

Date: Monday September 12th, 2022

Time: 9:30-10:30AM

Speakers:

Dr. Poul Sorensen

Dr. Haifeng Zhang

Moderator: Dr. Anne Steino

Dr. Poul Sorensen

Title: Adventures in Translational Medicine
Research in Germany: The Power of Networks and
an Unusual Sabbatical

Talk Summary: A 4-month sabbatical in Munich ended up providing very different insights into translational medicine in Germany than originally intended. This talk will discuss some of the translational lessons learned in Germany and the impact and power of inter-disciplinary and international research networks.

Dr. Haifeng Zhang

Title: Identification of Oncogene-induced Surface
Protein IL1RAP as An Immunotherapy Target in
Multiple Cancers

Talk Summary:

We identified IL1RAP as a highly expressed cell surface protein in multiple human malignancies, but minimally expressed in pediatric and adult normal tissues and blood cells, nominating IL1RAP as a promising surface target for immunotherapy. We have developed IL1RAP CAR-T cells and anti-IL1RAP antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs) for cancer immunotherapy.



Speaker

Dr. Poul Sorensen

MD, PhD, Director, Academy of Translational Medicine
Professor, Dept. of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine
Distinguished Scientist, Johal Chair in Childhood Cancer
Research

Dr. Poul Sorensen is a Professor of Medicine at UBC where he holds the Johal Chair in Childhood Cancer Research. Dr. Sorensen's research program is at the BC Cancer Research Centre, where he is a Distinguished Scientist. Dr. Sorensen is an international expert in the biology of childhood solid tumors. Dr. Sorensen's seminal discovery of the ETV6-NTRK3 gene fusion in childhood sarcomas and secretory breast cancer, a "made-at-UBC" finding, marked the first reported evidence that NTRK fusions are recurrent alterations in human tumors, now estimated to occur in ~1% of human cancers. This prompted development of Larotrectinib as a pan-NTRK inhibitor, recently approved by the FDA and Health Canada. He has won a UBC Killam Research Prize, the Robert L. Noble Prize for basic cancer research, the Bloom Burton Prize for health care innovation, the LSBC Aubrey Tingle Prize, and he is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. In 2021, Dr. Poul Sorensen received the Order of British Columbia, the Province's highest form of recognition.

Zoom Instructions:

1. Open [at this link](#)
2. Enter **693 6200 8112** as the ID
3. Enter **945305** as the password

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*Please ensure that your mic is off for the duration of the presentation, questions posted in the chat box will be addressed near the end.

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Contact us:

translational.medicine@ubc.ca



Speaker

Haifeng Zhang, PhD

Research Associate, Dept. Molecular Oncology, BC Cancer
Dept. Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, UBC

Dr. Haifeng Zhang is a Research Associate in Dr. Poul Sorensen's laboratory in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of British Columbia. His research is conducted in BC Cancer Research Centre. Dr. Zhang obtained his PhD degree in cancer biology from the University of Alberta with a full scholarship from Li Ka Shing Foundation. Dr. Zhang is the recipient of a fellowship from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and a trainee award from Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR) partnered with the Lotte and John Hecht Memorial Foundation. During his postdoc, Dr. Zhang's research uncovered a novel metastatic driver and promising immunotherapy target in Ewing sarcoma and other pediatric cancers. Currently, Dr. Zhang is working with the St. Baldrick's Foundation – Stand Up 2 Cancer "Pediatric Cancer Immunotherapy Dream Team" to develop immunotherapy strategies for treating those cancers.