

CANCER SCIENCE INSTITUTE OF SINGAPORE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

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IN THIS ISSUE

CSI Singapore Welcomes New Director

DNA Epigenetic Signature Predictive of Benefit from Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy in OAC

ASLAN003, a Potent Dihydroorotate Dehydrogenase Inhibitor for Differentiation of AML

Nanodiamond-Mediated Delivery of a G9a Inhibitor for Hepatocellular Carcinoma Therapy

CSI Research Scientist Wins ASH Abstract Achievement Award

UPCOMING EVENTS

CSI Seminar
Edwin Antony
12 Dec 2019

CSI Seminar
George A. Calin
8 Jan 2020

CSI Seminar
Jean-Baptiste Vannier
16 Jan 2020

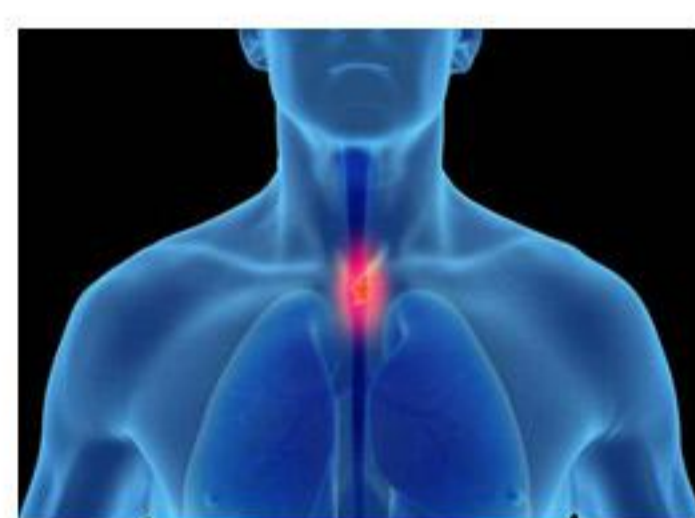
CSI Singapore Welcomes New Director, Professor Ashok Venkitaraman

The Cancer Science Institute of Singapore (CSI Singapore) is pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Ashok Venkitaraman as the new Director of CSI Singapore. Professor Venkitaraman will be transitioning from his current appointments at the University of Cambridge, where he served as the Ursula Zoellner Professor of Cancer Research and Director of the Medical Research Council Cancer Unit. Please join us in welcoming Professor Ashok Venkitaraman to CSI Singapore!



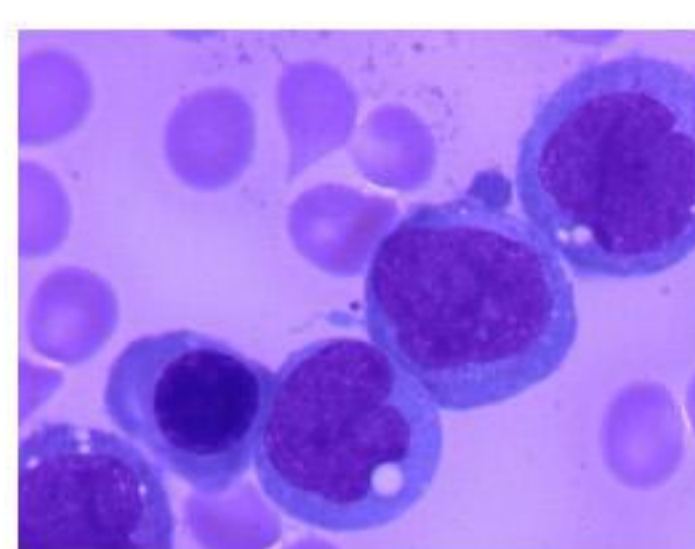
DNA Epigenetic Signature Predictive of Benefit from Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy in Oesophageal Adenocarcinoma: Results from the MRC OE02 Trial. (*Eur J Cancer*, Oct 2019)

The incidence of Oesophageal Adenocarcinoma (OAC) has risen exponentially in the past decade. While cytotoxic chemotherapy remains a mainstay of therapy, predictive biomarkers for cytotoxic chemotherapy is still an unmet clinical need. In this fascinating study, Prof. Patrick Tan and his team conducted the first and largest study of DNA methylation in patients with OAC. Findings unveiled an epigenetic signature that may serve as a predictive biomarker for chemotherapy benefit in OAC.



ASLAN003, a Potent Dihydroorotate Dehydrogenase Inhibitor for Differentiation of Acute Myeloid Leukemia. (*Haematologica*, Nov 2019)

Researchers from Prof. Chng Wee Joo's laboratory made an exciting new stride in the battle against Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML). Results from the study revealed a crucial role of ASLAN003, a highly potent dihydroorotate dehydrogenase inhibitor. While the group established a differentiation-promoting role of ASLAN003, they also found that ASLAN003 reduces cell proliferation and viability, thus underscoring its potential in the treatment of AML.



Nanodiamond-Mediated Delivery of a G9a Inhibitor for Hepatocellular Carcinoma Therapy. (*ACS Appl Mater Interfaces*, Nov 2019)

Recent studies have identified G9a, a histone methyltransferase, as a critical mediator of Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC). UNC0646, an inhibitor of G9a has been known to display unsatisfactory *in vivo* efficacy. A/Prof. Edward Chow and his group utilized nanodiamonds (NDs) as a drug delivery platform in a bid to improve the *in vivo* delivery of UNC0646. Results demonstrate an increased *in vivo* efficacy of ND-UNC0646 and a potential for intravenous administration. The identification of NDs as a novel therapeutic modality will make headway in the fight against HCC.



AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

CSI Research Scientist Wins ASH Abstract Achievement Award

Congratulations to Dr. Zhou Jianbiao, Senior Research Scientist from Prof. Chng Wee Joo's team, who has been awarded the American Society of Hematology (ASH) Abstract Achievement Award. He will be presenting his work at the 61st ASH Annual Meeting and Exposition in Orlando, FL., which will take place on 7-10 December 2019.

