8:30-9:00 A.M.  
REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00 - 9:15 A.M.  
WELCOME DEAN MARILYN SPEEDIE

9:15 - 9:45 a.m  
**Anti-cancer Drug Discovery based on Chinese Medicine Mai-Dong**

Received Ph.D. in Pharmacognosy in 1989 from China Pharmaceutical University. Now, as a Professor of China Pharmaceutical University Dean, School of Chinese Pharmacy Director, Jiangsu Key Lab of Evaluation and Translational Research for Chinese Medicines. Research interest: Evaluation and quality control of Chinese Medicines, Biotransformation research on natural products, Drug discovery from Natural Medicines. More than 30 projects from National or Provinces are ongoing or have been finished. Over 200 papers were published on international journals. 30 invention patents were granted. 11 achievements in scientific research Award of National Science and Technology by the P. R. China government or provinces.

Dr. Boyang Yu, China Pharmaceutical University

9:45 - 10:15 a.m.  
**HDL Mimetic Peptides as Anti-Inflammatory Agents and Beyond: From Heart to Brain**

A Professor in the Department of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology and the VFW Endowed Chair in Pharmacotherapy for the Elderly in the College of Pharmacy at the University of MN. Dr. Li also has joint faculty appointments in the Neuroscience and Pharmacology graduate programs in the Medical School of UMN. The research in Dr. Li’s laboratory has been focused on the connections between cardiovascular disease and Alzheimer’s disease – pathogenic mechanisms and therapeutic strategies using transgenic and knockout mouse models. Current research in the Li laboratory include: the role of cholesterol, isoprenoids, and protein prenylation in the pathogenesis of Alzheimer’s disease; structure and function of HDL and its associated apolipoproteins, and HDL-mimetic peptides in cerebrovascular amyloidosis and Alzheimer’s disease; the relationship between insulin resistance/diabetes and Alzheimer’s disease; the role of systemic and neuro-inflammation/innate immunity in the development of Alzheimer’s disease; and the therapeutic potential of natural/synthetic anti-inflammatory and anti-cancer drugs for Alzheimer’s disease.

Dr. Ling Li, University of Minnesota

10:15-10:30 A.M.  
BREAK
Will Neoadjuvant Clinical Trials Improve Breast Cancer Outcomes?

Heather Beckwith, M.D. graduated from the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse (2002) in the field of Microbiology. She completed medical school at the Medical College of Wisconsin (2006). She went on to complete an Internal Medicine residency (2009) and a Fellowship in Hematology and Medical Oncology at the University of Minnesota (2012).

Currently, Dr. Beckwith is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology, Oncology, and Transplantation at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Beckwith specializes in the treatment and management of breast cancer. She is committed to basic and translational research in the breast cancer field. Dr. Beckwith’s laboratory research focuses on the role of growth factors, such as insulin and growth hormone, in the development and progression of estrogen receptor positive breast cancer resistant to anti-estrogen therapy. It is her goal to translate her findings in the laboratory to new treatments for breast cancer patients. Her research involves both breast cancer cell and mouse models. Her work has been presented in peer-reviewed journals as well as presented at scientific meetings.

Dr. Beckwith serves on the Breast Cancer Interdisciplinary Site Specific Cancer Team, a committee that chooses breast cancer clinical trials appropriate for breast cancer patients at the University of Minnesota. She is the principal investigator of multiple breast cancer clinical trials at the University of Minnesota. These clinical trials bring new therapies to patients with high risk disease such as patients with locally advanced estrogen receptor positive disease at high risk of recurrence and patients with metastatic triple negative breast cancer for whom no further standard treatment options are available.

11:30 a.m. - Noon  Chemoprevention against Inflammation-associated Carcinogenesis by Active Ingredients in Traditional Chinese Medicines and Natural Products

Dr. Rong Hu is currently a professor in the Department of Physiology at China Pharmaceutical University. She obtained her PhD in pharmaceutics under the guidance of Prof. Ah-Ng Kong from Rutgers University. She joined China Pharmaceutical University in January, 2008. Her current research interests lie at Studies of phytochemicals-mediated cellular signaling and chemoprevention against inflammation-associated carcinogenesis. Nrf2-mediated signaling in anti-oxidative stress and anti-inflammatory.

Dr. Heather Beckwith, University of Minnesota

Dr. Rong Hu, China Pharmaceutical University
Natalia Tretyakova, Professor of Medicinal Chemistry has a research focus to investigate the structural basis for carcinogenic and anticancer activity of DNA- and protein-modifying agents. Synthetic methodologies are developed to prepare structurally modified nucleosides and amino acids representing carcinogen- and drug-induced DNA and protein adducts. The effects of nucleobase modifications on DNA structure and stability are determined by NMR spectroscopy, mass spectrometry, CD spectroscopy, and computer modeling of chemically altered DNA. Biological mass spectrometry techniques are employed to quantify the formation of DNA and protein adducts in vivo. These studies identify the molecular targets of exogenous and endogenous electrophiles and provide an insight into the origins of their biological activity.

Dr. Natalia Tretyakova, University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy

12:30 - 1:00 P.M.  LUNCH

1:00 - 1:30 P.M.  LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.  Discovery and Development of the Potent Keap1-Nrf2 Protein-Protein Interaction Regulators

Dr Qi-Dong You is a Professor of Medicinal Chemistry, the director of Jiangsu Key Laboratory of Drug Design and Optimization. He is also a vice director of Academic committee, and Vice Chairman of Degree committee of China Pharmaceutical University. His main research interesting focused on the drug design and synthesis, the action mechanism of drug molecular and new drug research and development. The research fields of Prof You is about the structure modification and durability optimization of bioactive natural products, protein-protein interaction regulators and the new drug design.

Dr. Qi-Dong You, China Pharmaceutical University
Engineered Mesenchymal Stem Cells for Targeting Solid Tumors

Swayam Prabha, Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutics, focuses on dosage form design, formulation and process development, technical operations and technology transfer, and product development. Her role at the University of Minnesota is in part to implement a newly formed Center for Translational Drug Delivery (CTDD), housed in the College of Pharmacy. As is well known, successful translation of drugs and biological macromolecules into the clinic requires proper device design for delivery and the purpose of CTDD is to address unmet formulation and drug delivery needs for partners on campus and in industry.

Dr. Swayam Prabha, University of Minnesota

2:30-2:45 p.m.  Break

2:45-3:45 p.m.  Afternoon Panel Discussion

3:45 - 4:30 p.m.  Wrap up and Next Steps

*Schedule subject to change