香 港 大 學
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Professor KHOO Ui-soon
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Biography

Professor Khoo Ui-soon is a Clinical Professor at the Department of Pathology, Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong. She obtained her medical degree from the National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland before joining The University of Hong Kong where she did her postgraduate pathology specialist training and her higher doctorate in research. Professor Khoo is known for her expertise and research in breast cancer, particularly in molecular genetics and pathobiology. She pioneered the study of breast cancer susceptibility genes, BRCA1 and BRCA2 in Chinese breast and ovarian cancer patients. Her research team has contributed novel findings on genetic susceptibility to breast cancer and potential molecular targets predicting response and the development of resistance to adjuvant therapy to breast cancer.

Tamoxifen is a selective estrogen receptor (ER) modulator. As first-line adjuvant treatment to prevent ER positive breast cancer recurrence, it revolutionised the management of breast cancer. However, almost half these patients develop resistance to tamoxifen treatment over time. Alternative splicing is a key post-transcriptional mechanism resulting in multiple protein products from a single gene. Variants of a given protein due to splicing event can display different and even antagonistic biological functions. Among her achievements has been the identification of a novel alternatively spliced variant BQ to the NCOR2 gene which is associated with development of tamoxifen resistance.

Her current research encompasses the development and characterisation of a monoclonal antibody to this novel BQ variant which will be used for in vitro and in vivo studies to confirm the role of BQ in the development of tamoxifen resistance, the elucidation of the underlying mechanisms and its application as a biomarker for tamoxfen resistance prediction.

Awards and Achievements

2015	Croucher Senior Medical Research Fellowship The Croucher Foundation Hong Kong
2007	Faculty Teaching Medal Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong
1997	Vice-Chancellor Grant The University of Hong Kong
1994	University of Hong Kong/ China Medical Board Grant China Medical Board
1993	Mary Sun Fellowship in Oncology Mary Sun Medical Scholarships Fund
1982	Fellowship Grant Medical Research Council of Ireland
1980	Medical Faculty Scholarship and Prize in Experimental Medicine University College Galway