FACULTY OF SCIENCE
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
香港大學理學院

HKU Distinguished Lecture Series:

Treatment of Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia with All-trans Retinoic Acid and Arsenic Trioxide: A Model of Cancer Synergistic Targeted Therapy

Professor Zhu CHEN
Member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences
Professor at Ruijin Hospital, Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine
2026 Shaw Prize Laureate in Life Science and Medicine



About the speaker

Professor Zhu Chen is a distinguished haematologist and molecular biologist. Born in Shanghai, Professor Chen obtained his master's degree from Shanghai Second Medical University (now Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine) and his doctoral degree from the University of Paris VII.

Internationally recognised for his pioneering contributions to cancer research, Professor Chen played a leading role in developing a combination therapy using all-trans retinoic acid (ATRA) and arsenic trioxide for acute promyelocytic leukaemia (APL). This breakthrough transformed a once highly fatal form of leukaemia into one of the most curable cancers, with cure rates exceeding 90%. He has also made significant contributions to human genomics, including China's Human Genome Project.

He is a Member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, a Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Medicine, and a Foreign Member of the Royal Society. He is also a Foreign Associate of the French Academy of Sciences and a Member *Honoris Causa* of the National Academy of Medicine of France, among other prestigious international academies.

His other major honours include the 2025 Princess Chulabhorn Award, the 2018 Sjöberg Prize, the 2016 Ernest Beutler Lecture and Prize, and the 2012 Szent-Györgyi Prize for Progress in Cancer Research.

Lecture overview

Once one of the most fatal forms of blood cancer, acute promyelocytic leukaemia (APL) has become one of the most curable, thanks to pioneering advances in targeted therapy. Professor Zhu Chen's groundbreaking work combining all-trans retinoic acid (ATRA) and arsenic trioxide has transformed APL treatment, offering a powerful model of how synergistic targeted therapies can improve cancer outcomes.

November 12, 2026 (Thu)
10:15 – 11:30 am (HKT)

CPD 1.21, Run Run Shaw Tower, Centennial Campus, HKU

Registration: