DukeNUS Medical School

Signature Seminar Series

New Insights into the Cause and Treatment of Schizophrenia

ABOUT THE LECTURE

There is a growing consensus that the fundamental deficit of schizophrenia involves poor cortical neuronal connections. Advances in brain imaging provides new tools to assess whole brain within and between network circuit connectivity. Current treatment for this illness, primarily anti-psychotic drugs, have substantial limitations which hamper the achievement of favorable clinical outcomes. Novel targets and therapeutic agents are needed for improved clinical outcomes. Inflammatory processes have been proposed to account for cortical dysconnectivity and to represent a target for novel pharmacological agents for this illness. In this seminar, new data from resting-state functional and diffusion MRI studies in early phase schizophrenia will be presented. Whole brain connectome analyses of within and between networks will be reviewed. Two experimental agents with anti-inflammatory actions, N-acetyl cysteine and fingolimod, were asses in schizophrenia and the results of these clinical trials will be presented.

Speaker: **Prof Alan Breier, MD**
Professor of Psychiatry
Vice-Chair for Clinical Research
Indiana University School of Medicine

Host: **Prof Zhang Su-Chun**
Professor and Programme Director
Neuroscience & Behavioural Disorder Programme
Duke-NUS Medical School

Date: **Tuesday, 23 July 2019**

Time: **12.00 PM - 1.00 PM**
(Light refreshments will be served at 11.30 AM)

Venue: **Duke-NUS Medical School**
Meeting Room 7C, Level 7

Contact Person: **Ms Serene Wie, Duke-NUS Research Affairs Department**
Email: serene.wie@duke-nus.edu.sg

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Alan Breier is Chief of the Indian University Psychotic Disorders Program and Directer of the Prevention and Recovery Center (PARC) for Clinical High Risk and Early Phase Schizophrenia. His team focuses on brain imaging and testing novel therapeutics for schizophrenia. He is Co-PI (with Marty Shenton, Harvard) of a NIH Human Connectome grant to collect resting state and diffusion MRI in early phase schizophrenia and bipolar. Professor Breier has several awards and published over 270 papers.



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