

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

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NEWS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Prof. Chng Wee Joo Receives Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine Graduate Mentor of the Year (GRAMAY) Award 2021

Congratulations to CSI Deputy Director and Senior Principal Investigator, Prof. Chng Wee Joo, on being conferred the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine Graduate Mentor of the Year (GRAMAY) 2021! Presented annually, the GRAMAY award honors and celebrates faculty staff in recognition of their excellence in graduate supervision, intellectual and professional development as well as career development of their graduate students.

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[Listen] Health Matters - Predicting Chemotherapy Resistance in Ovarian Cancer Patients

A research team helmed by Dr. Anand Jeyasekharan & A/Prof. David Tan has recently made a quantum leap in the identification of chemotherapy resistance in ovarian cancers. In this interview with Daniel Martin on radio station CNA938's "Health Matters", Dr. Jeyasekharan shares how the team harnessed an "automated" microscopy method to predict chemotherapy resistance in ovarian cancer patient.

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SMARCA2 Is a Novel Interactor of NSD2 and Regulates Prometastatic PTP4A3 Through Chromatin Remodeling in t(4;14) Multiple Myeloma. (*Cancer Res*, May 2021)

In this study led by Prof. Chng Wee Joo's group, findings unveiled a novel, SWI/SNF-independent interaction between SWI/SNF ATPase subunit, SMARCA2 and NSD2 that facilitates chromatin remodeling and transcriptional regulation of oncogenes in t(4;14) multiple myeloma. Furthermore, the group established that the mechanism is druggable by targeting the bromodomain of SMARCA2 with BET inhibition, underscoring the therapeutic potential of BET inhibitors.



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Mitochondria Transfer From Early Stages of Erythroblasts to Their Macrophage Niche via Tunnelling Nanotubes. (*Br J Haematol*, Jun 2021)

Prof. Toshio Suda and his group report that in bone marrow, erythroblastic islands (EBI) macrophages acquire mitochondria from the early stages of erythroblasts to facilitate their mitochondria clearance and may promote differentiation of erythroblasts into mature RBCs. Their study sheds light on the functional importance and mechanism of intercellular mitochondria transfer in the context of erythroid niche.



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Highly Recurrent CBS Epimutations in Gastric Cancer CpG Island Methylator Phenotypes and Inflammation. (*Genome Biol*, Jun 2021)

Novel study helmed by Prof. Patrick Tan unravelled a novel association between cystathionine beta-synthase enzyme (CBS) epimutations and CpG island methylator phenotype (CIMP) subtype in gastric cancer (GC), with in vitro models of CBS deficiency resulting in abnormal DNA methylation and inflammatory response. Findings from this study reveal new insights on the CIMP epigenetic class and re-emphasize epimutations as key players in gastric tumor biology.



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