Speaker: Bent Brachvogel

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Title: "Annexin 5 - more than just a marker for apoptosis?"

Date: Monday, August 23

Time: 14:00 -15:00

Place: 7F Conference Room of Building A,CDB

Summary:

Annexin a5 (Anxa5) is commonly used as a marker for detection of apoptosis. But despite its ability to bind to the outer surface of apoptotic vesicles not much is known about the in vivo functions of Anxa5. It was assumed that Anxa5 functions as a potential regulator of inflammation and coagulation. Additionally, it is speculated that Anxa5 may play a role as one of the major calcium channels during the process of endochondral ossification.

To examine the in vivo relevance of these hypotheses we inactivated the Anxa5 gene in the mouse by inserting a LacZ reporter gene cassette. This talk will summarize the analysis of the Anxa5 knock out model and discuss the future prospects of multiple knock outs to get insight into the in vivo functions of the Annexins.

Additionally, we will des

cribe a very special expression pattern of the Anxa 5 gene in the vasculature. This unique expression pattern was used to purify a poorly characterized cell type of the vasculature, the pericytes. These cells may represent a source of vascular associated mesenchymal stem cells in the adult. For this reason, we analysed the differentiation capacity of these cells and will give an overview of the initial results.