Department of Biomedical Sciences
Presents Seminar

“OVARIAN CANCER METASTASIS: NEW INSIGHTS INTO THE EARLY STEPS AND NICHEs”

By

Prof. Alice Wong

School of Biological Sciences
University of Hong Kong

Date: 22 July 2015 (Wednesday)
Time: 2:30pm – 4:00pm
Venue: G4302, 4/F Green Zone
Academic 1 (near lift no. 7)
City University of Hong Kong
Tat Chee Avenue, Kowloon Tong

For abstract, please refer to the attachment.

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~ All are Welcome ~
“OVARIAN CANCER METASTASIS: NEW INSIGHTS INTO THE EARLY STEPS AND NICHEs”

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Abstract

Metastasis causes >90% cancer deaths, and yet the control of the processes is still poorly understood. The progression from dissemination to organ-specific colonization suggests that specific cell-cell recognition is essential. Yet surprisingly, very little is known about these particular interactions. Indeed, anti-adhesion is evolving as an important therapeutic concept, and adhesion blockers have been used safely in human patients for a variety of purposes in the clinical setting. For the first time, our group demonstrated that specific adhesion changes are of pivotal functional importance in the metastasis of ovarian cancer. One major focus of our research is on cadherins, especially the molecular mechanisms underlying the progressive development of metastasis. We have also recently developed an isogenic model of spontaneous human ovarian cancer metastasis in identifying cells truly capable of metastasis and key molecules causing metastasis. How do cells interact with the tumor microenvironment? Do mechanical stimuli alter tumor cell behavior? These are certainly outstanding questions which should yield novel mechanistic insights into tumor metastasis and new therapeutic interventions.