

Research Grants Council to present public lecture on “Cancer Therapy: Immunotherapy and Medicine” on July 14

The following is issued on behalf of the University Grants Committee:

The Research Grants Council (RGC) will present its second public lecture this year under the theme "Cancer Therapy: Immunotherapy and Medicine" on July 14 (Saturday) at the Hong Kong Science Museum.

The RGC has invited Professor Brigette Ma of the Department of Clinical Oncology of the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Assistant Professor of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the University of Hong Kong Dr David Chan to share their research findings and knowledge with the public. Details are as follows:

Time: 2.30pm to 4.30pm

Venue: Lecture Hall, Hong Kong Science Museum

Language: Cantonese

Admission is free on a first-come, first-served basis.

Cancer immunotherapy aims to fight cancer with the patient's own immune system, and it has potential to induce long-lasting benefits without intolerable side effects in the human host. The development of cancer immunotherapy has gone through many trials and tribulations since Dr William Coley's serendipitous discovery in the 1890s, and for many years it has been sidelined to the fringes of mainstream oncology. Professor Ma will deliver a talk on "Cancer Immunotherapy – An Epic Trilogy of Serendipity, Skepticism and Scientific Breakthrough" to take the audience through a journey from the view of a cancer doctor to witness the renaissance of cancer immunotherapy in nasopharyngeal and other cancers.

Ovarian cancer is one of the most lethal gynaecologic malignancies worldwide. Different from other solid tumours, ovarian cancer is an intra-abdominal tumour in which the presence of ascites enables metastatic dissemination and correlates with poor prognosis. Malignant ascites provide a key reservoir of growth factors and nutrients to augment ovarian cancer aggressiveness. Dr Chan will give a talk entitled "The tumour microenvironment on ovarian cancer progression and the potential target-based therapy" to discuss how all these factors are being studied to identify new principles leading to novel therapeutic avenues.

The public lectures of the RGC aim at arousing public interest in local research developments. Since 2009, the RGC has invited numerous leading scholars to speak at these lectures. For enquiries, please call 2524 3987 or visit the University Grants Committee webpage (www.ugc.edu.hk/eng/rgc/lectures/lectures.html).