

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

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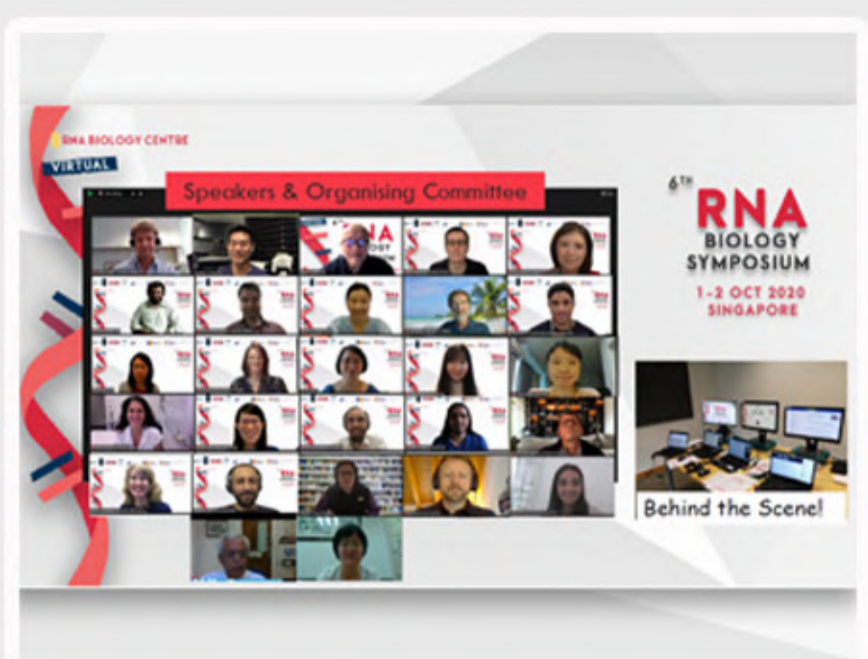
NEWS & ACHIEVEMENTS



CSI Singapore Welcomes New Director, Prof. Ashok Venkitaraman!

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Prof. Ashok Venkitaraman as the new Director of CSI Singapore as of 1st November, 2020. He has been appointed distinguished professor in the Department of Medicine with effect from 16 November 2020, and will also lead a programme at the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR). Under Prof Venkitaraman's leadership, CSI Singapore will continue to explore better ways to prevent, diagnose and revolutionize cancer treatment in Singapore and the world.

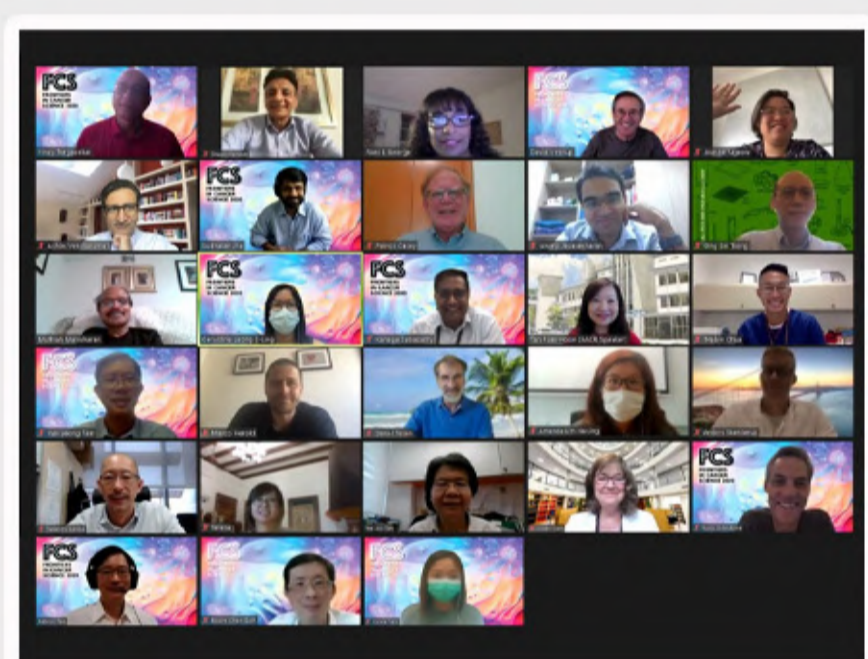
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Virtual RNA Biology Symposium 2020

The virtual 6th RNA Biology Symposium 2020 was successfully held on 1st October – 2nd October. Jointly organised for the first time by five different institutions, the symposium attracted a total of 427 registrants, including new attendees from the industrial sector as well as overseas attendees, which made up 26% of the total registrants.

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Virtual Frontiers in Cancer Science 2020 Conference

Held virtually from 2nd – 6th November 2020, the 12th edition of the Frontiers in Cancer Science 2020 conference featured a list of highly accomplished international and local cancer researchers from renowned cancer research institutes and are experts in their field of research. The nation's largest annual cancer conference welcomed close to 1,200 registrants from over 50 countries as far as from Australia, China, India, Malaysia, Japan, USA, Great Britain and others.

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Lysine acetyltransferase Tip60 is required for hematopoietic stem cell maintenance. (*Blood*, Oct 2020)

Characterized by their ability to self-renew and differentiate, hematopoietic stem cells (HSCs) have the potential to replenish the blood system throughout the lifespan of an organism. Recent research by Prof. Daniel Tenen and his team has yielded important clues about the intricate regulation of HSC self-renewal and differentiation by the epigenetic machinery. Using conditional knockout models, they underscored the importance of lysine acetyltransferase (Tip60) in maintaining proper cell-cycle progression and DNA repair in murine HSCs through regulation of Myc target gene expression.



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Systematic analysis of intronic microRNAs reveals cooperativity within the multi-component FTX locus to promote colon cancer development. (*Cancer Res*, Nov 2020)

In this fascinating study, research team led by Dr. Yvonne Tay made inroads into understanding the functional landscape of multi-genic loci that drives disease progression. Through performing systemic analysis of intronic microRNA:host loci in colon cancer, results unveil the intricate interplay between intronic microRNA and their host transcripts in the modulation of key signalling pathways and disease progression.



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ADARs, RNA editing and more in hematological malignancies. (*Leukemia*, Nov 2020)

Adenosine-to-inosine (A-to-I) editing is a prominent feature in a variety of cancers. In this review, Prof. Chng Wee Joo and his team discussed the functions of ADARs and their involvements in cancer, specifically in haematological malignancies. The group also highlighted the regulatory functions of ADAR1 in innate immune responses that may provide future directions for cancer immunotherapy in haematological malignancies, particularly multiple myeloma (MM). While innovative cancer therapeutic strategies involving RNA editing have been proposed, the team acknowledged the need for further study of the different facets of the ADAR enzymes, which will contribute to therapeutic modalities for not only MM but also other cancers and non-cancer diseases in general.



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