Department of Biomedical Sciences

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"Targeting NMDA receptors: to inhibit or to enhance?"

Prof. Qiang Zhou
School of Chemical Biology and Biotechnology
Peking University Shenzhen Graduate School

Date : 19 October 2017
Time: 11:00am to 12:30pm
Venue: Meeting Room 2-130, 1/F, Block 2, To Yuen Building

Abstract

NMDA subtype glutamate receptors play critical roles in the refinement of neural connections during development and learning and memory functions in the adult. Their excessive activation is also believed to have critical contributions to neuronal death under pathological/neurodegenerative conditions. In this talk, I will discuss our recent efforts in enhancing NMDAR function for treating psychiatric diseases (such as schizophrenia) and inhibiting their activation in treating neurodegenerative diseases (such as Alzheimer's). For the former approach, we have screened large amount of compounds and identified a few series of positive allosteric modulators (PAMs), and I will discuss their mode of action (such as GluN2A selectivity) and unique and interesting properties. For the latter, I will discuss our evaluation of GluN2B-selective antagonists in Alzheimer's disease model mice and their therapeutic potentials.

About the Speaker

After Prof. Zhou finished his BS at Tsinghua University and MS at University of Pittsburgh, he got his PhD in Neurobiology at SUNY Stony Brook in 1998. He was a post-doctoral fellow in UC San Francisco and UC Berkeley. He joined UC Berkeley, CA to be a post-doctoral fellow in 2001 and to be an associate specialist in 2003. He was an assistant professor at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in 2004,. In 2009, he was a scientist at Genentech, Inc in New York. He has been a professor at South San Francisco since 2014. He has also been a professor at Peking University Shenzhen Graduate School.

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All are welcome!