



# Royal College of Physicians

## Professor Mark Middleton's presentation summary

**Topic:** Precision Medicine for Cancer Immunotherapy"

Immunotherapy has rapidly become a significant treatment for metastatic cancers and is starting to be applied as adjuvant therapy. Despite spectacular effects in some patients many tumour types, including breast and colorectal cancers, have yet to yield to this approach. In immunotherapy-sensitive tumours, such as melanoma, a significant proportion of patients does not benefit, and the need for tools to select patients for expensive and potentially toxic treatment is pressing. Our understanding of the hallmarks of successful treatment has until recently been hampered by the very small numbers of patients treated successfully, but now that we have hundreds of such stories and powerful tools to interrogate tumours and their hosts' immune systems progress is being made. The tests needed to bring precision medicine to the field are within reach, but their application will depend on physicians' and society's willingness to accept these as determinants of who should receive particular drugs.