

CSCB Virtual Seminar Series

Targeting transcriptional addiction in advanced cancer.

Date: 17th January 2022 (Monday)

Time: 11am (SGT)

[EST: 16th January 2022 (Sunday), 10pm]

Venue: *via Zoom*

For details, please contact:

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Abstract:

Prostate cancer (PCa) is the second most common cancer in men worldwide, and the eighth leading cause of cancer-related deaths. Androgen Receptor (AR) has remained the major therapeutic target in prostate cancer. While there has been much excitement around the development and successful clinical implementation of second-generation anti-androgen therapeutics directly targeting the AR, such as abiraterone (blocking androgen synthesis) and enzalutamide (AR antagonist), for metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC), the responses to these agents are not durable. AR-driven transcriptional addiction defines a vast majority of advanced refractory disease, where it functions in a complex with other cofactors and chromatin-associated proteins. There remains an impending need for effective treatments targeting not only AR and but also these associated proteins for effective disease management. Therefore, the major unresolved challenges of prostate cancer research include: (1) to understand the mechanistic basis of continued AR addiction in refractory CRPC, (2) to identify mediators of AR transcriptional signaling (3) to identify prognostic biomarkers that can discriminate between aggressive and indolent disease and; (4) to identify novel therapeutic targets in anti-androgen refractory metastatic disease. Since its inception in late 2015, my research program at UPenn has actively pursued these challenging questions.

Speaker:



Dr. Irfan A. Asangani, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Department of Cancer Biology

Assistant Investigator, Abramson Family Cancer Research Institute

Core Member, Penn Epigenetics Institute

Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Born and raised in India, **Asangani** received his MS in Biochemistry from the University of Madras, India, and Ph.D. in cancer biology (*summa cum laude*) from Heidelberg University in Germany. He trained as a postdoctoral fellow with Dr. Arul Chinnaiyan at the Michigan Center for Translational Pathology, University of Michigan, USA. He joined the University of Pennsylvania as an assistant professor in October 2015. Asangani has received multiple honors, including the Prostate Cancer Foundation Young Investigator Award and Society for Basic Urologic Research Young Investigator Award.

Host:

Suhail Ahmed Kabeer Rasheed

Adjunct Assistant Professor

Programme in Cancer & Stem Cell Biology

Duke-NUS Medical School

Singapore

**No registration is required.
All are welcome.**