



香 港 大 學

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Professor Xu Aimin

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Professor Xu Aimin is a Professor at the Department of Medicine and Department of Pharmacology and Pharmacy, Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong (HKU). He is also the Director of State Key Laboratory of Pharmaceutical Biotechnology, as well as the Director of Antibody and Immunoassay Services, at HKU. Professor Xu obtained his Bachelor of Medicine at Anhui Medical University in China in 1989 and completed his PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at School of Biological Sciences at the University of Auckland in New Zealand in 1999. He received his postdoctoral training at School of Biological Sciences at the University of Auckland, working on the proteomic identification of novel adipocyte-derived factors involved in obesity and insulin resistance, before joining HKU in 2002. He is currently the deputy chair for Biochemical Journal, and an advisory board member or vice chairman for several national key laboratories of metabolic diseases supported by Ministry of Education and Ministry of Science and Technology in Mainland China.



Professor Xu focuses on basic, clinical and translational research on obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular complications. He discovered the bioactive form of the anti-diabetic hormone adiponectin, and uncovered the potential of adiponectin in protection against obesity-related fatty liver and vascular diseases. In the past decade, his team has identified and characterised several fat-derived factors causally involved in the pathogenesis of obesity, diabetes and cardiometabolic syndrome, and has developed a series of innovative assays for these novel biomarkers for risk prediction, early diagnosis and therapeutic monitoring of the above-mentioned chronic diseases. More recently, his team discovered the liver-derived hormone FGF21 as a potential drug for treatment of atherosclerosis. Since 2002, Professor Xu has published over 200 academic papers and invited reviews in leading international journals, and his work has been highly cited by over 18,000 times. Based on the novel biomarkers discovered by his team, he was awarded with five US patents and a series of international patents for using the biomarkers in early diagnosis and as pharmaceutical target for obesity-related metabolic diseases and cardiovascular diseases. Through the Antibody and Immunoassay Services he established, Professor Xu has developed over 20 highly specific immunoassay kits for biomarkers related to diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. These assay kits are now being commercialised for basic and clinical research, clinical diagnosis and high throughput drug screening. In addition, his team is developing new drugs for major metabolic diseases, using the unique platforms established in the state key laboratory of pharmaceutical biotechnology.

Awards and Scholarships

2016

Croucher Senior Research Fellowship
The Croucher Foundation Hong Kong

2006

Outstanding Young Researcher Awards
The University of Hong Kong