

# Research Seminar Series 2021/22 #4



**Chairperson: Professor Annie Bligh**

**Date & Time: 11 Nov 2021 (Thursday) 12:30pm-1:30pm**

**Format: Face-to-face (Room A509, CIHE) / Join on ZOOM**

## Session 1 :

### **Antifungal Peptides are Natural Killers of Candida spp.**

Dr WONG Ho Jack, Assistant Professor, School of Health Sciences

#### **Abstract**

In recent years, due to the increase in the immunocompromised population, coupled with the rising frequency of micro-invasive surgery and diagnosis, the incidence of Candida infections has been escalating. Antimicrobial peptides have captivated the attention of researchers, by their unique mechanism of antifungal action. In my earlier studies entailing defensins, cathelicidins and lactoferrin fragments were assayed for antifungal activity against Candida spp. The inhibitory potencies of these antifungal peptides were pronounced. Hence, they serve as the lead compounds which could be developed into novel medicines against candidiasis in the future.

#### **Biography**

Dr. Jack Ho Wong is currently an assistant professor in School of Health Sciences, CIHE. He has conducted extensive research on defensive proteins/peptides of human, animal and plant origins for over a decade. His research encompasses: (i) antimicrobial peptides and (ii) antitumor proteins/peptides. Dr. Wong has published over 100 peer-reviewed papers in journals and contributed chapters in 11 books. He has also been serving on the editorial boards of several international journals.

## Session 2 :

### **Can Bilberry Supplementation Reduce Metabolic and Cardiovascular Disease Risk?**

Dr CHAN Sze Wa Stella, Associate Professor, School of Health Sciences

#### **Abstract**

Metabolic syndrome is a cluster of interrelated conditions that is associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM). While conventional therapies are a cornerstone for the management of the major risk factors of metabolic syndrome, increasing antioxidant defense by increasing intake of antioxidant-rich foods may improve long term prospects in CVD, obesity and T2DM. This seminar will focus on the potential effects of bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus* L.) supplementation on metabolic and cardiovascular risk factors.

#### **Biography**

Dr. Stella Chan is an Associate Professor at the Department of Health Sciences. She received her PhD degree in Pharmacology from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Her major research interests are on understanding the mechanism of drug interaction on the brain-gut axis that involved in the regulation of emesis and feeding. In recent years, she extended her research interests into the pharmacology of herbal medicines.

Scan QR code to register



\* Light lunch will be provided to the participants who join the seminar in-person.

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