



The Singapore Bioimaging Consortium (SBIC)  
presents a seminar on

**“Genome Stability and Cancer Predisposition:  
Insights from Imaging & Metabolism”**

**Speaker:** Professor Ashok Venkitaraman  
The Ursula Zoellner Professor of Cancer Research  
Director, Medical Research Council (MRC) Cancer Unit  
University of Cambridge

**Host :** Dr Han Weiping

**Date :** Thursday, 12 April 2018

**Time :** 2.00pm – 3.00pm

**Venue :** SBIC Seminar Room  
11 Biopolis Way  
Level 2, Helios Building, Singapore 138667  
(Please enter via Level 1)

**Abstract**

Most epithelial cancers exhibit genome instability, which arises early during carcinogenesis, and is a key determinant of their clinical behavior and therapeutic responsiveness. In this talk, I will summarize recent insights into the structure and function of the breast cancer gene, BRCA2, a key custodian of the human genome, which engender a new model for carcinogenesis in mutation carriers with implications for early therapeutic or preventive intervention. I will discuss the impact of imaging and metabolism in our findings.

**About the Speaker**

Ashok is the Ursula Zoellner Professor of Cancer Research at the University of Cambridge, and the Director of the Medical Research Council (MRC) Cancer Unit. He trained in medicine at the Christian Medical College, Vellore, India, before completing his PhD at University College London. Prof Ashok was a faculty member at the Medical Research Council’s Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, before appointment to the Zoellner Professorship in 1998. He is widely recognized for his contributions to understanding the genetics and biology of cancer, particularly in elucidating the impact of genome instability on carcinogenesis and cancer therapy. His research has not only illuminated the fundamental mechanisms governing genome repair, replication and segregation during cell division, but has also provided insight into their connections with cancer pathogenesis and treatment. Translation of these insights to clinical practice is a major focus in Ashok’s current work. He has been instrumental in establishing initiatives that link chemists, physicists, structural biologists, cancer biologists and clinicians in Cambridge and elsewhere, with the aim to pioneer innovative new approaches for the discovery and early clinical development of next-generation medicines. Prof Ashok was elected a Fellow of the

Academy of Medical Sciences, London, in 2001 and a Member of the EMBO European academy, Heidelberg, in 2004.

***--- Admission is free and all are welcome ---***