



PHARMACOLOGY *education initiative*

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Targeting cell-free DNA for prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of rheumatoid arthritis

**With Prof. Vincent Kam Wai Wong
Macau University of Science & Technology**

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Cell-free DNA (cf-DNA) is extracellular DNA released during cell death and accumulates in concentration with age. Elevated levels of cf-DNA have been detected in the plasma and disease-affected tissues or organs of patients suffering from various diseases, particularly age-related autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Recent studies have established cf-DNA as a biomarker for a spectrum of age-related and autoimmune disorders, including cancer, systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), and psoriasis. Variations in the levels and properties of cf-DNA are indicative of the progression, severity, and prognosis of these conditions. Emerging hypotheses suggest that cf-DNA may mediate one of the pathological pathways in RA, positioning it as a potential target for the development of innovative therapeutic, preventive, and diagnostic strategies. This talk provides a concise overview of the role of age-related cf-DNA in RA, drawing on the latest evidence, and discusses the contemporary therapeutic interventions, prevention techniques, and diagnostic tools that utilize cf-DNA in the management of RA.



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