

MEDIA RELEASE

Centenary researchers chosen to present at prestigious Young Scientists Exchange Program in China

Researchers from the Centenary Institute (based at the heart of the University of Sydney and royal Prince Alfred Hospital), Dr. Justin Wong and Dr, Stefan Oehlers, have been carefully chosen from a highly competitive field of scientists to represent Australia at the prestigious Australia-China Young Scientist Exchange Program in China. Only 16 Australians were selected to participate in the program, held from the 30th October – 11th November, 2016.

Our researchers will make vital international connections and open up new opportunities for fundraising to support their important work at the Centenary Institute. Dr Wong and Dr Oehlers are a clear choice to represent Australia, with a strong set of achievements to date, respectively.

Dr Justin Wong, an Associate Faculty Member of the Centenary Institute, has achieved research excellence in the last 10 years with high profile publications including New England Journal of Medicine, Gut and Cancer Cell, Cell and Nucleic Acids Research, Nature Structural and Molecular Biology, Nature Communications and Blood. Dr Wong currently holds a Cancer Institute of NSW Fellowship and several grants including an NHMRC Project and a NSW Collaborative Genomics Grant. He heads the Gene Regulation in Cancer Lab that focuses on elucidating the epigenetic mechanisms which control gene expression and alternative splicing in normal and cancer cells.

Dr Stefan Oehlers also has a long list of achievements. As an overseas CJ Martin Fellow at Duke University Medical Center, Dr Stefan Oehlers has uncovered a previously unconsidered role for blood vessels in driving the growth of TB during infection. This work was published in the prestigious journals Nature and The Journal of

Infectious Diseases. He moved to the Centenary Institute this year to continue his research using the zebrafish model of tuberculosis infection and translate these findings into new treatments for multi drug resistant TB.

Our scientists will visit a number of internationally recognized institutions, during the exchange, including; the Institute of Zoology (Chinese Academy of Sciences), Institute of Pathogen Biology (Peking Union Medical College), Institute of Neuroscience (Chinese Academy of Sciences), Shanghai Pulmonary Hospital (Tongji University), and Shanghai Medical College (Fudan University), Shanghai Institute of Biochemistry and Cell Biology (Chinese Academy of Sciences) and Biodynamic Optical Imaging Centre (Peking University).

The Centenary Institute congratulates Dr Wong and Dr Oehlers in their involvement in this international program.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Jessica Bowditch, Media and Communications Manager,
0421983393

J.bowditch@centenary.org.au

To find out more about the Centenary Institute's life saving medical research please visit www.centenary.org.au

For further information about the Centenary Institute's T Cell Biology Program visit www.centenary.org.au