

IMCB Invited Speaker



Speaker : Prof. Ali Shilatifard
Investigator, Stowers Institute for Medical Research, USA

Date : 3 May 2013 (Friday)

Time : 4:00PM - 5:00PM

Venue : Exploration Theatrette, Level 4, Matrix, Biopolis

Host : Prof. Wanjin Hong

Seminar :

Distal Transcriptional Enhancers in Developmental Regulation

About the Speaker :

Dr. Ali Shilatifard is a biochemist/molecular biologist with an immense interest in understanding the molecular mechanism of the regulation of gene expression. As a Jane Coffin Childs postdoctoral fellow, Shilatifard made a seminal contribution to the field of leukemia biology by identifying the first function of any of the MLL translocation partners. Shilatifard identified ELL as a RNA Polymerase II (Pol II) elongation factor. In addition to his studies on ELL, within the past 15 years, Shilatifard's laboratory identified the yeast homologue of MLL, the Set1 protein in a complex named COMPASS, capable of methylating histone H3K4. Shilatifard's laboratory also identified and demonstrated that many of the MLL partners in leukemia are found with ELL within the Super Elongation Complex (SEC) regulating the transcription of the MLL-chimera target genes. Most recently, Shilatifard's laboratory has demonstrated that Pol II elongation factors play a diverse role in regulating gene expression including the marking of both poised and inactive enhancers in the embryonic state and in the priming of future developmental gene expression patterns.