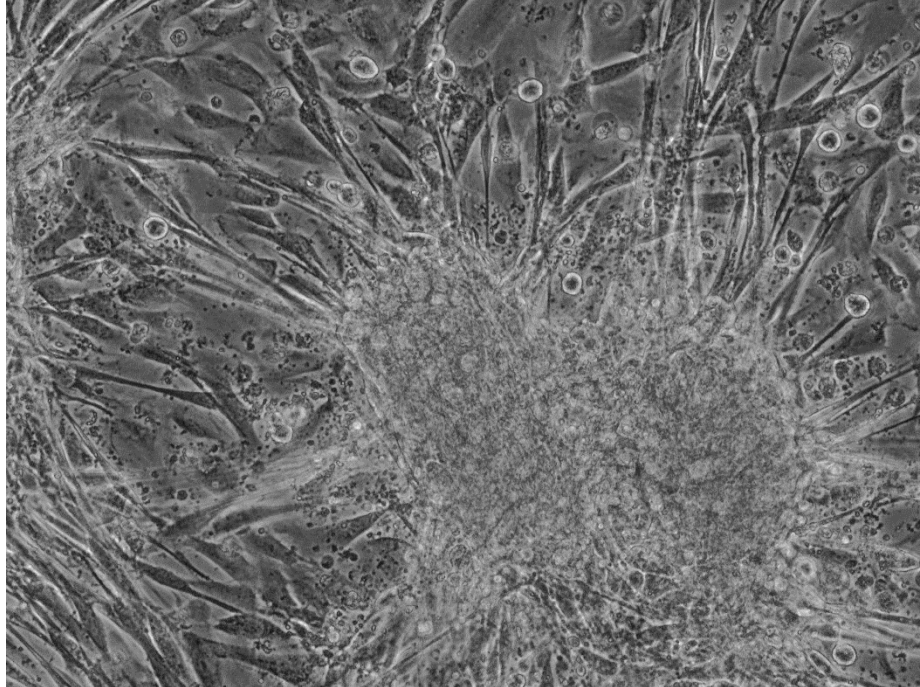


Café Scientifique Headingley

Monday 8th July 2019 at 7:30pm

Live Viruses for the Treatment of Cancer by Adel Samson



Light microscopy of oncolytic measles virus syncytia

Outline: Immunotherapy has revolutionised cancer treatment over the past 10 years, with an unprecedented expansion of clinically available treatment options for both solid and haematological malignancies. The lead medicines in clinical use are immune checkpoint modulators, which act to promote and amplify anti-cancer immune responses. However, the majority of patients achieve little or no benefit. Ongoing research across the world is now focused on improving the success of cancer immunotherapy, whilst limiting toxicity. In this regard, Leeds has led research in oncolytic virus immunotherapies. Oncolytic viruses are naturally occurring or engineered 'live' viruses that were first identified to directly attack and kill cancerous cells over 100 years ago. More recently, they have become better understood to act as immunotherapies, opening the door for their use in combination with immune checkpoint modulators. This presentation will span the history of oncolytic virus research, from discovery to current state-of-the-art research at The University of Leeds.

Adel Samson is a Clinical University Academic Fellow at The University of Leeds and an honorary Medical Oncologist at the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. His academic training spanned a BSc in genetics, a CRUK PhD in viral immunotherapies and an NIHR postdoctoral fellowship in translational clinical trials. He now leads the Translational Cancer Immunotherapy Group. Adel's research interests range from pre-clinical biological mechanisms of immune activation using oncolytic viruses, combination therapies (e.g. viruses plus immune checkpoint modulation) through to early phase clinical trials.

Venue: The New Headingley Club, 56 St Michael's Rd., Leeds LS6 3BG

Time: Club opens at 7:00pm for drinks & the room at 7:30; talk begins promptly at 7:45pm

Entry: Donation please for room hire and expenses: **£3 at the door**



Café Scientifique Headingley is a programme run under the auspices of the Headingley Development Trust www.headingleydevelopmenttrust.org.uk