



BMC-GPMLS: Distinguished lecture series



Andrew Jackson

MRC Human Genetics Unit,
University of Edinburgh

A to Z of Microcephaly: linking instability to innate immunity

Abstract

This lecture will describe our work on microcephalic disorders, the genes involved and cellular mechanisms by which brain size is reduced to a third of normal volume. I will also speak about our work on Aicardi-Goutieres syndrome, a genetic mimic of congenital viral infections, and how this has led us discover that DNA damage arising from ribonucleotides embedded in genomic DNA leads to inflammation.

Professor Andrew Jackson is a Programme Leader at the MRC Human Genetics Unit, University of Edinburgh and also practices as an honorary Consultant in Clinical Genetics. He was elected as a member of EMBO in 2013 and is a Fellow of both the Royal Society of Edinburgh and Academy of Medical Sciences. Over the past 20 years his research has focussed on the identification of genes for microcephalic disorders and in defining the functional role of the proteins they encode. The Jackson lab has discovered 20 human disease genes acting in growth and inflammation, all involved in fundamental cellular processes. From a starting point of human disease, his research goal is to provide new insights into basic biological processes.

Time: Friday, June 2nd, 11.00-12.00

Location: Fróði auditorium, Sturlugata 8