

# N2CR INSIGHTS

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF N2CR

## Latest News

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N2CR held a welcome tea on 5th August for new PhD students joining us this year and one of our existing student. On top of PhD project sharings by our N2CR faculty, we had coffee, snacks and a lovely time getting to know everyone. Learn more about the students' research interests and why they joined N2CR in page 4! A big welcome to the newest members of the N2CR community!



N2CR had the privilege to co-host the 2nd Joint NUS ncRNA Symposium and Liquid Biopsy Summit from 20 - 22 September 2022, with Precision Medicine Translational Research Programme, MiRXES and NUS Medicine. This symposium saw both local and international speakers share their research on precision health, therapeutics and liquid biopsy, with keynote lectures by Prof Frank Slack, Prof Takahiro Ochiya and Prof Tony Mok, and other esteemed speakers from a myriad of biomedical and biotechnology interests and backgrounds. Thank you to everyone who joined us!



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Board Meeting

Distinguished Speaker  
Series

TSC Thematic Seminar

Follow us on social media!



## Latest News

### Straits Times Feature

Dr Glenn Bonney, Dr Raghav Sundar and team were recently featured in a Straits Times news article for successfully conducting a liver transplant for a patient with liver cancer. This is the first such transplantation to take place in Southeast Asia and the patient is now cancer free for the first time.



Dr Glenn Bonney Dr Raghav Sundar

[Read more about this life-saving procedure](#)

### NUS Medicine Outstanding Research Fellow Award

Congratulations to  
Dr Nurulhuda and Dr Alex!

WINNER



Dr Nurulhuda Mustafa

1ST RUNNER UP



Dr Alex Tai Yee Kit

### Launch of new N2CR website

We've had a makeover! Come view N2CR's new website and get to know our researchers and all that N2CR has to offer. From upcoming events to awards highlights, you can let us know what you'll like to see!

NOW LIVE! @

<https://medicine.nus.edu.sg/trp/n2cr/>



## Research News (Jul to Sept 2022)

### A step towards the ambition of precision oncology in recurrent ovarian cancer

(J Gynecol Oncol, Jul 2022)

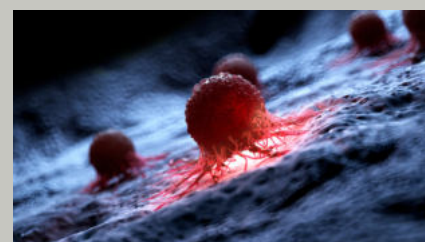
Platinum resistance is a major contributor to ovarian cancer mortality and presents a considerable clinical challenge, necessitating the development of better treatments for platinum-resistant patients. In this editorial, A/Prof. David Tan and Dr Wijaya discuss the findings made in the recently published AMBITION study, an umbrella-design, biomarker-driven trial for patients with platinum-resistant recurrent ovarian cancer. They highlight the importance of the trial for the development of precision oncology for the treatment of recurrent ovarian cancer.



[Read More](#)

## A promising new drug delivery system for cancer (Materials Today Bio, 6 Jul 2022)

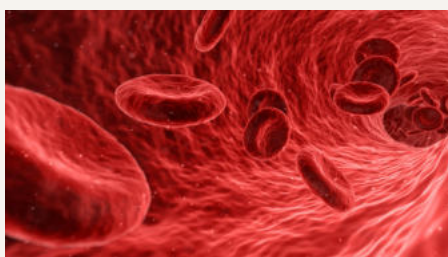
The leakage of chemotherapeutic drugs into tissues other than the tumour can result in adverse side effects. Efforts have been made to devise novel drug delivery methods to improve drug efficacy and reduce the occurrence of adverse side effects. This study by Dr Alan Prem Kumar and colleagues describes their development of an anticancer drug delivery system targeted to the protein, CD44, which is highly expressed on cancer cells. Preclinical testing of their novel chemotherapeutic drug delivery method was shown to be safe and effective in reducing tumour growth, highlighting their formulation as a promising methodology for future development.



[Read More](#)

## TP73, an important gene in Adult T-cell Leukemia/Lymphoma

(Leukemia, 30 Jul 2022)



Adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma (ATL) is a genetically complex form of blood cancer. In this study led by A/Prof Takaomi Sanda, the authors investigated the roles, functions as well as factors regulating the expression of the protein, TP73. Their findings reveal *TP73* as a gene highly activated in ATL cells and demonstrated that the TP73 plays an important role at various stages of cancer cell evolution.

[Read More](#)

## Immune pathway upregulation and lower genomic instability distinguish EBV-positive nodal T/NK-cell lymphoma from ENKTL and PTCL-NOS

(Haematologica., 1 Aug 2022)

Primary Epstein-Barr virus (EBV)-positive nodal T/NK-cell lymphoma (PTCL-EBV) is an aggressive and poorly understood disease that occurs mostly in East Asia. In this collaborative study, led by A/Prof Ng Siok Bian and Dr Jason Pitt, the authors and their team characterise PTCL-EBV as an aggressive lymphoma with minimal genomic instability, immune-related gene expression and activation of NFκB along with its associated genes. These findings afford both novel insight into the pathogenesis of this disease and highlight new potential targets for therapeutic development.



[Read More](#)

## Improved drug combination design for hepatocellular carcinoma

(J Exp Clin Cancer Res., 15 Aug 2022)



Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) remains difficult to treat due to a lack of effective treatment options. While various drugs have shown promising preclinical results, poor drug combination design results in less successful treatment of HCC. This collaborative work with Dr Cheng Ean Chee, A/Prof Glenn Bonney and team, lead by A/Prof Edward Chow, has found that drug combination design can be improved through the use of their drug combination prediction platform to identify combination therapies that are of high therapeutic potential for HCC.

[Read More](#)

## Announcements



*Distinguished Speaker Series*

**PROFESSOR ALEX ADJEI**

CHAIR  
TAUSSIG CANCER INSTITUTE, CLEVELAND  
CLINIC

**Date:** Wednesday, 23 November 2022

**Venue:** ZOOM

N2CR's Distinguished Speaker Series is back and you are invited to attend! Our upcoming speaker, Prof Alex Adjei is the chair of the Taussig Cancer Institute in Cleveland and a member of N2CR's Scientific Advisory Board. Prof Adjei is an oncologist and researcher whose work has focused on experimental therapeutics, regulatory science and clinical drug development. Do keep a lookout for more details to come.

<p><b>17 October</b></p>	<p><b>21 - 22 November</b></p>	<p><b>23 November</b></p>	<p><b>29 November</b></p>
<p>Precision Cancer Medicine Thematic Seminar</p>	<p>N2CR's First Scientific Advisory Board Meeting</p>	<p>N2CR Distinguished Speaker Series</p>	<p>Tissue Specific Carcinogenesis Thematic Seminar</p>

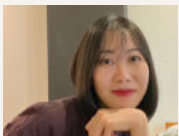
## Get to know the students!

♥♥ I hope to uncover the complex relationship between the immune system and cancer; and use this knowledge to manoeuvre through the immune system to combat cancer. ♥♥



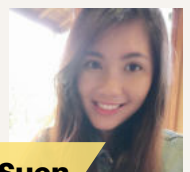
**Viresh**

♥♥ I'm interested in understanding the mechanisms of cancer development and translate the research discoveries to benefits the patients. I'm currently working to identify and characterise the novel therapeutic targets involved in T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. ♥♥



**Xiao Zi**

♥♥ I think the N2CR programme provided a platform for clinical and basic researchers with different expertise to come together to tackle one of the biggest health issues and I am excited to have joined the programme to learn and contribute to this field. ♥♥



**Yun Suen**

♥♥ I am interested in finding new strategies to better treat cancer and learn how to fill knowledge gaps in current research. Using the cutting-edge technologies available at the labs, I hope to create more specific treatments for diverse types of mutations. ♥♥



**Geoffrey**