



香 港 大 學

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

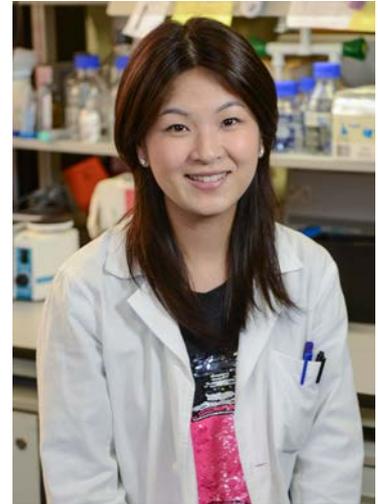
Dr Stephanie MA Kwai-yee

Assistant Professor Department of Anatomy

Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong

Biography

Dr Stephanie Ma is the Assistant Professor at the Department of Anatomy, Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong and the Principal Investigator of the State Key Laboratory for Liver Research. She obtained her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees at The University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada in 2000 and 2003, respectively. She then graduated with a PhD degree in 2007 from The University of Hong Kong.



Dr Ma's main research interest is focused on elucidating the molecular basis of two cancer types prevalent in Southeast Asia, namely hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) and esophageal squamous cell carcinoma (ESCC). Specifically, she is interested in the identification, characterisation, 'omic' profiling and therapeutic targeting of liver and esophageal cancer stem cells. Her group not only identified CD133 as a functional marker of liver cancer stem cells, but also elucidated a number of key signaling pathways that are crucial in regulating tumor growth and self-renewal in this subpopulation of cells. By understanding the cancer stem cell properties, she hope to contribute to the betterment of clinical management of cancer patients, hopefully by providing future strategies to suppress tumor re-growth and overcome resilience to therapy. According to the ISI Essential Science Indicator, which tracks how many times research papers are cited by other scholars, she is listed as the Top 1% of Most Cited Scholars under the category of 'Clinical Medicine' and 'All Fields'.

Awards and Achievements

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| 2014 | Croucher Innovation Award
The Croucher Foundation of Hong Kong |
| 2014 | Higher Education Institution of China - Scientific Research Outstanding Achievement Awards (Second-class Award in Science and Technology Section) – as 3 rd awardee
Project: Characterisation of the molecular mechanism in the initiation and progression of hepatocellular carcinoma
Ministry of Education in China |
| 2012-2013 | Outstanding Young Researcher Award
The University of Hong Kong |
| 2012 | Outstanding Research Output Award
Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong |
| 2011 | Outstanding Research Output Award
Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong |
| 2011 | “Re-engineering Regenerative Medicine” of Days of Molecular Medicine Abstract Award
Karolinska Institute and Fondation IPSEN |
| 2008 | Hong Kong Young Scientist Award (Life Sciences)
Hong Kong Institution of Science |
| 2006-2007 | Li Ka Shing Prize for the Best PhD Thesis
Faculties of Dentistry, Engineering, Medicine and Science
The University of Hong Kong |