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BIO-Sketch of Vera Sau-Fong CHAN





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Biography

Dr. Vera SF Chan is a cellular immunologist. In receiving the Croucher Foundation Scholarship, She obtained her PhD training in the area of T cell immunology in autoimmunity at the University of Oxford, UK. Dr. Chan then continued post-doctoral training to study T cell activation and tolerance mechanisms in autoimmunity at the Ontario Cancer Institute, University of Toronto with the support of the Croucher Foundation Fellowship. In 2006, she was recruited as a Lecturer at Imperial College London, UK and in 2010, she re-joined her alma mater in Department of Medicine, the University of Hong Kong. Over the years, Dr. Chan has broadened her research interest in innate receptors, specifically in the role of the C-type lectin pathogen receptors DC-SIGN and L-SIGN in infectious diseases. She is currently an Assistant Professor in the Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, with the research focus on the cellular immuno-dysregulation in lupus pathogenesis and innate receptor immunology.



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Research Interest and expertise

- ❖ Innate receptors in autoimmunity: understanding the interactions of C-type lectin receptors and Toll-like receptors and their roles in autoimmune diseases
- ❖ Mechanistic studies on cellular immuno-dysregulation in SLE
- ❖ Development of humanized-mouse models for autoimmune diseases pathogenesis study and for testing new therapeutics
- ❖ Development of immuno-therapeutics for treatment of SLE



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Academic Awards:

- ✓ 1998-2000 - The Croucher Foundation (Hong Kong) Fellowship
- ✓ 1997-1998 - The Edward Jenner Institute for Vaccine Research (UK) Studentship
- ✓ 1994-1997- The Croucher Foundation (Hong Kong) Scholarship
- ✓ 1993-1994 - The Hong Kong-Oxford Scholarship Fund Bursaries for Post-graduate



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Publications

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- Chan VS, Nie YJ, Shen N, Yan S, Mok MY, and Lau CS. Distinct roles of myeloid and plasmacytoid dendritic cells in systemic lupus erythematosus. *Autoimmunity Rev.* **2012**, 11:890-897
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- Chan KY, Xu MS, Ching JC, So TM, Lai ST, Chu CM, Yam LY, Wong AT, Chung PH, Chan VS, Lin CL, Sham PC, Leung GM, Peiris JS and Khoo US. CD209 (DC-SIGN) - 336A>G promoter polymorphism and severe acute respiratory syndrome in Hong Kong Chinese. *Hum Immunol.* **2010**, 71:702-707.
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- To YF, Sun RW, Chen Y, Chan VS*, Yu WY, Tam PK, Che CM, and Lin CL. Gold(III) porphyrin complex is more potent than cisplatin in inhibiting growth of nasopharyngeal carcinoma in vitro and in vivo. *Int J Cancer* **2008**, 124:1971-1979 (***corresponding author**)
- Cheung WH, Chan VS, Pang HW, Wong MK, Guo ZH, Tam PK, Che CM, Lin CL, and Yu WY. Conjugation of Latent Membrane Protein (LMP)-2 Epitope to Gold Nanoparticles as Highly Immunogenic Multiple Antigenic Peptides for Induction of Epstein-Barr Virus-Specific Cytotoxic T-Lymphocyte Responses in Vitro. *Bioconjugate Chem* **2008**, 20:24–31
- Khoo US, Chan KY, Chan VS, Ching JC, Yam L, Chu CM, Lai ST, Wong TY, Tam P, Yip SP, Leung GM, Lin CL, Peiris JS. Role of polymorphisms of the inflammatory response genes and DC-SIGNR in genetic susceptibility to SARS and other infections. *Hong Kong Med J.* **2008**, 14 Suppl 4:31-5.
- Chen, Y*, Chan VS*, Zheng B, Chan KY, Xu X, To YF, Huang FP, Khoo US and Lin CL. A novel subset of putative stem/progenitor CD34+Oct-4+ cells is the major target for SARS coronavirus in human lung. *J Exp Med* **2007**, 204:2529-2536. (***equal contribution**)
- Chan KY, Ching JC, Xu MS, Cheung AN, Yip SP, Yam LY, Lai ST, Chu CM, Wong AT, Song YQ, Huang FP, Liu W, Chung PH, Leung GM, Chow EY, Chan EY, Chan JC, Ngan HY, Tam P, Chan LC, Sham P, Chan VS, Peiris M, Lin SC, and Khoo US. Association of ICAM3 genetic variant with severe acute respiratory syndrome. *J Infect Dis* **2007**, 196:271-280.
- Chan VS, Chau S, Tian L, Chen Y, Kwong SKY, Quackenbush J, Dallman M, Lamb J and Tam PKH. Sonic hedgehog promotes CD4+ lymphocyte proliferation and modulates the expression of a subset of CD28 targeted genes. *Int Immunol* **2006**, 18:1627-1636.
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Publications cont...

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- Lui VC, Tam PK, Leung MY, Lau JY, Chan JK, Chan VS, Dallman M and Cheah KS. Mammary gland-specific secretion of biologically active immunosuppressive agent cytotoxic-T-lymphocyte antigen 4 human immunoglobulin fusion protein (CTLA4Ig) in milk by transgenesis. *J Immunol Methods* **2003**, 277:171-183.
- Chan VS, Wong C, and Ohashi PS. Calcineurin A-alpha plays an exclusive role in TCR signaling in mature but not in immature T cells. *Eur J Immunol* **2002**, 32:1223-1229.
- Bertram EM, Tafuri A, Shahinian A, Chan VS, Hunziker L, Recher M, Ohashi PS, Mak TW and Watts TH. Role of ICOS versus CD28 in antiviral immunity. *Eur J Immunol* **2002**, 32:3376-3385.
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- Vowles C, Chan VS and Bodmer HC. Subtle effects on myelin basic protein-specific T cell responses can lead to a major reduction in disease susceptibility in experimental allergic encephalomyelitis. *J Immunol* **2000**, 165:75-82.



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Research Grant

- ✓ General Research Fund, HKRGC: The role of regulatory microRNAs in plasmacytoid dendritic cell functions in systemic lupus erythematosus immunopathogenesis. 2013-15(co-I; HK\$692,826)
- ✓ Seed Funding for Basic Research, HKU: Molecular profiling of pathogenic dendritic cells development in systemic lupus erythematosus. 2012-13 (PI, for HK\$61,100)
- ✓ General Research Fund, HKRGC: Functional characterization of the novel C-type lectinlike receptor CLEC16A and its expression association in systemic lupus erythematosus.2011-2014 (PI, for HK\$ 980,000)
- ✓ Seed funding for Basic Research, University of Hong Kong: Development of a humanized mouse systemic lupus erythematosus model for studying disease pathogenesis and evaluation of therapeutic treatment efficacy. 2011-2013 (PI, for HK\$120,000).



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Research Grant

- ✓ Hammersmith Hospital Trustees' Research Committee Grant, UK: Differentiation and development of lung stem/progenitor cells from human embryonic cell line – a model for studying pathogenesis for SARS and H5N1 infection. 2008-2009 (**PI**, for £10,000).
- ✓ CRCG, University of Hong Kong: The study of co-stimulatory function of sonic hedgehog in CD4+ T lymphocytes. 2003-2004 (Co-I, for HK\$68,000).
- ✓ SARS Fund, University of Hong Kong: The effect of SARS-associated coronavirus Spike protein on immune regulation of SARS. 2003 (Co-I, for HK\$150,000)



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- Internal Medicine: Open Access
- General Medicine: Open Access
- Journal of Vascular Medicine & Surgery





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