

NEWS

From test tube to clinical trials: Harnessing the power of the immune system

The 16th International Congress of Immunology (ICI2016) program will feature the latest research findings in immunology, from basic research to therapies in clinical trials.

According to Professor Jose Villadangos, President of the Congress, the main theme for ICI 2016 is “Immunotherapy: Harnessing the Power of the Immune System” is a timely motto. “We are witness the emergence of amazing new immunotherapeutic strategies revolutionizing the treatment of cancer, autoimmunity, allergy and immune deficiencies and transplant outcomes,” he said.

Main themes of the Congress include advances in discovery and development of vaccines for infectious diseases as well as the emerging fields of microbiome-host interactions, new innate cell subsets and immunoregulatory pathways. “Progress in immunology is to a large extent driven by new technology, and advances in imaging from the molecular to whole-animal levels, single-cell analysis and deep sequencing will also be showcased in the program,” Professor Villadangos added.

“The Congress’ focus is also on new advances in immunology needed to save and improve human lives in developing and in developed countries, and among disadvantaged communities such as indigenous populations.”

Scientific Program Highlights

- **World first bowel cancer vaccine ready to be trialed in Melbourne, Australia (Peter Mac)**
- **Update on vaccine against Ebola**
- **How diet may be able to control the progression to diabetes (Eliano Marino, Monash)**
- **Drug target identified for treatment of juvenile arthritis**
- **How to protect newborns against allergies, with probiotics**
- **Colorectal cancer vaccines – an update**
- **New drug therapy for rheumatic heart disease trialed in Aboriginal and Torres Strait islanders (incidence of disease in 26 times that of non-indigenous population)**
- **Where you live may be a risk factor for Multiple Sclerosis**
- **Drug treatment in mice reversed cognitive decline seen in Alzheimer’s Disease**