Date: 10th February 2017

Speaker: Dr Aled Clayton, Cardiff University

Biography:

I established the first group investigating the roles of extracellular vesicles (exosomes) in cancer in the UK. The group has published well over 30 papers in relation to vesicles, and their roles in subverting immune responses, in controlling the cancer microenvironment and as potential disease biomarkers. I am interested in understanding the mechanisms by which vesicle biogenesis and secretion is controlled, and the impact such vesicles have on the development and progression of cancer; particularly focussing on prostate cancer. Developing tools and assays to quantify nano-vesicles in biological fluid specimens is also an important aspect of the group's activities. The laboratories are based at the Velindre Cancer Centre, the principal cancer treatment hospital in Wales, and are equipped with specialist instrumentation geared towards the study of exosome-vesicles. Although my main focus is in cancer biology, I collaborate broadly with researchers in Cardiff and other Universities, on aspects including cardiovascular disease, neurodegenerative diseases and other conditions that impact our society in significant ways.