

## “Transcriptional and epigenetic controls in pluripotent stem cells and cancer stem cells”

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**Date :** 08 April 2019

**Time :** 10:00 - 11:30

**Venue :** ~~LAU 6-209, 6/F, Lau Ming Wai Academic Building~~  
TYB-2-G02, G/F, Block 2, To Yuen Building

### Abstract

Both pluripotent stem cells and cancer stem cells can self-renew and differentiate into multilineage cells. One brings us with a lot of hope, but the other indulges cancer patients into nightmare. Deciphering the molecular controls of these cells can enable us to better harness them for our own sake of interests. The interplay of transcription factors and epigenetic modifiers is known to be essential for conferring the cellular identity and specificity. In my talk, I will share with you some transcriptional and epigenetic mechanisms that we revealed on the cell fate control of these stem cells through functional genomics and biochemistry study. I will also discuss our effort on targeting these mechanisms for therapeutic application.

### About the Speaker

I obtained my Ph.D. degree in biophysics from the National University of Singapore in 2004. I was appointed as a Visiting Research Fellow and worked in the Department of Pathology in Brigham & Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, USA in 2001 when I undertook a collaborated project for my Ph.D. Thereafter, I was a Research Associate in the Department of Molecular Biology in Princeton University from 2004 to 2006 and a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Genome Institute of Singapore from 2006 to 2010. I worked as an Assistant Professor and led the Stem Cell and Functional Genomics group in Li Ka Shing Institute of Health Sciences and the Department of Chemical Pathology, the Chinese University of Hong Kong from 2010 to 2016. In 2017, I was appointed as a professor in Guangdong Research Institute of Gastroenterology, the Six Affiliated Hospital of Sun Yat-sen University.

My research is aimed at understanding novel mechanisms in self-renewal and differentiation of stem cells, in particular pluripotent stem cells and tumor initiating cells. I also explore the application potential of the novel mechanisms in cell therapy and cancer treatment.

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**All are welcome!**