

5 April 2018, Thursday 10.30am – 11.30am MD10 Anatomy Museum, Level 2, Seminar Room

DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY SEMINAR SERIES

Modulating Microglia/Macrophage Activity to Improve CNS Neurological Outcomes

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While excessive inflammation in the CNS leads to neurotoxicity, it is clear that a properly directed inflammatory response is also necessary for repair processes. The challenge is how to harness the benefits of neuroinflammation without running into detrimental consequences. In this talk, we highlight approaches to mobilize microglia/macrophages and their mechanisms to produce remyelination without inflicting harm. We also showcase niacin as a stimulator of microglia/macrophages in glioblastoma that then revert their compromised functions leading to control of brain tumor growth.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. V. Wee Yong is a Professor at the University of Calgary, Canada, and the Canada Research Chair in Neuroimmunology. He co-leads the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) NeuroTeam of the Hotchkiss Brain Institute at the University of Calgary, and he directs the provincial Alberta MS Network. Dr. Yong's research interests lie in the area of neuroimmunology, neuroprotection and CNS regeneration, and his projects are guided by MS and brain tumors. Dr. Yong has published 285 peer-reviewed manuscripts and his research has been translated into Phase III clinical trials in MS and spinal cord injury. His work has been cited over 18,000 times by other authors (web of science; h-index of 76). Dr. Yong is a past chair of the Medical Advisory Committee of the MS Society of Canada; this and other volunteer activities resulted in him receiving the Queen's Golden Jubilee Year Medallion. Dr. Yong is on the editorial board of 7 international journals; he is the Honorary Editor-in-Chief of the journal Neuroimmunology and Neuroinflammation. He has been the President of the International Society of Neuroimmunology (2014-2016). Dr. Yong is an elected fellow of both the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences and the Royal Society of Canada, which represent top honors for those working in the medical and academic sciences. Dr. Yong is the 2017 Allyn Taylor International Prize in Medicine winner.

Please contact **Dr Hu Qidong** at **6601 3730** or **Ms Nuramalina** at **6516 3200** for more queries. All are welcome.