

## **The PROCURE Study**

### **PROstate Cancer diagnosis using URinary En2**

Scientists at the University of Surrey, working under the leadership of Professor Pandha, have done some preliminary studies and have found a gene called EN2 which is activated in prostate cancer. This gene can be detected in the urine of men with prostate cancer and is not found in men who do not have cancer. Furthermore, the larger the cancer the more of the gene that we can find in the urine, so it may also give clinicians a guide to how a cancer may be treated.

Every year more than 40,000 people are diagnosed with prostate cancer in the UK and over 10,000 men unfortunately die from the disease. Currently, most men are diagnosed as a result of an elevated blood test - the PSA. Unfortunately, the PSA is not very accurate so that most men with a slightly high reading actually do not have cancer and a small number of men with a normal reading do have cancer. We desperately need a more accurate test to correctly identify men who have prostate cancer that might affect them and to rule out men who do not have cancer.

Mr Simon Bott, a Consultant Urologist at Frimley Park Hospital, is leading a study to see whether the level of EN2 in the urine can assist in the diagnosis of prostate cancer. The study will recruit 500 men from four local hospitals (Frimley Park, The Royal Surrey County Hospital, North Hants and Basingstoke and Wexham Park hospitals) over the next year. Men with a slightly high PSA will be asked if they wish to take part. If they fulfil the criteria a urine test and blood test will be taken and then the patient will follow the normal pathway for prostate cancer diagnosis.

Mr Bott said 'This is a very exciting study, which may in the future help many thousands of men. It will be performed locally, supported generously by our local prostate cancer charity - the Prostate Project, but will potentially be of international importance'.