

Choa Mun

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PERSONAL PROFILE

As a Korean raised in the vibrant cultural landscape of the United States and later immersing myself in Hong Kong's dynamic environment, I bring a unique global perspective to my research endeavors. My extensive lab experience in immunology and cancer research has been complemented by my efforts in reading and critically analyzing biomedical journals, which has deepened my understanding of the field. Driven by an insatiable curiosity, I aspire to make impactful contributions that resonate across borders in my future career.

EDUCATION

BSC Biomedical Sciences | University of Hong Kong | 2021-2025

- Predicted to graduate with honors.
- Relevant modules: Cancer Biology, Medical Microbiology, Intro to Bioinformatics, Emerging Infections and disease, (Immunology)

IB | Li Po Chun United World College | 2019-2021

- IB (Score: 40) [HL: Biology, Chemistry, English A Literature]

AP | American International School | 2017-2019

- AP Seminar (Score: 5)
- SAT (Score: 1510)
- Empowered Thinker Award – Highest GPA

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Final Year Project | Professor Jiandong Huang | School of Biomedical Sciences | 2024-2025

- Investigated the efficacy of an engineered filamentous phage as a vaccine vector for solid cancer prevention.
- Demonstrated strong time management by independently planning and conducting year-long experiments, including both cell and animal experiments.
- Effectively communicated research plans with mentors and PI.
- Supervisor Assessment (15%), Oral Presentation (25%), Literature Review (15%), Dissertation (45%)

Eureka Program | Professor Ning Wang | School of Chinese Medicine | 2023-2024

- Utilized 10xGenomics data to conduct spatial analysis on anti-PD1 therapy responding and non-responding hepatocellular carcinoma patients.
- Course participation (50%), Research Poster (50%)

INTERNSHIPS

Professor Jiandong Huang | School of Biomedical Sciences | University of Hong Kong | 2023-2024

- Multi-tasked and worked efficiently to assist in projects throughout the academic year.
- Participated in mice and cell work, and tissue analysis.
- Took a primary role in data organization and analysis for a soon-to-be-published paper on the relationship of tumor infiltrating immune cells and tertiary lymphoid systems on gastric cancer patients' outcomes.

Professor Yeon Seok Chung | College of Pharmacy | Seoul National University | 2023

- Evaluated the in-vitro influence of NAC on CD8 T cell differentiation.
- Learned to work with mice and conduct dissections.
- Conducted cell sorting, cytokine staining, FACS, ELISA, and presented data using FlowJo and GraphPad.

Professor Zhiwei Chen | Department of Microbiology | University of Hong Kong | 2022-2023

- Worked to profile HIV-infected MDSCs and target them to find more effective therapeutic methods against HIV-1 infection.
- Learned to do RNA/plasmid DNA extraction, PBMC isolation, and prepare MOLT-4 cell culture.

Professor Jiandong Huang | School of Biomedical Sciences | University of Hong Kong | 2022

- Learned and assisted in multiple projects, obtaining abilities to independently conduct basic experiments like PCR, ELISA, and Western Blot.
- Largely engaged in a project evaluating tertiary lymphoid structures as prognosis markers. Made and presented a poster on this topic.
- Prepared, stained, and analyzed tissue paraffin blocks.

SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Laboratory techniques

- **Cell culture:** MB49 colon cancer, B16(ova) melanoma, Dc2.4 dendritic cell line.
- **Tissue handling:** Paraffin block and tissue slide preparation, H&E and IHC staining.
- **Cell treatment:** DC activation and co-culture with T cells, cytokine staining, freezing and recovering cells.
- **Assays:** ELISA, ELISOT.
- **Molecular biology:** PCR, Western blot, SDS-PAGE, FACS, phage dilution and titration.
- **Microbiology:** Plasmid preparation and transformation, RNA isolation, PBMC isolation from whole blood.

Analytical and technical skills

- **Tissue analysis:** QPath.
- **Graphical & statistical analysis:** GraphPad Prism, FlowJo.
- **Coding:** R (beginner).
- **Other:** Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook.
- **Languages:** English (native), Korean (native), Spanish (Intermediate).

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Biomedical Sciences Journal Club | 2024 Cohort Leader | 2023-2025

- Student-led club where we read, discuss, and critically appraise medical journals. In the 2022 cohort, we did a group study of sequencing with R, and did a scRNA-seq data analysis project with a public dataset.
- Leader of 2024 Cohort: As a leader, I led these meetings, organized workshops with Professors and alumni, and oversaw group studies and semester-long projects. One utilized PyMol to visualize and speculate drug binding sites, and another used BLAST to determine the lineage of SARS.

Wei Lun Community Service Club | Founder, Leader | 2023-2025

- I have founded and have led this volunteer club at my dormitory hall, where we serve various NGOs and initiatives in Hong Kong as a group.

Caduceus | General Editor, Social Media Handler | 2021-2022

- We are a student-led newspaper editorial board in HKUMed.