



1955

Increased incidence of ankylosing spondylitis - a form of spinal arthritis - reported amongst patients who had been treated with x-rays (Dr Court-Brown & Dr Abbott).

1956

UK Government concern led to Dr Court-Brown being funded to set up MRC Clinical Effects of Radiation Unit on the Western General Hospital to study long term effects of radiation exposure in man.



1956

Building leased from NHS on Western General Hospital campus to house clinicians and biologists working in the MRC Clinical Effects of Radiation Unit.



1957

Dr Court-Brown and Dr Doll demonstrated link between radiation and leukaemia, determining safe levels of exposure.

1960s - 1970s

There were no systematic methods for mapping human genes. Studying naturally-occurring chromosomal irregularities was one of the few reliable sources of information about the human genome and the Unit became a centre of excellence for using this approach.

1967

The Unit evolved into the MRC Clinical and Population Cytogenetics Unit, with the remit of monitoring chromosomal variation on a large scale in different sub populations.



1968

Centre building opens (14,000 sq ft) 4 floors. First purpose-built laboratories open.

1969

Professor John Evans appointed Director of the Unit after the untimely death of Dr Court-Brown.



1969

Land sold by Fettes Trust to enable work to start on additional building.



1974

Official opening of the new MRC Clinical and Population Cytogenetics Unit building by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh (4 floors, 41,327 sq ft).



1980

The Imperial Cancer Research Fund Medical Oncology Unit set up by Professor John Smyth (Director) on Western General Hospital Campus. Partnership between ICRF, University of Edinburgh and NHS with aim of developing drug therapies for all cancers and reducing the side-effects of anti-cancer drugs.



1984

The Imperial Cancer Research Fund Medical Oncology Unit moved into the top floor of the MRC Clinical and Population Cytogenetics Unit.



1988

The Centre for Molecular Medicine, Directed by Professor Jonathan Seckl, was formed to investigate the molecular and genetic basis of human disease.

1988

MRC Clinical and Population Cytogenetics Unit was renamed the MRC Human Genetics Unit (MRC HGU).



1988

Molecular Medicine Centre (MMC) built on the Western General Hospital Campus.



1994

Professor Nick Hastie became Director of the MRC Human Genetics Unit.



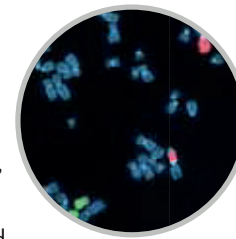
1996

Professor David Porteous - previous Head of Molecular Genetics Section in the MRC HGU - becomes Director of the Centre for Molecular Medicine.



2000

Chromosome analysis, undertaken in the Centre for Molecular Medicine, identified DISC1 (Disrupted in Schizophrenia 1). DISC1 has provided important insights into brain development and major mental illness.



2002

Professor Nick Hastie, MRC Human Genetics Unit Director, elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society based on his contributions to mammalian developmental genetics, genome organisation and gene expression.

2002

New building (3000m²) officially opened by HRH The Princess Royal with the centre being renamed Edinburgh Cancer Research Centre.



2005

Professor David Harrison became Director of the Edinburgh Cancer Research Centre (ECRC).



2006

Professor Nick Hastie, MRC Human Genetics Unit Director, appointed CBE for Services to Science.

2007

The MRC Institute of Genetics and Molecular Medicine at the University of Edinburgh (IGMM) was formed to identify molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying normal human development, maintenance and disease, including malformations, late onset anomalies and cancer, and translate these findings for clinical benefit. Our major research themes are brain biology and disease, cancer, common disease genetics and paediatrics.



2007

Professor van Heyningen geneticist in the MRC Human Genetics Unit, elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society in recognition of her work on eye development and disease genetics.



2010

Professor Margaret Frame (Science Director) and Professor David Cameron (Clinical Director) became Directors of the Edinburgh Cancer Research Centre.



2010

Professor Veronica van Heyningen, geneticist in the MRC Human Genetics Unit, appointed CBE.



2010

Edinburgh Cancer Research Centre formally recognised as a Cancer Research UK Centre.



2011

The MRC Human Genetics Unit became part of the University of Edinburgh.

2013

The Centre for Molecular Medicine renamed as Centre for Genomic and Experimental Medicine (CGEM).

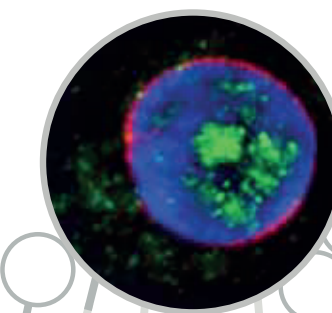


2013

David Porteous appointed OBE for contributions to science.

2013

The Edinburgh Super-Resolution Imaging Consortium (ESRIC) launched. Marries expertise from cell biologists to physical scientists to extend the boundaries of imaging to study cellular function and human disease.



2015

Professor Wendy Bickmore became Director of the MRC Human Genetics Unit.

Professor Tim Aitman became Director of the Centre for Genomic and Experimental Medicine.



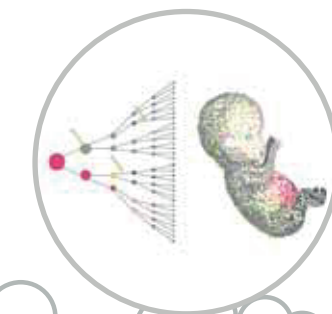
2015

IGMM building (5 floors, 2,908m²) opened, providing research facilities for computational biologists and bioinformaticians whilst physically and intellectually bridging the three constituent research centres of the IGMM.



2016

Edinburgh Cellular Genomics Consortium was launched to study genetic and other differences between single cells responsible for biological process such as development and disease.



2016

The nationally important CSO-MRC Scottish Genomes Partnership and Edinburgh-St Andrews Node for Molecular Pathology, Informatics and Genome Sciences, both based in CGEM, were established. They will integrate state-of-the-art genome sequencing technology with clinical information of Scottish patients. This will enable precise, molecular diagnoses for patients in the Scottish NHS, leading to personalised treatment and safer selection of drug therapies.

