

# ICM Research Seminar

## Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March

**Tom Cox**

(Prof David Kavanagh, Dr Kevin Marchbank)

### **Personalised management of Age Related Macular Degeneration by the identification of high risk genetic variants in Complement Factor I**

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the leading worldwide cause of irreversible blindness, and currently affects between 30-50 million people. Numerous studies have identified a strong association with complement factor I variants and the risk of developing AMD. This project aims to elucidate the link between these variants and the increased risk of AMD, in order to facilitate the treatment of patients on an individualised basis.

**Dr Jessica Tarn**

(Prof Fai Ng)

### **Stratification and endotype discovery in primary Sjögren's Syndrome**

Primary Sjögren's Syndrome (pSS) is a chronic autoimmune disease characterized by a wide range of presenting symptoms and systemic manifestations. Our data illustrate a novel, robust method for stratification in pSS, with implications for clinical management, trial design and therapeutic development.

**Dr Ben Millar**

(Prof John Kirby, Prof Dave Jones)

### **Evaluation of the biliary epithelium in Primary Biliary Cholangitis (PBC) through *in vitro* stress models and by profiling of the UK-PBC historic liver tissue cohort.**

PBC is a rare, autoimmune liver disease with a relatively unknown pathogenesis. As part of the UK-PBC stratified medicine project we have been working towards elucidating mechanisms underpinning the disease through immune-phenotyping and *in vitro* modelling. Indeed, there is a degree of unmet need in PBC due to 30% of patients not responding to Ursodeoxycholic acid (UDCA) therapy and therefore developing high risk of transplant. Along with our collaborators we have identified key markers and pathways which play a key role in this disease.

**Chair: Ben Shillitoe**

**Dental Lecture Theatre F, Medical School**

**1pm - 2pm**