



Artesunate for Cancer Therapy

Prof. Thomas EFFERTH

Professor Dr. Prof. h. c. mult.

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DATE	: 16 June 2016, Thursday (including Q & A session)
TIME	: 1100 – 1230
VENUE	: SCM809
LANGUAGE	: English
FACILITATOR	: Prof. LU Aiping

Speaker

Prof. Thomas EFFERTH is biologist by training (Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany). His doctoral thesis was completed at the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg, Germany (1990). Dr. Efferth was awarded the Ludolf-Krehl-Prize of the Southwest German Association for Medicine (1991), the Willmar-Schwabe-Award of the German Society for Medicinal Plant Research (2006), the citizen medal of the City of Heidelberg, Germany (2008), the CESAR Award for Translational Oncology (2011), and the SCENTEDdrop Award on medicinal and fragrant herbs (2015). He headed a research group for Pharmaceutical Biology at DKFZ (2005-2009) and was associate professor (apl) at the University of Heidelberg (2007-2009). In 2009, he took over the Chair of Pharmaceutical Biology (full professorship) at the Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz. Furthermore, he is honorary professor at the Northeast Forestry University, Harbin, and at the Zhejiang Chinese Medical University, Hangzhou, China. Moreover, he is visiting professor at the Zhejiang University of Science and Technology, Hangzhou, China.

Thomas Efferth has published more than 400 PubMed-listed papers and in peer-reviewed journals in the field of cancer research, pharmacology, and natural products (Hirsch-factor: 51; citation rate: >10,000) and a textbook on 'Molecular Pharmacology and Toxicology' (Springer Publisher; 2006). He holds 7 patents. The scientific results were communicated in over 150 oral presentation and invited lectures and over 150 poster presentations at national and international conferences and meetings. He is editor-in-chief, co-editor, associate editor and editorial board member of 30 scientific journals and scientific advisory board member of the German Pharmaceutical Society and several other institutions. Seven of his former lab members promoted to associate or assistant professors.

The focus of Dr. Efferth's research is on tumor pharmacology and the development of novel options for treatment and diagnosis of cancer. A major topic is research on natural products derived from medicinal plants:

1. Molecular pharmacology and toxicology of natural products. Drug resistance and severe side effects represent major obstacles of current chemotherapy. Therefore, novel compounds from plants with anticancer activity need to be identified. The aims are (a) the identification of novel compounds with improved therapeutic properties against drug-resistant tumors and the analysis of underlying molecular modes of action. A current research project focuses on chemically pure compounds derived from medicinal plants and their molecular analysis.

2. Genome-wide expression profiling and genomic aberrations in tumors. Drug resistance of tumor cells reduces the probability for patients to be cured and reduce survival. The knowledge of determinants which affect drug responsiveness of tumors and prognosis of patients would allow the design tailor-made treatment protocols for each individual patient. The aim is to develop techniques for the predictive determination for individualized therapy options and the implementation of natural products for treatment.

****All are Welcome****