International symposium to focus on cancer informatics

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26 April 2007，Cancer informatics will be the focus of the Centre for BioMedical Informatics second international symposium at the University of Kent on Thursday 26 April 2007.

Featuring a broad range of international speakers, the symposium aims to address three strands at the forefront of a new understanding of cancer: detecting cancers, modelling cancer processes and the genetic basis of cancer.

Speakers include: Professor Alan Colchester, Professor of Clinical Neuroscience and Medical Image Computing, University of Kent, and Consultant Neurologist at East Kent, Guy and St Thomas hospitals; Dr Marc J van de Vijver, Department of Pathology, Netherlands Cancer Institute; Professor Simon Tavar? Professor of Cancer Research (Bioinformatics), Department of Oncology, University of Cambridge; Dr Philip Murphy, quantitative imaging for oncology clinical trials, Pfizer; and Professor Bill Gullick, Professor of Cancer Biology, Department of Biosciences, University of Kent.

Based at the University of Kent, the Centre for BioMedical Informatics fosters collaborative research and postgraduate teaching in the broad area of biomedical informatics, a discipline that uses information and computer technology to investigate scientific and health issues that cross the boundaries between basic biological sciences and applied medical science. The Centre builds on a thriving culture of collaboration between several departments in the University Faculty of Science, Technology and Medical Studies. These include the Department of Biosciences, Computing Laboratory, Kent Institute of Medicine and Health Sciences, the Institute of Mathematics, Statistics and Actuarial Science, the School of Physical Sciences and the Department of Electronics.

Dr Anthony Baines, Reader in Molecular Cell Biology at Kent and the Director of the Centre for BioMedical Informatics, said: cancer is now seen as a collection of diseases with a genetic basis. By combining advances in genetics, modelling cancer processes and methods for imaging cancers in the body, new ways are coming about for detecting and treating the cancer. The advances in cancer research also have much broader implications; for example, they will find applications in many genetic and infectious diseases.

Dr Colin Johnson, Senior Lecturer in the Computing Laboratory at Kent and Deputy Director of the Centre for BioMedical Informatics, said: cancer is a complex disease and computational and mathematical methods play an increasingly important role in understanding its diagnosis and treatment. Through this symposium, our research students and staff will have the opportunity to learn about the latest developments in this exciting area of medical science.

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