

**“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 ~

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About the speaker

Prof. Alice Wong is Professor in School of Biological Sciences at the University of Hong Kong. Prof. Wong is distinguished for her research in signal transduction and tumorigenesis, with special focus on cell adhesion dynamics pertinent to cancer development and metastasis. She has received numerous awards including the Women in Cancer Research - Brigid G. Leventhal Scholar Award, the Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology Young Investigator Scholar Award, HKU Outstanding Young Researcher Award, and recently the Croucher Senior Research Fellowship.

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.