PATHOGENESIS OF PANCREATIC CANCER

Professor Minoti Apte

Director, Pancreatic Research Group, South Western Sydney Clinical School, UNSW and Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research

Minoti Apte is internationally recognised as a leading researcher in pancreatology and is well known for her pioneering work on the pathogenesis of pancreatic fibrosis, a characteristic feature of chronic pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer. She was the first in the world to develop a method to isolate and culture pancreatic stellate cells (PSCs), a technique which provided a much-needed research tool for studying pancreatic fibrogenesis. Professor Apte will present current insights into the pathophysiology of pancreatic fibrosis in chronic pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer. Novel therapeutic approaches to target these cells so as to inhibit progression of both diseases will also be discussed.

Dr Tony C Pang

Staff Specialist (Surgical Education, Surgical Critical Care, Statistics), Westmead Hospital

Tony Pang is a PhD candidate at the Pancreatic Research Group, UNSW, and an Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary surgeon based at Westmead Hospital. Dr Pang will present his work on circulating PSCs in pancreatic cancer - a world first identification of PSCs in the peripheral and portal circulation of pancreatic cancer patients and in mouse models. These findings indicate that it is not merely cancer cells that metastasise but stromal cells also have the capacity to move from the site of the primary tumour to metastatic sites. Molecular and phenotypic characterisation of circulating PSCs may enable identification of novel biomarkers and therapeutic strategies to disrupt metastasis in pancreatic cancer.

Date: Wednesday 18th April 2018

Time: 1 - 2 PM

Location: Auditorium, Research & Education Centre, St George Hospital

Ground Floor, 4 – 10 South St, Kogarah

Light refreshments will be provided

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