

**Mini-symposium on
Neurodegenerative Aggregation Diseases**

**Thursday, October 6, 2016
Rm 128, Science Centre, The Chinese University of Hong Kong**

Time	Speaker	Title
9:15	Prof. Michael K Chan	Introductory Comments
9:20	Prof. Edwin HY Chan	The role of gene transcription dysregulation in apoptosis induction in polyglutamine diseases
10:05	Dr. Rita PY Chen	Exploring protein misfolding mechanism: Secret of the α -to- β structural conversion of prion protein
10:50	Prof. Jerry CC Chan	Chemically controlled aggregation of β -amyloid peptides
11:35	Prof. Stephan Witt	α -Synuclein - A possible regulator of iron homeostasis in cells
12:20	END	

Details of External Speakers

Prof. Edwin HY Chan, Professor

School of Life Sciences, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, Hong Kong SAR

Prof. Chan research focuses on the investigation of the pathogenic pathways of spinocerebellar ataxias (SCAs), a group of degenerative brain diseases, using animal experimental models including fruitfly *Drosophila* and mouse.

Dr. Rita PY Chen, Associate Research Fellow

Institute of Biological Chemistry, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan

Prof. Chen's research is focused on studying protein folding and misfolding behaviors in order to answer how proteins can fold into its native structure and how certain proteins can misfold and cause disease. Studies about protein folding are mainly the development of new methodologies to explore the folding process in order to unravel the intrinsic folding properties. Studies about protein misfolding are focus on two diseases: prion disease and Alzheimer's disease. We are interested in studying the mechanism of amyloid fibril formation, factors influencing molecular assembly, designing inhibitor for amyloid formation, and species barrier in prion disease.

Prof. Jerry CC Chan, Professor

Department of Chemistry, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan

Prof. Chan's research centers on protein misfolding and biomineralization. Current research themes include the control of protein aggregation pathway, the study of protein-mineral interactions, and the development of high-resolution techniques in solid-state nuclear magnetic resonance.

Prof. Stephan Witt, Professor and Interim Head

Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center Shreveport, USA

Prof. Witt's research encompasses the areas of molecular chaperones, Parkinson's disease, and melanoma. His lab conducts research on the mechanism of toxicity of the Parkinson's disease-related protein called α -synuclein. One goal is to identify novel therapeutics that can prevent death of dopaminergic neurons in PD. A second goal is to elucidate the function of α -synuclein in melanomas.