

City University of Hong Kong
Department of Biomedical Sciences
presents a seminar



“Functional dissection and therapeutic targeting of aberrant epigenomes in human cancer”

by

Prof. Eric So
King's College London



Date: 8 December 2016 (Thursday)

Time: 3:00pm to 4:30pm

**Venue: CMA Lecture Theatre (LT-15), 4/F, Academic 1,
City University of Hong Kong**

Abstract

Transcriptional deregulation is one of the key feature and major driver for many different human cancers. In spite of its critical role in cancer development, pharmacological inhibition of oncogenic transcription factors has been proven extremely challenging over the past decades. Compared with oncogenic kinases, very little progress has been made in targeting transcription factors. In contrast to protein kinases that possess structurally and functionally well-defined enzymatic domains, transcription factors usually need to work in tandem with epigenetic modifying enzymes to regulate gene expression. The relatively rigid and structurally well-defined catalytic domains present in epigenetic modifying enzymes make them as an appealing target for cancer therapeutics. Using leukemia as a model, this seminar will focus on functional dissection of the transcriptional and epigenetic networks corrupted in acute leukemia, and recent development of novel therapeutic strategies to these classically intractable targets in cancer.

About the Speaker

Professor Eric So was a higher diploma graduate (distinction award) in Applied Science of the City University of HK in 1992. He then obtained his BSc in Biochemistry (1st honour) in 1994 and PhD (Gold medal award) in 1997 from the University of Hong Kong before moved to Stanford University in 2000 for his postdoc with Professors Michael Cleary on MLL leukaemia. In 2004, he joined the Institute of Cancer Research in London to setup his research group studying transcriptional and epigenetic deregulation in acute leukaemia. In 2009, Professor So joined King's College London as the chair professor in leukaemia and stem cell biology. Over the years, Professor So has made many seminal discoveries and publishes extensively in high impact scientific and medical journals including Cancer Cell, Nature Medicine, Cell Stem Cell, and Nature Cell Biology. He has won many international personal awards including the Croucher Foundation (HK) Scholarship and Fellowship Awards, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS, US) Special Fellowship Award, the Association for International Cancer Research (AICR, UK) International Fellowship Award, the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO, EU) Young Investigator Award, and the Pezcollar Foundation and European Association for Cancer Research (EACR) Cancer Researcher Achievement Award.

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All are welcome