CANCER SCIENCE INSTITUTE OF SINGAPORE

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

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NEWS & ACHIEVEMENTS

CSI Congratulates the Recipients of the ASH Abstract Achievement Award!

Congratulations to Dr. Nurulhuda Binte Mustafa, a CSI Senior Research Fellow and Ms. Sinan Xiong, a CSI PhD student on receiving the ASH Abstract Achievement Award! The ASH Abstract Achievement Award is a merit-based award for trainees who are the first author and presenter of a high-scoring annual meeting abstract.

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13th Frontiers in Cancer Science (FCS) Conference Concluded Successfully

The 13th Frontiers in Cancer Science (FCS) conference, held over 3 days from 1 – 3 November 2021, concluded successfully with over 1,270 registrants from around the world. The nation's largest annual conference was held virtually for the second year in a row, this time reaching out to a wider range of participants hailing from over 40 countries, including India, the United States, Malaysia, United Kingdom and more.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

07 JAN

CSI Research Meeting

1.00pm - 2.00pm
ZOOM

18 JAN

Distinguished Speakers' Series – Joan Massague

9.00am - 10.00am
ZOOM

21 JAN

CSI Research Meeting

1.00pm - 2.00pm
ZOOM

Antisense RNAs Influence Promoter Usage of Their Counterpart Sense Genes in Cancer. (*Cancer Res*, Dec 2021)

Latest study by A/Prof. Polly Chen's group has revealed a previously unexplored role of multiple noncoding natural antisense transcripts (ncNAT) on cancer progression. The group elucidated the crucial function of ncNATs in the regulation of their counterpart sense gene expression through controlling alternative promoter usage, and this regulative ability has an impact on hepatocellular tumorigenesis. Furthermore, they established that HNF4A-AS1L can modulate the expression of HNF4A promoter-specific isoforms that exert distinct cancer-related functions.

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Super Enhancer-Mediated Upregulation of HJURP Promotes Growth and Survival of t(4;14)-Positive Multiple Myeloma. (*Cancer Res*, Dec 2021)

In this interesting study, Prof. Chng Wee Joo and his team established super-enhancers (SE) profiling as an efficient approach to identify new targets and understand molecular pathogenesis in specific subtypes of cancer. SEs are groups of enhancers which are central to driving gene expression in controlling cell identity and stimulating oncogenic transcription. By utilizing a transcriptional CDK7 inhibitor, THZ1, coupled with H3K27ac ChIP-seq and transcriptome analyses, the group uncovered the holliday junction recognition protein (HJURP) as a novel SE-driven transcript of t(4;14)-positive MM, underscoring its potential as a therapeutic target in t(4;14)-positive myeloma patients.

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Immunohistochemistry Study of Tumor Vascular Normalization and Anti-Angiogenic Effects of Sunitinib Versus Bevacizumab Prior to Dose-Dense Doxorubicin/Cyclophosphamide Chemotherapy in HER2-Negative Breast Cancer. (*Breast Cancer Res Treat*, Dec 2021)

While both Bevacizumab and Sunitinib have been studied in clinical trials in combination with chemotherapy in breast cancer, their effects in breast cancer when combined with chemotherapy have been conflicting in the clinic. In a novel step forward, Prof. Lee Soo Chin's group delved further into the effects of both agents by conducting a clinical trial. They established that Sunitinib, in comparison to Bevacizumab showed a greater effect on tumor vessel modulation and lymphangiogenesis, suggesting that its administration prior to chemotherapy might result in improved drug delivery.

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Cancer Science Institute of Singapore
National University of Singapore
Centre for Translational Medicine
14 Medical Drive, #12-01
Singapore 117599