

Brief update (February 2016)

Pancreatic cancer is one of the leading causes of tumour deaths, and the efficacy of first-line treatment with gemcitabine is marginal. The primary aim of my PhD research is to improve treatment efficacy by identifying novel therapeutic agents that can synergise with gemcitabine. In a recent publication, we identified synergistic tumour inhibition when non-cytotoxic levels of gemcitabine are combined with inhibitors of CHK1, a major cell cycle regulator (Koh et al., *Cancer Research* 2015) ¹. The combination slows tumour growth by perturbing the way cancer cells replicate their DNA. More recently, I examine further strategies to exploit the DNA damage pathway in cancer cells more effectively. I am very grateful for being selected for the prestigious Cambridge Society for the Application of Research (CSAR) Award. It has been a privilege to receive such recognition to my work. I am also pleased to inform the CSAR committee that my project would be further elaborated upon through support from the Pancreatic Cancer UK Future Leaders Fund ².

1. Journal article: <http://cancerres.aacrjournals.org/content/75/17/3583.full>

2. Cambridge local news: <http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/story-28240099-detail/story.html>