出國報告(出國類別:演講)

# 表觀基因學在發育及疾病領域之研究: 第九屆亞洲表觀基因體學大會

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#### 摘要

第九屆年度亞洲表觀遺傳學會議將於八月二十五、二十六日於新加坡啟奧城生物醫藥科技園區舉行。此會為大型之國際會議,每年由台灣、新加坡、中國、韓國、日本五個成員國輪流主辦,邀請各國之學者專家報告在表觀遺傳學領域的最新進展,以達到促進國際間相關領域學術合作與研究交流之目的。

表觀遺傳學是在基因序列不變的前提下,研究與其相關修飾機制的學問;例如基因的甲基化與組蛋白的修飾。這些修飾對細胞內各種進程的影響甚鉅,而其調控的失衡亦可能引發疾病或是發育的缺陷。由於定序與微陣列分析技術的進展,表觀遺傳學研究已可針對全基因組進行全面之表觀遺傳修飾分析;這些研究成果將提供更豐富的資訊以了解如癌症和發育等過程。相信由於亞洲各國政府對生醫研究的大力支持,相關研究必可在全球綻放異采!

#### 目的

第九屆年度亞洲表觀基因體學會議於八月二十五、二十六日於新加坡啟奧城生物醫藥科技園區舉行。本會為大型之國際會議,每年由台灣、新加坡、中國、韓國、日本五個成員國輪流主辦,邀請各國之學者專家報告在表觀遺傳學領域的最新進展,以達到促進國際間相關領域學術合作與研究交流之目的。表觀遺傳學是在基因序列不變的前提下,研究與其相關修飾機制的學問;例如基因的甲基化與組蛋白的修飾。這些修飾對細胞內各種進程的影響甚鉅,而其調控的失衡亦可能引發疾病或是發育的缺陷。由於定序與微陣列分析技術的進展,表觀遺傳學研究已可針對全基因組進行全面之表觀遺傳修飾分析,這些研究成果將提供更豐富的資訊以了解如癌症和發育等過程。近年表觀基因學已成生物學最重要且熱門的領域之一,無論是在發育學,幹細胞學,或是癌症生物學,表觀基因調控被為數眾多之研究再三突顯其重要性。亞洲各國近年在表觀基因學均有重要進展,本大會歷屆的講者也都是國際知名的表觀基因學家,水準相當高。

#### 過程

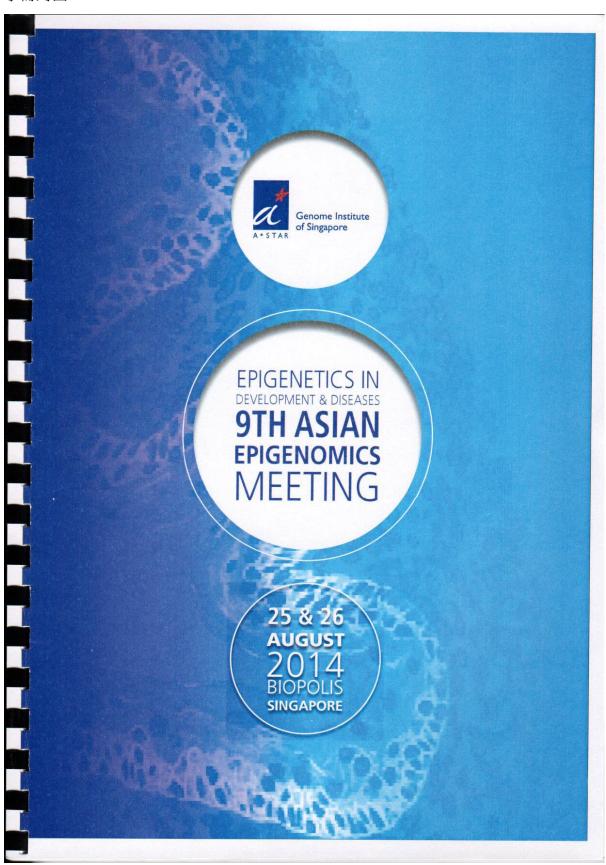
本次會議主辦單位為新加坡基因體研究中心(Genome Institute of Singapore, GIS)。GIS 中心主任 Dr. Ng Huck-Hui 為知名胚胎幹細胞學者,他的胚胎幹細胞表觀基因體研究在國際間享有盛名。本次報告分為五大主題,包括癌症的表觀基因研究,表觀基因調控機制,表觀基因學與疾病,表觀基因體學,以及幹細胞表觀基因學。本人為台灣三位受邀講者之一(另兩位為中研院分生所沈哲鯤院士,中研院基因體中心阮麗容研究員),於癌症的表觀基因研究發表演講。我在大會中報告我近年在癌症轉移的研究成果,主要針對癌細胞透過發生上皮細胞間質轉化(epithelial-mesenchymal transition, EMT),對微型 RNA 及組蛋白調控,誘發癌症轉移之發生。演講內容獲得不錯之回響,也有許多各國學者於會後或休息時間和我討論研究內容或未來合作之可能性。

#### 心得及建議

本會議兩天的內容相當豐富,其中令我印象最為深刻的是美國哈佛大學教授張毅博士的演講。張教授是世界 DNA 去甲基化研究的權威,本次演講他發表 Tet 引發 5mC 氧化之最新發現,令人嘆為觀止。另外,韓國學者 Hong-Duk Youn 發表 Ctbp2 在胚胎幹細胞誘發組蛋白修飾之最新機制,中國科學院李國洪教授發表染色質結構的分析研究,中國科學院徐國良教授發表 DNA 氧化在生物體發育基因調控的重要性,均為非常具啟發性之演講。台灣學者沈哲鯤院士的演講也非常精采,他提到 DNA 轉甲基酶 DNMT 透過細胞內鈣離子濃度,可產生去甲基酶之活性,為非常具有創意且重要之研究。阮麗容研究員則發現組蛋白轉甲基酶在被醣化後會改變其穩定度,進而調控標的基因之表現已以影響癌細胞的特性,將目前最熱門的兩大領域:表觀基因學與醣生物學做重要的連結。

本次會議非常具啟發性,更令我相當震撼的是亞洲各國表觀基因學的水準已臻世界一流,尤其主辦單位 GIS 無論是在硬體,研究以及人員素質方面,均可稱是世界頂尖,短短數年內已發表相當數量之重量級研究論文於 Nature,Cell,Cell Stem Cell 等頂尖期刊。主辦單位的熱情款待,以及與各國學者間的交流均令人印象深刻。因我本身是癌症研究人員,主要領域並非表觀基因學的基礎研究,本次大會讓我有機會認識許多亞洲甚至是世界頂尖的表觀基因學家,希望未來能有更多機會與各國表觀基因學專家合作,開拓研究領域並提升研究水準。

**附件** 手冊封面



### Muh-Hwa YANG

Professor, Institute of Clinical Medicine, National Yang-Ming University, Taipei, Taiwan



Dr. Muh-Hwa Yang received his M.D. degrees from National Yang-Ming University of Taiwan. Then he received his clinical training as a medical oncologist at Taipei Veterans General Hospital of Taiwan. After completing the medical training, Dr. Yang received scientific training at Prof. Kou-Juey Wu's lab and obtained his Ph.D. degree from National Yang-Ming University of Taiwan. Dr. Yang joined the Institute of Clinical Medicine of National Yang-Ming University since 2007 as an assistant professor. Then he was promoted to associate professor in 2010 and to full professor in 2013. His laboratory focuses on the pleiotropic roles of epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT) in cancer metastasis. His group first found that the EMT inducer Twist1 directly regulates the expression of the polycomb group protein Bmi1 to promote stemness of cancer cells. He further showed that Twist1 represses microRNA let-7i, which results in RAC1 activation and cancer cell migration. Recently, his laboratory identified a mechanism responsible for EMT-mediated cancer stem cells expansion through guiding the symmetrical cell division. Now he is interested in the interplay between host cells and cancer cells during EMT-mediated cancer reprogramming. Dr. Yang has published near 100 papers about basic and clinical cancer researches in scientific journals.

#### EPIGENETIC AND MICRORNA DEREGULATIONS IN EPITHELIAL-MESENCHYMAL TRANSITION OF CANCER CELLS

Epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT) is a process in which epithelial cells lose their polarity and acquire the migratory properties of mesenchymal cells, and it has been shown to be a pivotal process during cancer metastasis.

Epigenetic and microRNA deregulations are extensively involved in different stages of cancer metastasis. Here, we investigate the role of the major EMT inducers Twist1 and Snail in epigenetic and microRNA regulation of cancer cells. We first identify that Twist1 directly activates the transcription of BMI1, which is a polycomb group protein and maintains selfrenewal of stem cells. Twist1 interacts with BMI1 to cooperatively repress the expression of CDH1 and p16INK4A through enriching H3K27me3 on the regulatory region. We further show that microRNA let-7i is the newly-identified target gene repressed by the Twist1-BMI1 complex. Several previously unknown targets of let-7i are found in our study, including the RAC1 co-activators NEDD9 and DOCK3, and a mitotic kinase Aurora A. Repression of let-7i by Twist1 subsequently induces the expression of these genes, which generates migrating cancer stem cells. In addition to Twist1, we also uncover the deregulation of microRNAs induced by other EMT inducer Snail. Using miR-sequencing strategy, we identify that Snail induces the expression of miR-146a. Functionally, miR-146a engenders symmetrical cell division of cancer stem cells through targeting the cell-fate determinant Numb to activate Wnt pathway. This event leads to the expansion of stem cells pool and eventually promotes cancer progression. In summary, our findings suggest the crucial role of epigenetic and microRNA deregulations in EMT, and also highlight the pleiotropic effects of EMT inducers in cancer metastasis.