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Internationally-recognized St. Jude cancer researcher to speak on genomics and cancer treatment

PEORIA, III. – (July 7, 2014) Dr. Charles Mullighan, a world-renowned child cancer researcher, was named to speak at the 2014 Robert D. Hart, MD Lectureship on August 13.

Dr. Mullighan will present “Your Genes and Cancer: The role of Genome Sequencing in Understanding and Treating Cancer” at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 13 at Jump Trading Simulation and Education Center. The presentation is free and open to the public, but space is limited. For more information or to RSVP your seat, please call Jodi at 309.624.4533 or email jfrasura@uic.edu.

Dr. Mullighan, MBBS (Hons), MSc, M.D., an associate member of the St. Jude Pathology Department and a Pew Scholar in Biomedical Sciences, will talk about how genome sequencing is being used in childhood cancer research and how gene sequencing may impact cancer diagnosis and treatment.

“We’re learning a lot about the genetic basis of cancer and some of it is personally relevant to patients,” says Dr. Mullighan. “Individual genetic changes might dictate whether a particular drug will work or will not work.”

Dr. Mullighan has used genomic profiling and experimental modeling to investigate the genetic basis of various forms of acute leukemia. His work has identified genetic alterations that contribute to the development of leukemia and led to new diagnostic tests and therapeutic targets.

The Robert D. Hart, M.D. Endowed Lectureship in Pediatric and Adult Rehabilitation was established in 2002 to honor the late Dr. Hart for his distinguished medical career. It hosts prominent scholars for presentations to enhance the training and education of medical students, residents, practicing physicians, and other health care providers in our community as well as to better inform the public. This is the eleventh year UICOMP has presented the lectureship.

One of four campuses that make up one of the largest public medical schools in the U.S., the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria (UICOMP) is a leader in medical education, research and patient care. It is home to the cutting-edge Cancer Research Center and a partner in the Jump Trading Simulation and Education Center.

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