THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE TUCSON
Infectious Diseases

ID Grand Rounds

Chiung-Yu Hung, Ph.D.

"Harness Host Immunity to Coccidioides Infection for Vaccine Development"

Tuesday, September 24, 2024
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Zoom

Chiung-Yu Hung received her B.S. degree from the National Taiwan Normal University and then a Ph.D. degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Texas at Austin. Hung joined UTSA after completing her postdoctoral training at Academic Sinica of Taiwan and with Dr. Garry Cole at the University of Toledo. Dr. Hung has continuously received NIH funding to study fungal diseases, especially Valley fever caused by Coccidioides species, for the past 20 years. Dr. Hung's research goals are to establish and maintain a high-quality research program in medical mycology, advance knowledge of lung diseases, improve diagnostic accuracy, and develop effective therapeutics and vaccines. Dr. Hung has published over 70 peer-reviewed manuscripts related to medical mycology and vaccine development. She received the UTSA President's Distinguished Research Achievement Award in 2020 and the Year-of-Innovator Award in 2022. She is the Goldschmidt lecturer of the American Society of Microbiology-Texas Branch. She was elected as a senior National Academy of Inventors member in 2023. Her lab is currently supported by NIH R01, U19, Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) subcontract, Department of Defense (DoD) subcontract, and small business-initiated research (SBIR) award to develop vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnosis tools against microbial infections.

Worldwide fungal infections have soared, including Coccidioides species responsible for pneumonia and disseminated mycosis known as Valley fever in the American Southwest. NIH has developed a strategy plan to create a human vaccine and therapies against this fungal infection. Dr. Hung co-leads an NIH-funded Coccidioidomycosis Collaborative Research Center at UTSA as a central hub for this research endeavor. Hung's laboratory takes a multidisciplinary approach to discovering fungal antigens for vaccine development and characterizing immune mechanisms against *Coccidioides* infection. This information is harnessed to create vaccines against Valley fever, evaluated, and deciphered in human immune cells and humanized mice. Furthermore, her laboratory collaborates with a team of medical mycologists at UTSA to screen and repurpose novel antifungal drugs for Valley fever.

Join Zoom Meeting: https://uits-arizona.zoom.us/j/6736439286?pwd=QnIpx1bGWEfygNDMy6CGdsBf8I6l7t.1&omn=82975505231

Password: 888639

This University of Arizona event is sponsored by the Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, UA College of Medicine - Tucson. It is open to the public, particularly community physicians and other interested health-care professionals.

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