THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH | Institute for Regeneration and Repair

2nd Edinburgh – Hong Kong Joint Symposium on Stem Cells & Regenerative Medicine

Tuesday 3 June 2025 | Univeristy of Edinburgh, Institute for Regeneration and Repair, Edinburgh BioQuarter, UK

Arrival and refreshments 9:00

Welcome 9:15

Session 1

Stem Cells and Cancer
Chair: **Professor Kei Kaji**

Professor Stephanie Ma (CTSCB/HKU)
Targeting Stemness – 'Achilles' Heel' of Cancer Tumours

Aisling Fairweather (UoE)
Developing synthetic neighbour labelling in neural stem cells to study cell interactions in early brain cancer models

Professor Steve Pollard (UoE)
Synthetic super-enhancers for application in anti-cancer gene therapy

Hei Ip Hong (UoE)
Development of synthetic super-enhancers that are selective for oncogenic signalling pathways

Professor Andrew Chan (CUHK)
Therapeutic potential of targeting PTEN in a mouse model of Alzheimer's disease

Refreshments 11.00

Session 2

Tissue Degeneration and Regenerations
Chair: **Dr Marieke Hoeve**

Prof Prakash Ramachandran (UoE)
Immune regulation of organ fibrosis with a view to identifying novel anti-fibrotic therapeutic approaches

Jacky Tam (UoE)
Multimodal spatial analysis identifies fibrogenic heterogeneity in the liver fibrotic scar

Christy Wing Tung Wong (CUHK)
Lung Cancer Intravasation-on-a-chip: Visualization and Machine Learning-Assisted Automatic Quantification

Karen Ching (UoE)
Acute and chronic liver injury response in Acomys (Spiny mice): Insights into the role of p21 in liver regeneration

Prof Kei Kaji (UoE)
Expansion of functional human hepatocytes

Jakob Jeriha (UoE)
Utilising precursors of chemically expanded hepatocytes for in vitro modelling of steatotic liver disease

Haoqing Hu (CTSCB)
Resetting stem and somatic cells toward a state with enhanced potential

11:30

Lunch and Posters 13:00

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Session 3

Brain Development and Disease

Chair: **Professor Ralf Jauch**

Professor Martin Cheung (HKU)
Deleted in Liver Cancer 1 isoform 1 (DLC1-i1) as a potential gene therapy for Spinal Muscular Atrophy

Darsh Vaghani (HKU)
Identifying protective factors and unraveling the molecular mechanisms that preserve oculomotor neurons from degeneration in patients with Spinal Muscular Atrophy

Lucy Doyle (UoE)
Reduced H2AK119ub levels sensitise the genome to ectopic transcription factormediated gene activation

Professor Brian Bigger (UoE)
Developing stem cell gene therapies for childhood dementias and multisystem diseases - TBC

Lydia Lorenzo (UoE)
Investigating the impact of ependymal cell maturation in spinal cord regeneration

13:45

Refreshments 15.15

Session 4

Cellular Engineering and Evolution

Chair: **Professor Kei Kaji**

Professor Hon Fai Chan (CUHK)
Biofabrication strategies for hepatic differentiation of stem cells and liver tissue engineering

Nancy Hui (UoE)
Biophysical profiling of YAP/TAZ dependent mechanical responses

Degong Ruan (CTSCB)
A human trophoblast cellular model for efficient screening and evaluation of antiviral compound against SARS-CoV-2

Professor Ralf Jauch (HKU/CTSCB)
Which tools did the grand grandmother of all cells use to create animals?

Kevin Ng (HKU)
Basis for nucleosome binding and opening by the pioneer transcription factor KLF4

Ewan Egan (UoE)
Identifying pioneer factors during hematopoietic stem cell emergence

15.45

Drinks reception 17:15

Speakers' dinner (by invitation) 19:30

With thanks to our Short Talks sponsors:

Centre for Translational Stem Cell Biology
幹細胞轉化研究中心

HKU Med LKS Faculty of Medicine
School of Biomedical Sciences
香港大學生物醫學學院