



**THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**  
**Biotechnology Research Institute**  
**Division of Life Science**  
**State Key Laboratory of Molecular Neuroscience**

*Seminar Notice*

**“The Role of Sphingosine Kinase in Cell Biology”**

by

**Prof. Nigel Pyne**  
**Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Science**  
**UK**

**Biography and Abstract**

Professor Nigel Pyne obtained his BSc in Biochemistry in 1982 from the University of Birmingham (UK) and his PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Manchester (UK) in 1985. He undertook his post-doctoral work at the University of Glasgow with Professor Miles Houslay on insulin signaling. Since, 1989, he has worked within the Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences (SIPBS) at the University of Strathclyde. With Professor Susan Pyne he has studied the bioactive lipid, sphingosine-1 phosphate since 1994 and has published approx. 100 papers in this area (174 papers in total). Professor Nigel Pyne is a recipient of the Sandoz Prize (awarded by the British Pharmacological Society, 1995) for contributions to Pharmacology. He is an elected member of the Academy of Science of the Institute of Bologna (founded in 1690) and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology. He is also Editor in Chief of the international scientific journal, Cellular Signalling, and co-founder of Mironid Ltd (2014-present). His recent research on the bioactive lipid sphingosine 1-phosphate has focussed specifically on the role of sphingosine kinase 1 and 2 (the enzymes that catalyse formation of sphingosine 1-phosphate) and sphingosine 1-phosphate receptors in the control of cell biology in health and disease. Specific investigation on the structural-functional aspects of sphingosine kinase 1 in terms of regulating endocytic signalling in cell biology will be discussed. Sphingosine kinases also represent targets for potential therapeutic intervention and this will be exemplified by discussion of the role of sphingosine kinase 2 in multiple sclerosis and sphingosine kinase 1 in pulmonary hypertension and cardiac maladaptive hypertrophy. The opportunities for novel drug discovery in this area will be discussed.

**Date : 18 April 2017 (Tuesday)**  
**Time : 3:00 p.m.**  
**Venue : Room 5506 (Lifts 25/26)**  
**The Hong Kong University of Science & Technology**  
**Clear Water Bay, Kowloon**

*(Host faculty: Prof. Y H Wong)*

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***ALL ARE WELCOME!!***