DukeNUS Medical School

CSCB Seminar Series

Title:

"Novel Therapeutic Approaches Targeting the Stroma of Pancreatic Cancer."

Abstract:

Pancreatic cancer (PC) is characterised histologically by an abundant desmoplastic reaction surrounding islands of tumour cells. Current treatments have had limited success in improving disease outcomes. For a long time, PC research was focused on the biology of cancer cells alone, with little attention being paid to surrounding stroma. However, this has changed recently, beginning with the world-first identification and characterisation by our Group of pancreatic stellate cells (PSCs) as the cells responsible for producing the collagenous stroma of PC. PSCs interact closely with cancer cells and other stromal cells (endothelial, immune and neuronal cells), to produce a facilitatory environment for cancer progression. Therefore, the stroma is now seen as a potentially useful target for therapy in pancreatic cancer. This presentation will discuss i) current literature on the critical role of the stroma in pancreatic cancer progression; ii) cellular mechanisms mediating PSC-cancer cell interactions; iii) novel therapies being assessed for efficacy in relevant experimental models of the disease; and iv) challenges of translating pre-clinical findings to the clinical settings.

Date:

7 December 2016 (Wednesday)

Venue:

Meeting Room 7C, Level 7
Duke-NUS Medical School
8, College Road,
Singapore 169857

Time:

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Host:

David Virshup, M.D.
Professor & Director
Programme in Cancer & Stem Cell Biology
Duke-NUS Medical School
Singapore

Speaker:



Prof. Minoti APTE, OAM

Professor of Medicine
Director, Pancreatic Research Group
UNSW Australia and Ingham Institute

Prof. Apte is internationally acknowledged as a leading researcher in the field of pancreatic disease and is recognised for her pioneering work in pancreatic fibrogenesis, having been the first in the world to develop a method to isolate and culture pancreatic stellate cells. In 2014, she was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM); in 2015 she received the NSW Premier's Award for Woman of the Year, for her contributions to medical research, tertiary education and the community.

No registration is required. All are welcome.

Any enquiries, please contact: Jamie Liew (+65 6516 6954)

CSCB Cancer and Stem Cell Biology