**Date / Time:**
Tuesday,
7 September 2010
12.00 nn

**Venue:**
CeLS Auditorium
@ Centre for Life Sciences Building,
Level 1,
28 Medical Drive
Singapore 117456

**Convener:**
Dr Sylvie Alonso

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**Seminar Coordinators**
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Dept. of Microbiology
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**“Innate Mechanisms In The Regulation Of Human B Cell Physiology”**

**Dr Elisabetta Traggiai**
Group leader,
Department of Pediatric Science,
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**Abstract**

B-cell contributions to human autoimmune disease are now being considered crucial due to the therapeutic benefit of B-cell depleting strategies. B lymphocytes have historically contributed to the pathogenesis of autoimmune disease through autoantibody production. However, studies of B-cell function in mice and human over the past two decades have implicated multiple additional roles for B cells in autoimmune disease pathogenesis. Indeed B lymphocytes can present antigen and interact with naïve T cells, regulate DC function, cooperate in lymphoid tissue structure and neo-genesis, secrete both inflammatory and immunomodulatory cytokines and recently they have been shown to negatively regulate cellular immune response and inflammation. Understanding the role of innate immunity, namely TLRs and purines receptors, in the generation and maintenance of autoreactive antibodies as well as in the control of immunosuppressive function of both T and B lymphocytes will shed light on possible molecular mechanisms leading to auto-reactive B cells selection and on the mechanisms limiting their potential development in healthy individuals. Moreover the novelty of the approach hereby proposed will likely contribute to the identification of unexplored pharmacological targets to be applied both in autoimmune diseases as well as in immunodeficiency.

**Selected Publications**


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