Lecture to focus on stem cell cancer treatment

Professor William J. Murphy will present Sacramento State’s Regenerative Medicine Lecture, “Attacking Cancer Stem Cells with Immunotherapy – Potential for Cure?” from 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29, in the University Union Ballroom. The lecture is free and open to the public.

According to Murphy, using the immune system to target cancer stem cells (CSC) represents perhaps the best means to achieve tumor eradication and a long-term cure for cancer. He and other researchers have found that immune cells called natural killer (NK) cells can specifically target and kill CSCs. Using preclinical models, researchers discovered that combination approaches using radiation or chemotherapy target the majority of tumor cells that are not CSCs and enrich the regeneration of tumors. Applying immunotherapy afterward, using NK cells, allowed for successful cancer eradication.

Murphy completed his Ph.D. in immunology from the University of Texas Medical Center in 1989. He received his bachelor’s in biology in 1984 from Rutgers University. Currently he serves as professor and acting chair of the Department of Dermatology and as a professor the Department of Internal Medicine (Hematology and Oncology), at the UC Davis School of Medicine. His research, centered on using the immune system to fight disease, has been published in more than 200 peer-reviewed publications during the last 30 years.

For media assistance, contact Sacramento State Public Affairs at (916) 278-6156. – Alan Miller

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