**The 1st Scientific Meeting of the Academy of Cardiovascular Research Excellence (ACRE) Canada**

**Brain and Heart Interactions in Cardiovascular Health and Disease**

**Conference Room, Ottawa Heart Institute, Ottawa, Canada**

**June 29 - July 1, 2023**

**Organizers**: Wenbin Liang (Ottawa Heart Institute), Peter Liu (Ottawa Heart Institute), Qingping Feng (Western University)

**Organizing Committee Members**: Ren-Ke Li (U of Toronto), Tianqing Peng (UWO), Burton Yang (U of Toronto), Guang Sun (Memorial U), Dake Qi (U of Manitoba), Guangdong Yang (Laurentian U), Dawei Zhang (U of Alberta), Ying Wang (UBC), Hongbin Li (UBC), Xi-Long Zheng (U of Calgary), Hong-Shuo Sun (U of Toronto), Zhong-Ping Feng (U of Toronto), Zhuxu Zhang (UWO), Heyu Ni (U of Toronto)

**Sponsors**: University of Ottawa Heart Institute

Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America (SCBA) Toronto Chapter

**Preliminary Program**

Thursday, June 29, 2023

Conference Registration

SCBA Toronto Chapter symposium

Friday, June 30, 2023

9:00 – 9:05 AM Opening remarks, Wenbin Liang and Qingping Feng

9:05 – 9:10 AM Remarks from Peter Liu, Director of Ottawa Heart Institute

9:10 – 9:20 AM Remarks from immediate past and present presidents of ACRE USA, Jiang Chang (Texas A&M University) and Xuejun Wang (U of South Dakota)

**SESSION I: Cardiac disease**

Chairs: Tianqing Peng and Dawei Zhang

9:20 – 9:40 AM Conductive biomaterial reduces cardiac arrhythmia. Ren-Ke Li (University of Toronto)

9:40 – 10:00 AM Targeting circular RNA circNlgn in cardiac remodeling and fibrosis. Burton Yang, University of Toronto

10:00 – 10:20 AM The mechanism of necroptosis and its effect on cardiac allograft rejection. Zhuxu Zhang, Western University

10:20 – 10:40 AM D-dopachrome tautomerase (DDT) regulates myocardial ischemia-reperfusion injury associated with metabolic dysfunction. Dake Qi, University of Manitoba

10:40 – 10:55 AM Refreshment Break and poster viewing

**SESSION II: Brain-Heart Interactions and Cardiac Disease**

Chairs: Peter Liu and Ren-Ke Li

10:55 – 11:15 AM Inflammation in cardio-brain diseases: the vessel wall sees it all. Katey Rayer, University of Ottawa

11:15 – 11:35 AM Autism and vascular bases of neurodevelopmental disorders. Baptiste Lacoste, University of Ottawa

11:35 – 11:55 PM Ion Channels and Potential Mechanism for Higher Risk of Heart and Brain Events in Diabetes. Hong-Shuo Sun, University of Toronto

11:55 – 12:15 PM Calcium mechanisms involved in cardiac and neural disorders. Zhong-Ping Feng, University of Toronto

12:15 – 12:35 PM Junctophilin-2 promotes cardiomyocyte survival by blocking MURF1-mediated Junctin ubiquitination and proteasome-dependent degradation. Tianqing Peng, Western University

12:35 – 1:20 PM Box Lunch and trainee poster presentation

**SESSION III: Trainee Presentations**

Chairs: Burton Yang and Wenbin Liang

1:20 – 1:30 PM Innate Immunity in Viral Myocarditis: Role of cGAS-STING Pathway, Yasir Mohamud, PDF, University of British Columbia

1:30 – 1:40 PM Trainee 2

1:40 – 1:50 PM Trainee 3

1:50 – 2:00 PM Trainee 4

2:00 – 2:10 PM Trainee 5

2:10 – 2:20 PM Trainee 6

2:20 – 2:35 PM Refreshment Break and poster viewing

**SESSION IV: Molecular Mechanism of Cardiovascular Disease**

Chairs: Ying Wang and Guang Sun

2:35 – 2:55 PM Decoding PCSK9's Impact on Smooth Muscle Health and the Progression of Vascular Disease. Xi-Long Zheng, University of Calgary

2:55 – 3:15 PM Deficiency of cystathionine gamma-lyase promotes aortic elastolysis and medial degeneration. Guangdong Yang (Laurentian University)

3:15 – 3:35 PM Characterizing atherosclerosis at the molecular level to improve treatment outcome of anti-inflammatory therapies. Ying Wang (University of British Columbia)

3:35 – 3:55 PM Anti-thrombotic therapies. Heyu Ni, University of Toronto

**SESSION V: Keynote Presentation**

Chair: Qingping Feng

3:55 – 4:40 PM Keynote Speaker, Dr. Peter Liu, Chief Scientific Officer and Vice President of Research at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute

4:40 – 4:50 PM Trainee Poster Award presentation

4:50 – 4:55 PM Closing remarks, Ren-Ke Li

4:55 – 5:00 PM Conference Photo

6:00 – 9:00 PM Conference Dinner (Restaurant to be determined)

Saturday, July 1, 2023

9:00 – 11:00 AM ACRE Canada Business Meeting