



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

Date: Tuesday 3rd June 2025

Venue: The University of Edinburgh, [Institute for Regeneration and Repair](#), [Edinburgh BioQuarter](#), UK.

Programme:

09:00 Arrival & refreshments

09:15 Welcome

Session 1: Stem Cells and Cancer (Chair: Prof Kei Kaji)

- Prof 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
- Prof 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
- Prof Andrew Chan (CUHK)
Therapeutic potential of targeting PTEN in a mouse model of Alzheimer’s disease

11:00 Refreshments

11:30 Session 2: Tissue Degeneration and Regeneration (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

13:00 Lunch & Posters

13:45 **Session 3: Brain Development and Disease** (Chair: Ralf Jauch)

- Prof 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 factor-mediated gene activation
- Prof 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

15:15 Refreshments

15:45 **Session 4: Cellular Engineering and Evolution** (Chair: Prof Kei Kaji)

- Prof 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
- Prof Ralf Jauch (HKU/CTSCB)
Which tools did the grand grandmother of all cells use to create animals?
- Kevin Ng (HKU)
The title is Basis for Nucleosome Binding and Opening by the Pioneer Transcription Factor KLF4
- Ewan Egan (UoE)
Identifying pioneer factors during hematopoietic stem cell emergence

17:15 Drinks reception

19:30 Speakers' dinner (*by invitation*)

With thanks to our Short Talks sponsors:



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