[Speaker Abstract & Biography]

Speaker Name: Dr. Leong Kok Hoong

Position & Affiliation: Senior Lecturer, Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Title of talk: Betulonic acid triggers apoptosis in chemoresistance leukaemia stem cells and zebrafish model

Synopsis of lecture:

Discovery of agents targeting the leukaemia stem cells (LSCs) is important for cancer therapy. Betulonic acid (BA), a pentacyclic lupane-type triterpenoid, was able to induce the intrinsic apoptosis pathway in LSCs and in a zebrafish model. Therefore, BA could potentially be a lead compound for further development into a chemotherapeutic agent against LSCs.

Biography:

Dr Leong obtained the National Science Fellowship award from the Ministry of Science and Technology, Malaysia to pursue his PhD in Biopharmacy where he did part of his work at the University of Malaya and Hoshi University, Tokyo, Japan. In 2012, he joined the Department of Pharmacy, University of Malaya as a senior lecturer. In 2015, he was a visiting researcher in the Faculty of Medicine, Kyushu University and 2017, he was a visiting lecturer in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Kyushu University. His research focuses on investigating the mechanism of action of potent compounds toward developing new anticancer and antidiabetic agents. His research adopts an *in vitro* approach using cell-based, enzymatic assays and *in vivo* animal models to identify various cellular pathways modulated by potent compounds.

Curriculum Vitae: https://umexpert.um.edu.my/leongkh.html