NUS National University of Singapore

Department of Biological Sciences
Faculty of Science

SEMINAR

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Hosted by Professor R M Kini

Cancer Crosstalk:

Transfer of microRNAs between cancer cells confers metastatic ability

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Not all cancer cells in a tumor are capable of metastasizing. The miR-200 microRNA family is frequently enriched in the serum of patients with metastatic cancers, but the origin and function of circulating miR-200 microRNAs are poorly understood. Here, we demonstrated that epithelial metastatic breast cancer cells secrete miR-200 microRNAs in extracellular vesicles and transfer them to otherwise weakly metastatic cells either nearby or at distant sites and confer upon them the ability to colonize distant tissues. Thus, uptake of extracellular vesicles containing miR-200 can transfer metastatic capability

Artwork by Ann Nee, DBS, NUS