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The 12th Annual Scientific Meeting
Hong Kong Society of Biological Psychiatry

## Neural Circuitry: From Brain Development To Intervention – How Far Are We? – Part II

12-13 May 2019 (Sunday and Monday)
The Langham Hong Kong, 8 Peking Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon

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### **Welcome Message**

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, we take great pleasure in inviting you to participate in the 12th Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) of the Hong Kong Society of Biological Psychiatry (HKSBP). The meeting will be organized on **12th (Sun) and 13th (Mon) in May 2019 at The Langham Hong Kong, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon.** 

The theme of this year is **Neural Circuitry: From Brain Development To Intervention –** How Far Are We? - Part II, which is a follow up meeting of the 11th ASM as we received lots of good feedbacks in the last meeting. Prof. Anthony A. GRACE is re-invited to give talks on his latest research updates on brain vulnerability to disorder. On Sunday, he will talk about Adolescent Stress as a Risk Factor for the Development of Schizophrenia; the topic of the following day is **Stress Susceptibility in Adulthood and the Development** of Depression. Currently, Prof Grace is a Distinguished Professor of Neuroscience and a Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology at the University of Pittsburgh, USA. In addition, Prof. SO Kwok Fai will give a plenary lecture on The Retina-vLGN/IGL-habenula Pathway Underlies the Anti-depressive Effects of Light Therapy, it is a new and interesting topic about brain circuitry on looming behavior. Prof So is currently the Director of Guangzhou-Hong Kong-Macau Institute of CNS Regeneration, Jinan University, Guangzhou, China. Further titles include What is Consciousness? by Prof. LEE Mei Chu Tatia from the University of Hong Kong; Dendritic Spine Remodeling in Frontal Cortex Regulates Memory Functions: Neuropathology and Exercise Intervention by Dr. Zhang Li from Jinan University, Guangzhou, China; Procedures Targeting Memory Labile Stages to Erase Drug and Fear Memories by Prof. LU Lin from Peking University and Ketamine and ECT – An Added Benefit? by Dr. HE Hongbo from Guangzhou Hui-Ai Hospital, China.

As usual, there is a free paper presentation session to encourage young researcher to participate in biological psychiatry research, this year we have a local researcher from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Last but not the least, lunch symposia will be provided on both days, we will have **Prof TANG Siu Wa** talks about **Natural to Designer Drugs for Brain Disorders** on Sunday and **Prof Robin EMSLEY** will give talk on **Changing the Course of Schizophrenia: Applying New Knowledge to Clinical Practice** on Monday.

We look forward to meeting at this educational, inspirational and intellectually exciting event.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. WONG Chi keung

Ways Che Keny

Chairperson, Organizing Committee of the 12th ASM Hong Kong Society of Biological Psychiatry



### 12th ASM Organizing Committee

Chairperson: Dr. WONG Chi Keung

Scientific Committee Members: Dr. CHUNG Kar Kin, Albert

Dr. LO Chun Wai Prof. TANG Siu Wa Prof. WING Yun Kwok

Dr. WONG Ming Cheuk, Michael

Other Members: Dr. CHEUNG Hon Kee, Henry

Dr. IU Pui Chuen
Dr. TAM Mo Shing, Paul
Dr. TSANG Suk Kwan, Jenny
Dr. WONG Chung Hin, Willy

#### **HKSBP Council Member 2018-2019**

President:

Vice President:

Honorary Secretary:

Honorary Treasurer:

Current Past and Founding President:

Dr. WONG Ming Cheuk, Michael

Dr. CHUNG Kar Kin, Albert

Dr. CHUENG Hon Kee, Henry

Dr. TSANG Suk Kwan, Jenny

Prof. TANG Siu Wa

Council Members:

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Dr. IU Pui Chuen

Dr. LO Chun Wai

Dr. TAM Mo Shing, Paul Prof. WING Yun Kwok Dr. WONG Chi Keung

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Hong Kong Society of Biological Psychiatry

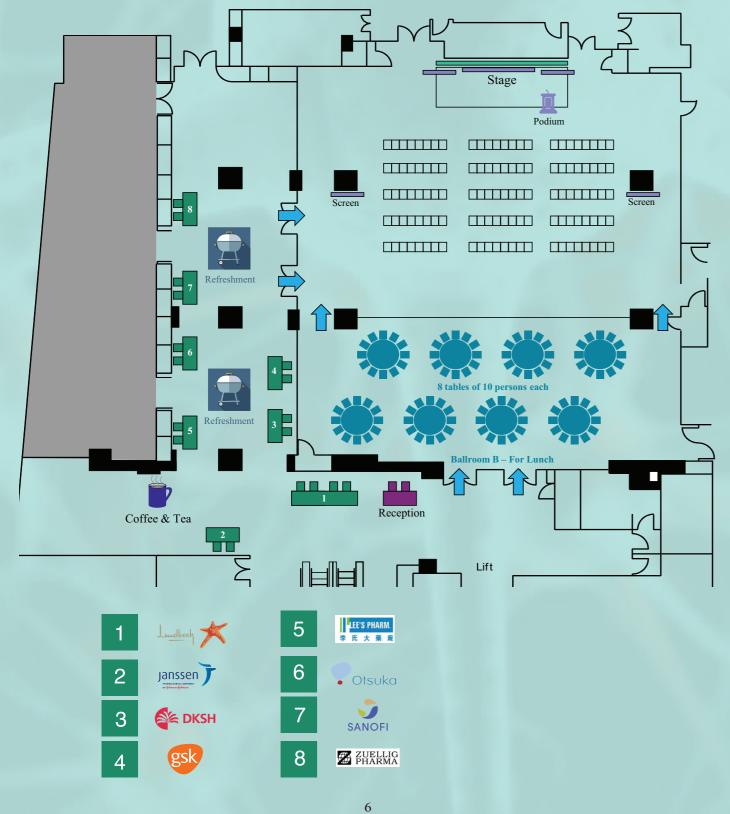
Neural Circuitry: From Brain Development To Intervention – How Far Are We? – Part II

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## Floor Plan

Grand Ballroom, 2/F, The Langham Hong Kong, 8 Peking Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon



## Neural Circuitry: From Brain Development To Intervention – How Far Are We? – Part II Scientific Programme

11:30-12:00   Lunch Starts   12:45-13:45   Lunch Symposium: Natural to Designer drugs for Brain Disorders   Prof. TANG Siu Wa   Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry, University of California, Irvine, USA   Current Past and Founding President of HKSBP   Chairperson: Dr. LUNG Wal Ching, Private Psychiatrist   (Spomored by Lundbeck Horp Kong)   14:00-14:30   Pree Paper: Algoroan Ameliorates Streptozotocin-induced Impairment in Cognitive Impairment and Adult Hippocampal Neurogenesis   Dr. YAL Suk Yu, Sonata   Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University   Chairperson: Dr. TAM Mo Shing, Paul, Council Member of HKSBP   14:30-15:30   Lecture 1: What is Consciousness?   Prof. Lecture 1: What is Consciousness?   Prof. Lecture 1: What is Consciousness?   Prof. Lecture 1: Man Strong, Paul, Council Member of HKSBP   15:30-16:00   Exhibition and Tea Break   16:00-17:00   Exhibition and Tea Break   16:00-10:00   Exhibition and Tea Break   16:00-10:00   Exhibition and Tea Break   16:00-10:00   Exhibition and Tea Break   18:30-09:00   Registration   19:00-10:00   Registration   19:00-10	Time	12 May 2019, Sun, Grand Ballroom, 2/F, The Langham Hong Kong	
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Neuropathology and Exercise Intervention Dr. ZHANG Li Associate Professor, GHM Institute of CNS Regeneration, Jinan University, Guangzhou, China Chairperson: Dr. CHEUNG Hon Kee, Henry, Hon. Secretary of HKSBP  10:45-11:15 Exhibition and Tea Break  11:15-12:15 Plenary Lecture 3: Stress Susceptibility in Adulthood and the Development of Depression Prof. Anthony A. GRACE Distinguished Professor of Neuroscience Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology, University of Pittsburgh, United States of America Chairperson: Dr. WONG Ming Cheuk, Michael, President of HKSBP  12:15 Lunch Starts  13:00-14:00 Lunch Symposium: Changing the Course of Schizophrenia: Applying New Knowledge to Clinical Practice Prof. Robin EMSLEY Professor of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Stellenbosch, Cape Town, South Africa Co-chairpersons: Dr. TANG Man Ho, Private Psychiatrist; Dr. CHUI Mo Ching, Psychiatrist, Consultant of Queen Mary Hospital (Sponsored by Janssen Hong Kong)  14:15-15:00 Lecture 3: Procedures Targeting Memory Labile Stages to Erase Drug and Fear Memories Prof. LU Lin Director & Professor, Institute of Mental Health/Peking University Sixth Hospital, Peking University, China Chairperson: Dr. TSANG Suk Kwun, Jenny, Hon. Treasurer of HKSBP  15:00-15:45 Lecture 4: Ketamine and ECT - An Added Benefit? Dr. HE Hongbo Associate Chief Psychiatrist, Head of Department of Research and Education, Head of Department of Psychosomatic Medicine of Guangzhou Hui-Ai Hospital, China Chairperson: Dr. YEE Kay Cheuk, Kenneth & Dr. PAO Sze Yuan, Ronnie, Private Psychiatrists	9:00-10:00	Effects of Light Therapy Prof. SO Kwok Fai Director, GHM Institute of CNS Regeneration, Jinan University, Guangzhou, China	
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Prof. Ánthony A. GRACE Distinguished Professor of Neuroscience Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology, University of Pittsburgh, United States of America Chairperson: Dr. WONG Ming Cheuk, Michael, President of HKSBP  12:15 Lunch Starts  Lunch Symposium: Changing the Course of Schizophrenia: Applying New Knowledge to Clinical Practice Prof. Robin EMSLEY Professor of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Stellenbosch, Cape Town, South Africa Co-chairpersons: Dr. TANG Man Ho, Private Psychiatrist; Dr. CHUI Mo Ching, Psychiatrist, Consultant of Queen Mary Hospital (Sponsored by Janssen Hong Kong)  14:15-15:00 Lecture 3: Procedures Targeting Memory Labile Stages to Erase Drug and Fear Memories Prof. LU Lin Director & Professor, Institute of Mental Health/Peking University Sixth Hospital, Peking University, China Director & Professor, National Institute on Drug Dependence, Peking University, China Chairperson: Dr. TSANG Suk Kwun, Jenny, Hon. Treasurer of HKSBP  15:00-15:45 Lecture 4: Ketamine and ECT - An Added Benefit? Dr. HE Hongbo Associate Chief Psychiatrist, Head of Department of Research and Education, Head of Department of Psychosomatic Medicine of Guangzhou Hui-Ai Hospital, China Chairperson: Dr. YEE Kay Cheuk, Kenneth & Dr. PAO Sze Yuan, Ronnie, Private Psychiatrists	10:45-11:15	Exhibition and Tea Break	
13:00-14:00  Lunch Symposium: Changing the Course of Schizophrenia: Applying New Knowledge to Clinical Practice Prof. Robin EMSLEY Professor of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Stellenbosch, Cape Town, South Africa Co-chairpersons: Dr. TANG Man Ho, Private Psychiatrist; Dr. CHUI Mo Ching, Psychiatrist, Consultant of Queen Mary Hospital (Sponsored by Janssen Hong Kong)  14:15-15:00  Lecture 3: Procedures Targeting Memory Labile Stages to Erase Drug and Fear Memories Prof. LU Lin Director & Professor, Institute of Mental Health/Peking University Sixth Hospital, Peking University, China Director & Professor, National Institute on Drug Dependence, Peking University, China Chairperson: Dr. TSANG Suk Kwun, Jenny, Hon. Treasurer of HKSBP  15:00-15:45  Lecture 4: Ketamine and ECT - An Added Benefit? Dr. HE Hongbo Associate Chief Psychiatrist, Head of Department of Research and Education, Head of Department of Psychosomatic Medicine of Guangzhou Hui-Ai Hospital, China Chairperson: Dr. YEE Kay Cheuk, Kenneth & Dr. PAO Sze Yuan, Ronnie, Private Psychiatrists	11:15-12:15	Prof. Anthony A. GRACE Distinguished Professor of Neuroscience Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology, University of Pittsburgh, United States of America	
Clinical Practice Prof. Robin EMSLEY Professor of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Stellenbosch, Cape Town, South Africa Co-chairpersons: Dr. TANG Man Ho, Private Psychiatrist; Dr. CHUI Mo Ching, Psychiatrist, Consultant of Queen Mary Hospital (Sponsored by Janssen Hong Kong)  14:15-15:00 Lecture 3: Procedures Targeting Memory Labile Stages to Erase Drug and Fear Memories Prof. LU Lin Director & Professor, Institute of Mental Health/Peking University Sixth Hospital, Peking University, China Director & Professor, National Institute on Drug Dependence, Peking University, China Chairperson: Dr. TSANG Suk Kwun, Jenny, Hon. Treasurer of HKSBP  15:00-15:45 Lecture 4: Ketamine and ECT - An Added Benefit? Dr. HE Hongbo Associate Chief Psychiatrist, Head of Department of Research and Education, Head of Department of Psychosomatic Medicine of Guangzhou Hui-Ai Hospital, China Chairperson: Dr. YEE Kay Cheuk, Kenneth & Dr. PAO Sze Yuan, Ronnie, Private Psychiatrists	12:15	Lunch Starts	
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Dr. HE Hongbo Associate Chief Psychiatrist, Head of Department of Research and Education, Head of Department of Psychosomatic Medicine of Guangzhou Hui-Ai Hospital, China Chairperson: Dr. YEE Kay Cheuk, Kenneth & Dr. PAO Sze Yuan, Ronnie, Private Psychiatrists	14:15-15:00	Prof. LU Lin  Director & Professor, Institute of Mental Health/Peking University Sixth Hospital, Peking University, China  Director & Professor, National Institute on Drug Dependence, Peking University, China	
15:45-16:15 AGM (For HKSBP Members ONLY)		Dr. HE Hongbo Associate Chief Psychiatrist, Head of Department of Research and Education, Head of Department of Psychosomatic Medicine of Guangzhou Hui-Ai Hospital, China Chairperson: Dr. YEE Kay Cheuk, Kenneth & Dr. PAO Sze Yuan, Ronnie, Private Psychiatrists	
	15:45-16:15	AGM (For HKSBP Members ONLY)	

Lunch Symposium: Natural to Designer drugs for Brain Disorders 12:45-13:45, 12 May, 2019, Sunday



#### **Prof. TANG Siu Wa**

Professor Tang is a pharmacologist and a psychiatrist by training. He graduated from the University of Hong Kong medical school and obtained post graduate training in psychiatry, laboratory neurochemistry and pharmacology at the University of Toronto and University of California, obtaining his PhD, MBA, and specialist qualifications. He was Head of Psychopharmacology at the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, University of Toronto in the 1980s and Chairman of Psychiatry, University of California, Irvine, USA in the 1990s and is now Emeritus professor of Psychiatry. He researched and published in the areas of clinical psychiatry basic and clinical psychopharmacology.

#### **Abstract**

There are many choices of remedies for brain disorders nowadays. They vary from natural to man-made products and from over-the-counter to prescription items. Both clinicians and patients are subjected to promotional, semi- or pseudo scientific and scientific information, all of which are sometimes difficult to verify without professional knowledge. This talk will present a systematic approach for evaluation of all remedies for brain disorders, and examine the science behind such an approach.

Free Paper: AdipoRon Ameliorates Streptozotocin-induced Impairment in Cognitive Impairment and Adult Hippocampal Neurogenesis 14:00 – 14:30, 12 May, 2019, Sunday



### Dr. YAU Suk Yu, Sonata

Dr. Sonata Suk-yu Yau is currently an Assistant Professor in Department of Rehabilitation Sciences at Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong. She obtained her Bachelor degree in Biochemistry from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in 2005, followed by a PhD degree in neuroscience in Department of Anatomy at The University of Hong Kong (HKU) in 2009. After her two years postdoctoral training at HKU, she moved to Division of Medical Sciences at University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada with a postdoctoral fellowship awarded by Canadian Institute of Health Research and Fragile X Research Foundation of Canada. She is currently a short-term visiting Assistant Professor at Connecticut Mental Health Center at Yale University and an Honorary Assistant Professor at School of Biomedical Science, LKS Faculty of Medicine at HKU. She has been investigating the underlying mechanisms of physical exercise-promoted brain health in animal models including depression, diabetes. She also studies how hippocampal dysfunction can lead to cognitive impairment in neurodevelopmental disorders e.g. Fragile X Syndrome. She is interested in studying pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions to promote brain functions using different diseased animal models. Her current research projects are centered on understanding the underlying mechanisms of physical exercise-induced brain health and examining novel therapeutic treatments for promoting brain health in animal models with neurological disorders. She has ample experience in animal behavioral, cellular and electrophysiological experiments by using animal models. So far, she has published 36 articles, 4 reviews and 3 book chapters, with H index 16. Within the first three year being an independent investigator at Hong Kong Polytechnic University, she has obtained three external research grants. Her funded projects involve active collaboration with internationally

well-respected researchers from Hong Kong, mainland China, US, Canada and Australia.

#### **Abstract**

Diabetic patients have an increased risk for having cognitive impairment and developing depression. Physical exercise is an effective therapeutic for cognitive impairment such as depression and dementia. Cognitive impairment is often associated with neuronal loss and reduced synaptic plasticity in the brain. Our previous work has demonstrated that adiponectin is required for the antidepressant effects of exercise. Recently, AdipoRon, an adiponectin receptor agonist, is effective in treating diabetes in mouse model. Here we sought to examine whether AdipoRon acts as an exercise mimetic to restore impairment in learning and memory, and adult hippocampal neurogenesis associated with diabetes.

#### Methods

Six-week old diabetic and control C57BL6/J male mice received 20 mg/kg AdipoRon or voluntarily wheel running continuously for two weeks, followed by open field test, Y-maze test to anxiety and learning and memory performance. Immunohistochemical analysis with cell proliferation marker: Ki67 and immature neuronal marker: doublecortine was performed to examine changes of hippocampal adult neurogenesis. Electrophysiology was performed to measure changes in synaptic plasticity.

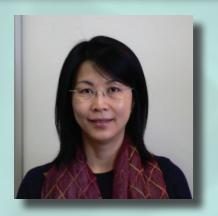
#### Results

Our behavioural test results demonstrated that both AdipoRon and exercise restored spatial recognition memory deficit in diabetic mice. These behavioural benefits were associated with enhancement in cell proliferation and long-tern potentation in the hippocampal dentate gyrus. However, AdipoRon did not mimic the effect of exercise on promoting survival and neuronal differentiation in diabetic mice.

#### Conclusion

Our data suggested that chronic administration with AdipoRon is effective in promoting learning and memory performance, which is likely linked to enhanced hippocampal cell proliferation and synaptic plasticity. However, AdipoRon can only partly mimic the effects of physical exercise on promoting hippocampal neurogenesis.

Lecture 1: What is Consciousness? 14:30-15:30, 12 May, 2019, Sunday



#### **Prof LEE Mei Chun, Tatia**

Tatia Lee is a May Endowed Chair Professor in Neuropsychology and Director of the State Key Laboratory of Brain and Cognitive Sciences at The University of Hong Kong. She is an elected Fellow of the American College of Professional Neuropsychology, American Psychological Association, and American Psychological Society.

#### **Abstract**

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Consciousness has become a significant topic of interdisciplinary research. It is a construct that is hard to be fully defined. In medicine, consciousness may be reflected by patient's arousal and responsiveness. In neuropsychology, consciousness may be understood through phenomena such as anosognosia, blindsight, and altered states of consciousness induced by substances or interventions (e.g. hypnosis). Through reviewing how consciousness is being understood from both clinical and neuropsychological perspectives, there may be insight about the neural and psychological meanings and correlates of consciousness.

Plenary Lecture 1: Adolescent Stress as a Risk Factor for the Development of Schizophrenia 16:00-17:00, 12 May, 2019, Sunday



**Prof. Anthony A. GRACE** 

Dr. Anthony A. Grace is a Distinguished Professor of Neuroscience and a Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology at the University of Pittsburgh. He has been involved in translational research related to the dopamine system for over 40 years. His early work pioneered the mode of action of antipsychotic drugs and the identification and characterization of dopamine-containing neurons. His current work involves novel treatments for schizophrenia and its prevention and the role of dopamine in affective disorders. He has published more than 300 articles and is cited more than 40,000 times. Dr. Grace has received several awards for his research, including the William K. Warren Award for Excellence in Schizophrenia Research, the Paul Janssen Schizophrenia Research Award and the Lilly Basic Scientist Award from the CINP, the Efron Award and the Axelrod Award from the ACNP, the Gold Medal award from the SOBP, the Outstanding Basic Research award from the SIRS.

#### **Abstract**

Substantial evidence demonstrates that schizophrenia involves a dysregulated dopamine system driven by overactivity in the hippocampus. Schizophrenia brains show a substantial loss of parvalbumin GAB-Aergic interneurons in the hippocampus which likely drives the hyperactivity, leading to an over-responsive dopamine system. Our studies suggest that when the hippocampus is hyperactive the dopamine system is hyper-responsive to stimuli, which can underlie psychosis. A major question is why there is interneuron loss in the hippocampus. Parvalbumin interneurons early in life are susceptible to damage due to stress. In a developmental disruption model of schizophrenia, we found that prepubertally these rats are more anxious, hyper-responsive to stress, and show hyperactivity in the amygdala; furthermore relieving the stress early in life prevents the transition to "psychosis." Thus, schizophrenia susceptibility may be due to heightened sensitivity to the deleterious effects of stress. Indeed, multiple stressors given during this sensitive period to normal rats leads to the schizophrenia phenotype. Moreover, elimination of the ability of the medial prefrontal cortex to regulate stress enables minor stressors to yield the schizophrenia phenotype. In contrast, multiple stressors given to adult rats result in a depression-like phenotype. However, if the critical developmental period is first re-opened in the adult rat via histone decarboxylase inhibition, the same stressors now yield a schizophrenia phenotype. This suggests that genetic predisposition does not cause schizophrenia, but instead causes the individual to be hypersensitive to the deleterious effects of stress. Moreover, stress susceptibility may be a common link in familial risk for schizophrenia and depression. Therefore, controlling stress early in life in susceptible individuals may be an effective means to prevent transition to schizophrenia later in life.

Plenary Lecture 2: The Retina-vLGN/IGL-habenula Pathway Underlies the Anti-depressive Effects of Light Therapy 09:00-10:00, 13 May, 2019, Monday



Prof. SO Kwok Fai

Director of GHM Institute of CNS Regeneration at Jinan University, Guangzhou, China; Chair of Anatomy in the Department of Ophthalmology and the State Key Laboratory of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, Jessie Ho Professor in Neuroscience, The University of Hong Kong; (http:// www.eyeinst.hku.hk/Prof\_So.htm), member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, member of the Advisory Committee, Ministry of Education/ 2011 Program, member of Biolgical and Medicine Council/ Ministry of Education, member of Consultative Committee/ the national 973 Program/ major national research funding program in China (www.973. gov.cn/), Director of China Spinal Cord Injury Network (ChinaSCINet), Co-Chairman of the Board of Director of the ChinaSCINet (www.chinascinet.org), and Editor-in-Chief of Neural Regeneration Research (www. nrronline.org ). Received PhD degree from MIT. He is one of the pioneers in the field of axonal regeneration in visual system. He was the first to show lengthy regeneration of retinal ganglion cells in adult mammals with peripheral nerve graft. He is currently using multiple approaches to promote axonal regeneration in the optic nerve and spinal cord. His team identifies neuroprotective and regenerative factors including: exercise, wolfberry, trophic factors, peptide nanofiber scaffold, and environmental manipulation. 1995 obtained the Natural Science Award of the National Natural Science Foundation of China. 1999 was elected Member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. 2015 was elected US National Academy of Invention Fellow. 2017 elected a member of DABI (Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives, www.dana.org ). He is the author and co-author of over 430+ publications (http:// scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=SUPKYiQA-AAAJ&view\_op=list\_works); co-inventors of 25 patents.

#### **Abstract**

Light plays a pivotal role in the regulation of affective behaviors. However, the precise circuits that mediate the impact of light on depressive-like behaviors are not well understood. Here, we show that light influences depressive-like behav-iors through a disynaptic circuit linking the retina and the lateral habenula (LHb). Specifically, M4- type melanopsin-expressing retinal ganglion cells (RGCs) innervate GABA neurons in the thalamic ventral lateral geniculate nucleus and intergen- iculate leaflet (vLGN/IGL), which in turn inhibit CaMKIIa neurons in the LHb. Specific activation of vLGN/IGL-projecting RGCs, activation of LHb- projecting vLGN/IGL neurons, or inhibition of post-synaptic LHb neurons is sufficient to decrease the depressive-like behaviors evoked by long-term exposure to aversive stimuli or chronic social defeat stress. Furthermore, we demonstrate that the antidepressive effects of light therapy require activation of the retina-vLGN/IGL-LHb pathway. These results reveal a dedicated retina-vLGN/ IGL-LHb circuit that regulates depressive-like be- haviors and provide a potential mechanistic expla- nation for light treatment of depression.

## Lecture 2: Dendritic Spine Remodeling in Frontal Cortex Regulates Memory Functions: Neuropathology and Exercise Intervention 10:00-10:45, 13 May, 2019, Monday



Dr. ZHANG Li

Dr. Li Zhang is currently an Associate Professor in Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Institute of CNS Regeneration, Jinan University. After obtaining BSc degree in University of Hong Kong (1st class honor) and PhD degree in Biological Sciences from HKU, Dr. Li Zhang joined Jinan University as one principal investigator since 2014. His current research interest manly focuses on motor system and psychiatric disorders, including neuropathology of central motor disorder, comorbid of psychiatric diseases and motor dysfunction, and the intervention of mental illness using physical exercise. Dr. Li Zhang has published more than 10 papers since 2014, including those on Neuropsychopharmacology and Translational Psychiatry.

#### **Abstract**

Physical exercise training has well-known effects on the improvement of cognitive functions and mental status, the neurobiological mechanism, however, is still poorly understood. Current knowledge mainly focuses on the facilitation of hippocampal neurogenesis, or neuroprotection against neurotoxicity by exercise. On the other hands, we know little about the dynamic change of dendritic spines, which form the structural basis of neural plasticity and learning memory. Our group generated mouse chronic restraint stress models and found excess pruning of cortical spines by in vivo 2-photon transcranial imaging, in association with deficits of sensory dependent working memory. The adoption of treadmill exercise training effectively recued spine pruning and recovered memory deficits. Further molecular studies suggested elevation of brain derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) in exercised brain. At the downstream of BDNF, treadmill training persistently activates mechanistic target of rapamycin (mTOR) signaling pathway, which helps to facilitate the expression of synaptic proteins. Moreover, exercise training increases spine formation rate in cortical regions and potentiated calcium spikes to improve synaptic plasticity, thus contributing to better acquisition of motor skill memory. Using pharmacological inhibition, we demonstrated that mTOR activation is necessary for exercise-improved neural plasticity. Those results enrich our understandings for environmental influences on neural plasticity, and further support the intervention of psychiatric disorders or cognitive dysfunctions using exercise paradigms.

Plenary Lecture 3: Stress Susceptibility in Adulthood and the Development of Depression 11:15-12:15, 13 May, 2019, Monday



### **Prof. Anthony A. GRACE**

Dr. Anthony A. Grace is a Distinguished Professor of Neuroscience and a Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology at the University of Pittsburgh. He has been involved in translational research related to the dopamine system for over 40 years. His early work pioneered the mode of action of antipsychotic drugs and the identification and characterization of dopamine-containing neurons. His current work involves novel treatments for schizophrenia and its prevention and the role of dopamine in affective disorders. He has published more than 300 articles and is cited more than 40,000 times. Dr. Grace has received several awards for his research, including the William K. Warren Award for Excellence in Schizophrenia Research, the Paul Janssen Schizophrenia Research Award and the Lilly Basic Scientist Award from the CINP, the Efron Award and the Axelrod Award from the ACNP, the Gold Medal award from the SOBP, the Outstanding Basic Research award from the SIRS.

#### **Abstract**

Dysregulation of the mesolimbic dopamine (DA) system has garnered increasing attention in major depressive disorder (MDD). We have shown that rats exposed to either Chronic Mild Stress (CMS) or Learned Helplessness, two stress-induced animal models of depression, resulted in a reduction in ventral tegmental area (VTA) DA neuron population activity, i.e. the number of DA neurons active and available to respond to environmentally salient rewarding stimuli. This suggests that in MDD, the attenuated ability of the DA system to respond to rewarding stimuli could represent the neural substrate of clinical anhedonia. Drawing from human neuroimaging research, we found that overdrive of the infralimbic prefrontal cortex (ILPFC) in normal rats potently suppressed VTA DA neuron population activity, primarily in the medial, reward-related VTA DA neurons, via activation of the amygdala. In rats that underwent CMS, ILPFC inactivation restored VTA DA neuron population activity to normal levels. Furthermore, we found that the rapid acting antidepressant ketamine reversed the decrease in DA neuron activity in learned helplessness model of depression, primarily by restoring plasticity in the hippocampus-accumbens circuit. Thus, a single dose of ketamine restores hippocampal-accumbens drive, normalizes dopamine neuron firing, and reverses behavioral despair in the forced swim test.

Studies of patients at ultra high risk for schizophrenia show that those who do not convert to schizophrenia show increased susceptibility to affective disorders as adults. We now report that MAM models of schizophrenia in which diazepam is used prepubertally to circumvent pathology show increased susceptibility to depression as adults. Moreover, damage to the prelimbic PFC prepubertally will also increase susceptibility to depression. Therefore, hyper-responsivity to stress at early stages in life appear to make the individual more susceptible to depression as adults.

# Lunch Symposium: Changing the Course of Schizophrenia: Applying New Knowledge to Clinical Practice 13:00-14:00, 13 May, 2019, Monday



**Prof. Robin EMSLEY** 

Robin Emsley is Professor of Psychiatry at Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Stellenbosch, Cape Town, South Africa. He holds the Sarah Turoff Endowed Chair in Schizophrenia Research and Education Committee Chair of Schizophrenia International Research Society. He is also a member of the Section of Schizophrenia and Section of Genetics in World Psychiatric Association.

Professor Emsley obtained his medical degree (MBChB) at the University of Cape Town in 1974 and his psychiatry degree (MMed) at the University of Stellenbosch in 1981. He received a Doctorate in Medicine in 1987 and a Doctor of Science degree in 2007 for studies in the psychopathology, neurobiology and psychopharmacology of schizophrenia.

Professor Emsley's main area of interest is in the neurobiology and psychopharmacology of schizophrenia. His group has published widely in this field, including studies in psychopharmacology, neuroimaging, pharmacogenomics, psychopathology and cognition. He is currently serving on the Editorial Board of several journals, including Schizophrenia Research, Psychiatry Research, Early Intervention in Psychiatry and npj Schizophrenia.

#### **Abstract**

Key features of our new understanding of schizophrenia:

- Recognising that the early years of illness are critical to the long-term outcome
- Targeting relapse prevention to avoid emergent refracto riness and illness progression
- Looking beyond just symptom reduction to promoting recovery in terms of:
- Psychopathology
- Functionality
- Quality of life

The course of schizophrenia: Early years are critical. This is when the illness is most aggressive – when relapses are most likely to occur and when illness progression is most likely to occur.

Dopamine hypothesis: The final common pathway. There is a direct relationship between D2 blockade and the expression of psychosis. Therefore, providing continuous, uninterrupted antipsychotic medication is the key

Despite the fact that antipsychotics are effective in relieving symptoms of psychosis in the short-term, the long-term outcome is typically poor.

Relapses are associated with brain volume reductions and may be the critical factor in the evolution of treatment refractoriness and illness progression.

Relapses are common and most often occur after patients discontinue treatment. A major factor here is insight impairment. Illness unawareness and symptom misattribution go hand in hand with failure to recognise the need for treatment. Insight impairment persists, even after favourable treatment response, suggesting that it is a trait rather than a state related phenomenon.

This has major implications for shared decision making in the management of patients with schizophrenia

A pragmatic approach to treating schizophrenia:

- 1. Recognizing the importance of effective early intervention
- 2. The burden of responsibility for adherence should not be left with the patient
- Patient autonomy and independent living is not best ad dressed by leaving patients to make their own treatment decisions
- 4. Focusing psychosocial and pharmacological interven tions on providing continuous treatment

#### References:

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Takeuchi H, et al. Neuropsychopharmacology. 2018 Nov 22. doi: 10.1038/s41386-018-0278-3.

# Lecture 3: Procedures Targeting Memory Labile Stages to Erase Drug and Fear memories 14:15-15:00, 13 May, 2019, Monday



**Prof LU Lin** 

Prof. Lin Lu is a member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. He received his MD/PhD degree at the West China University of Medical Sciences in 1999. He undertook post-doctoral research at the National Laboratory of Medical Neurobiology at the Shanghai Medical School of Fudan University and then at the National Institutes of Health in Maryland, USA, where he continued as a research scientist. He currently works as the director of Peking University Institute of Mental Health/ Peking University Sixth Hospital, National Clinical Research Center for Mental Disorders, National Center for Mental Health of Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and National Institute on Drug Dependence in China. He has published more than 200 peer-reviewed articles (with total citation over 10000) and his research focuses on the neurobiological mechanisms and clinical interventions of psychiatric disorders, including depression, sleep disorders and drug addiction.

#### **Abstract**

Strong emotional stimuli such as traumatic experiences in our daily life result in pathological alterations that usurps the normal neural systems underlying learning and memory. As a result, these maladaptive memories are always stronger and persist longer after learning than memories for neutral stimuli or events. Recent years a proliferation of research interest has been focusing on memory reconsolidation as a potential target for intervening maladaptive memories. Memory reconsolidation requires a series of molecular alterations to re-stabilize the memories and can be disrupted by behavioral interventions (e.g. extinction) or pharmacological interventions (e.g. propranolol). Our previous study showed that conditioned stimulus (CS) retrieval-extinction procedure could effectively decrease conditioned effects and drug seeking in rat models of relapse, as well as drug craving in abstinent heroin addicts. Recently we employed the exposure of an unconditioned stimulus (UCS) to trigger memory reconsolidation, followed by extinction or propranolol, to efficiently disrupt fear- and drug-related memories in both animal models and human studies. In comparison with CS-based reconsolidation interventions, the novel UCS-based reconsolidation interventions could effectively target multi-CS-associated memories and remote memories with stable and long-lasting inhibitory effect, offering us a more powerful non-invasive perspective and showing great translational potential in treating psychiatric disorders including post-traumatic stress disorder, phobia, and addiction.

## Lecture 4: Ketamine and ECT – An Added Benefit? 15:00-15:45, 13 May, 2019, Monday



**Dr HE Hongbo** 

Hongbo He, medical bachelor of clinical medicine from Tongji Medical University in Wuhan in 2000, PhD of neuroscience from Louisiana State University Health Science Center in New Orleans USA in 2011, currently is the associate chief psychiatrist, head of department of research and education and head of department of psychosomatic medicine of Guangzhou Hui-Ai Hospital (was known as Guangzhou Psychiatric Hospital), the standing committee member and secretory of psychiatry division of Guangdong Medical Association. Current research focus is to explore new methods of clinical interventions to improve the service outcome for depressive patients.

#### **Abstract**

Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) is a rapid acting and effective treatment for both major depressive disorder (MDD) and bipolar disorder (BP). Both propofol and ketamine are commonly used anesthetic agents but recent clinical studies show that ketamine has rapid-acting antidepressant properties, itself, at sub-anesthetic doses. Meanwhile studies also showed that ketamine as ECT usually require less stimulus intensity to induce full seizure activities in the brain due to its pharmacological property of lack of GABAergic potentiation activity unlike other anesthesia, that was proposed to result in less cognitive impairment evidenced with some case reports. Thus using ketamine as ECT anesthesia was considering a potential more powerful treatment for depression with even less cognitive impairment, combining two effective treatments into one intervention--"one stone, two birds". Guangzhou Hui-Ai Hospital was the first psychiatric hospital in China currently with 1920 inpatients beds. Modified ECT has been applied clinically in our hospital since 1998, currently with more than 30 operations each work day. Around 20% inpatients last year has been received ECT treatments. Such large volume of ECT operations provide us unique opportunity to test the ideas of potential add on benefits of ketamine anesthesia of ECT. In this presentation, we would like to share our RCT results of using ketamine with propofol as ECT anesthesia and the possible neurobiological rationales behind.

### **Notes to Delegates**

#### **Meeting Organizer**

Hong Kong Society of Biological Psychiatry

#### **Meeting Secretariat**

c/o Kays Asia (Hong Kong) Ltd.

Tel: +852 9658 9650 Fax: +852 3010 8969 E-mail: enquiry@hksbp.org

#### **Meeting Date**

12-13 May, 2019, Sunday & Monday

#### **Meeting Venue**

Ballroom, 2/F, The Langham Hong Kong, 8 Peking Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong

#### **On-site Registration**

The registration counter is located at the entrance of Ballroom. For on-site registration, payment must be made in cash in HK dollars.

#### **Registration Fees**

HKSBP Members	Free of charge
Non-HKSBP Members	HKD 450
Students*	HKD 50

\*It is limited to Undergraduates & Postgraduates of Neuro-science, Mental Health and Medicine related subjects. An official document from the appropriate department for verification is required.

#### **Registration Entitlement**

Fully registered participants are entitled to:

- Entry to all scientific sessions
- Visit the exhibition
- A full set of official publications
- A certificate of attendance
- Attend the lunch symposia and tea refreshments

#### **Identification Badge**

Each participant will receive a badge and a programme book upon check-in. The registration counter is located at entrance of Ballroom. Please wear your identification badge at all times during the event, as it serves as your admission to all scientific sessions, tea refreshments and lunches.

#### **Academic Accreditation**

Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits have been applied from different medical colleges in Hong Kong. To obtain CME accreditation, please signify your attendance at the CME sign-in desk, which is located at the registration counter.

#### **Official Language**

The official language of this meeting is English. No simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

#### **Exhibition**

The exhibits are located at the same floor as meeting venue. The opening hours of the exhibition runs from 12:00–17:00 on 12 May, 2019 and 10:00–15:00 on 13 May, 2019. The 2 lunch symposia are sponsored by Lundbeck and Janssen respectively on12 and 13 May.

#### **Meal Arrangement**

Tea break and lunch will be served in the same meeting venue.

#### Insurance

The organizing committee of the 12th ASM does not responsible for personal accident and/or damage to the property of participants. Participants should make their own arrangement for personal insurance.

#### **Lost and Found**

Please take good care of your personal belongings. Do not leave them unattended. Neither the Meeting Organizer nor the Meeting Secretariat will be responsible for any loss or damage of your personal properties. Should you require any assistance, please contact our staff at the registration counter.

#### Photo Taking, Audio Recording and Video Shooting

No photo taking, audio recording and video shooting are allowed in the meeting rooms unless permission is granted.

#### **Smoking Policy**

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The Langham Hong Kong is a smoke-free premise. No indoor smoking is allowed.

The 12th Annual Scientific Meeting
Hong Kong Society of Biological Psychiatry

## Neural Circuitry: From Brain Development To Intervention – How Far Are We? – Part II

12-13 May 2019 (Sunday and Monday)

The Langham Hong Kong, 8 Peking Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon

### **Acknowledgments**

The Organizing Committee would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the following sponsors for their generous support in making a great success of the 12th ASM.

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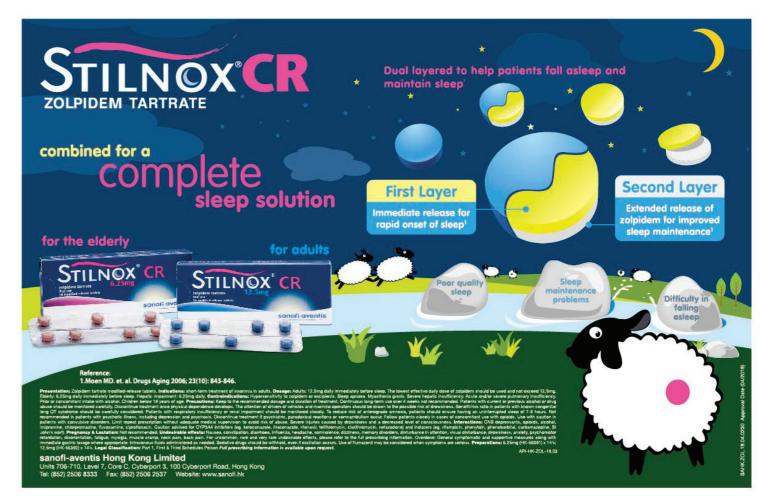
- 73% of patients remained recurrence-free for any mood episode vs 49% on placebo<sup>1,2</sup>
- Reduced the risk of any mood episode recurrence by nearly 50% in a 52-week study<sup>1,2</sup>
- Significantly delayed time to recurrence for a manic episode and mixed episode<sup>1,2</sup>



FDA approved once-monthly\* Long Acting Injectable for the maintenance treatment of Bipolar I Disorder in adult<sup>3</sup>

















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Presentation: Film-coated tablets 5mg, 10mg and 20mg. Indication: Treatment of major depressive episodes in adults. Dosage: Adults: starting and recommended dose is 10mg, once-daily, taken with or without food. Elderly ≥65 years: Starting dose 5mg. Children and adolescents (<18 years): should not be used. Discontinuation: Patients can abruptly stop taking the medicinal product without the need for a gradual reduction in dose. Contraindications: Hypersensitivity to vortioxetine or to any of the excipients. Combination with MAO-inhibitors. Should not be used during pregnancy or lactation unless clearly needed and after careful consideration of the risk/benefit. Special warnings and precautions: Depression is associated with an increased risk of suicidal thoughts, self-harm and suicide. It is a general clinical experience that the risk of suicide may increase in the early stages of recovery. Close supervision of high-risk patients should accompany drug therapy. Patients (and caregivers) should be alerted about the need to monitor for any clinical worsening, suicidal behaviour or thoughts and unusual changes in behaviour and to seek medical advice immediately if these symptoms present. Should be introduced cautiously in patients who have a history of seizure or in patients with unstable epilepsy. Patients should be monitored for the emergence of signs and symptoms of Serotonin Syndrome or Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome. Should be used with caution in patients with a history of mania/hypomania and should be discontinued in any natient entering a mania phase. There have been reports of cutaneous bleeding ratients should be monitored for the emergence of signs and symptoms of serotonin Syndrome of Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome. Should be used with caution in patients with a history of mania/hypomania and should be discontinued in any patient entering a manic phase. There have been reports of cutaneous bleeding abnormalities with the use of SSRIs/SNRIs. Hyponatraemia has been reported rarely with the use of SSRIs/SNRIs Caution should be exercised for patients with renal or hepatic impairment. Interactions: Caution is advised when taken in combination with MAO-inhibitors, serotonergic medicinal products, products lowering the seizure threshold, lithium, tryptophan, St. John's Wort, oral anticoagulants or antiplatelet agents, and products predominantly metabolised by the enzymes CYP2D6, CYP3A4, CYP2C9 and Cytochrome P450. Undesirable effects: Adverse reactions are most frequent during the first or second week of treatment and usually decrease in intensity and frequency with continued treatment. Very common: Nausea. Common: abnormal dreams, dizziness, diarrhoea, constipation, vomiting, pruritus, including pruritus generalised. Uncommon: flushing, night sweats. Unknown: Serotonin Syndrome. Overdose: Symptomatic treatment. Marketing authorisation holder: Lundbeck HK Limited. Revision Date: May 2017. Full prescribing information is available upon request.