

inar - Tuesday, June 23rd - 10:30 AM

**thur Butt** Université de Portsmouth, UK "**Why white matter matters**" The nervous system consists of two major neural cell types – Neurons and Glia. The function of neurons is clear - they transmit information by electrical and chemical signaling mechanisms. In essence they are the 'thinkers' of the brain. In contrast, GLIA are the glue of the brain. This is not a misnomer – without glia the brain cannot function both structurally and functionally. Glia are essential for neuronal function and integrity and are involved in every neuropathology. In this seminar, I will provide an overview of some of the recent work in my lab that have focused on brain white matter and myelination. The overall aim of our studies is to gain new fundamental knowledge that may lead to the identification of new cellular and molecular targets for the treatment of neurodegenerative pathologies, including multiple sclerosis, stroke, trauma and Alzheimer's disease.

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