NUS National University of Singapore | Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Science

11 am, Thursday, 25th February 2016
Lecture Theatre 20 (LT20), NUS

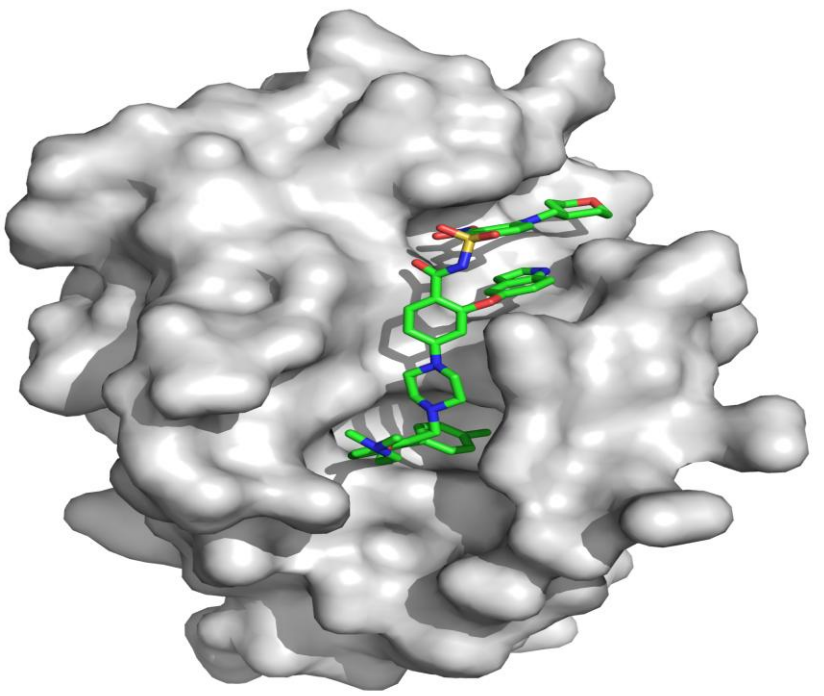
Targeting Cell Survival Pathways



By **David Huang**
Professor
WEHI (Department of Medical Biology, Melbourne University)

David Huang is a laboratory head at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute (WEHI) of Medical Research in Melbourne, Australia and Professor in the Department of Medical Biology, Melbourne University. He is a medical graduate and trained in Internal Medicine and in Hematology. He has led an independent research program since 2000. His research interests are studying the molecular mechanisms that regulate cell death in mammalian cells, understanding how deregulation of this process can lead to diseases such as cancer and how these can be targeted for improved therapies. His laboratory has made significant contributions to targeting the BCL2-regulated cell survival pathway for treating patients with cancers.

Programmed cell death (apoptosis) is critical for maintaining normal tissue homeostasis as it is essential for removing excess, damaged, infected or unwanted cells. It is now appreciated that its deregulation can contribute to a range of diseases. Impaired apoptosis is a hallmark of tumor formation, whereas excessive apoptosis is a feature of degenerative conditions that are marked by tissue loss. Recently, there have been significant advances made in restoring the ability of tumor cells to undergo apoptosis. However, the inhibition of apoptosis for therapeutic purposes remains challenging. I shall discuss the advances we have made as well as the challenges ahead in targeting the cell survival pathways for the discovery, development and validation of novel targeted approaches for treating diseases.



Host: A/P Victor C. Yu

Artwork by Xiaohong, Pharmacy, NUS