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Deciphering the mucin glycode by force spectroscopy

Mucin plays a crucial role in maintaining cellular homeostasis along the entire length of the GI tract and several other epithelial surfaces. Mucin consists of a polypeptide backbone which is heavily substituted with a diverse array of glycans. This presentation will describe a methodology to characterize the inherent heterogeneity of mucin in a molecular level quantifiable manner in order to reveal information which may be encoded by the glycan distribution. Such information is termed "glycode" and is believed to directly influence the outcome of the symbiotic relationship between the gut microbiota and the host in health and disease.

Biography

A Patrick Gunning has completed his PhD from Glyndwr University, UK. He is the Manager of the Atomic Force Microscopy Facility at the Institute of Food Research (IFR), a public funded research institute. He has published more than 90 papers in reputed journals and has been serving as a member of the Scanning Probe Microscopy Section Committee of the Royal Microscopical Society.

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