

CURRENT POSTGRADUATE STUDENT

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PROGRAM	PhD in Surgery	
DATE OF REGISTRATION	1 August 2019	
SUPERVISOR	Professor Nathalie Wong	
FIELD OF RESEARCH / INTENDED THESIS TITLE	Immuno-oncology in hepatocellular carcinoma	
KEYWORDS FOR RESEARCH	Hepatocellular carcinoma, Immuno-oncology, Tumour-intrinsic oncogene pathways	
	1	

RESEARCH STUDY:

Recent evidence indicated a number of tumour-intrinsic oncogene pathways in T cell exclusion and immune evasion of cancers. My study aims to investigate the role of tumour-intrinsic Wnt/ β -catenin and PTEN/PI3K pathways in controlling the expression of chemoattractants in hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) that influence T cells, and other immune cells, migration into the tumour site. I will conduct comprehensive analyses to examine the cellular phenotypes and mechanistic actions of β -catenin gain-of-function and PTEN loss-of-function in immune avoidance of HCC. By identifying genetic aberrations related to the immune suppressed tumour microenvironment and the combinatory effects of Wnt inhibitors, PTEN agonists and immune checkpoint blockage, we hope to contribute in improving the current treatment methods of HCC.

CONFERENCE TITLE / ABSTRACT / POSTER: