## Involvement of TLR4/STAT3 signaling in the antimelanoma effects of atractylenolide II

### **Fu Xiuqiong**





### Melanoma fact



The incidence of melanoma has increased **<u>15 times</u>** in the last 40 years. This is a more rapid increase than any other cancer.



----Aim at Melanoma Org. 2015

### **Drugs approved for treating melanoma**



### Signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (STAT3) is activated in melanoma



48 Human melanoma brain metastasis specimens

----Cancer Res. 2006;66:3188-96.

# STAT3 can be activated by extrinsic and intrinsic pathways



----Nat Rev Cancer. 2009;9:798-809.

### Role of constitutively activated STAT3 in melanoma



----Cancer Metastasis Rev. 2005;24:315-27.

## Sesquiterpenes that suppress STAT3 signaling and exhibit anticancer activities

Compound	Cancer	Reference
Zerumbone	Breast cancer	Oncol Rep. 2014;32:2666-72.
Bigelovin	Liver cancer	Acta Pharmacol Sin. 2015;36:507-16.
Xanthatin	Non-small cell lung cancer	PLoS One. 2013;8:e81945
Parthenolide	Lung cancer	Curr Cancer Drug Targets. 2014 ;14:59-69.
	Liver cacner	J Cell Physiol. 2011;226:1632-41.
	Prostate cancer	Prostate. 2009;69:827-37.
Germacrone	Liver cancer	J Huazhong Univ Sci Technolog Med Sci. 2013 ;33:339-45.
Alantolactone	Liver cancer	Biomed Res Int. 2013;2013:719858.
Brevilin A	Lung cancer	<i>PLoS</i> One. 2013 ;8:e63697.

## Atractylenolide II (AT-II) is a sesquiterpene compound isolated from *Baizhu*



Atractylodis Macrocephalae Rhizoma (Baizhu)

**Baizhu** is commonly prescribed in melanoma management

Sesquiterpene containing volatile oil from *Baizhu* 

-- has no chronic toxicity in rats --shows beneficial effects in cancer cachexia patients without

overt side effects

--Good oral bioavailability in rats

-----A review on the anti-tumor activities of Atractylodis Macrocephalae Rhizoma and formulas contain this herb. *Zhongguo Zhong Yi Yao Xin Xi Za Zhi.* 2004

CH2

Atractylenolide II (AT-II) :

A sesquiterpene

-----A case report for the treatment of melanoma systemic catastasis using Chinese medicine. *Zhongguo Min Jian Liao Fa.* 2008

-----Successful treatment of malignant melanoma. Shang Hai Zhong Yi Yao Za Zhi. 2005

#### AT-II decreased the viability and induced apoptosis of A375 human melanoma cells



#### AT-II inhibited the migration of A375 and B16F10 cells



#### AT-II inhibited tumor growth in B16 melanoma-bearing mice



Vehicle control

12.5 mg/kg/d

25 mg/kg/d



----Exp Dermatol. 2014 ;23:855-7.

#### AT-II decreased B16F10 melanoma cell lung metastasis







## AT-II inhibited STAT3 signaling in B16 tumors and melanoma cultured cell



----Exp Dermatol. 2014;23:855-7.

## Overexpression of STAT3C diminished the effects of AT-II on cell growth inhibition and apoptosis induction in A375 cells



----Exp Dermatol. 2014;23:855-7.

## Overexpression of STAT3C diminished the effects of AT-II on inhibiting A375 cells invasion



# Activation of TLR4 signaling promotes melanoma progression

LPS activate TLR4/NF-KB to induce EMT of melanoma in a mouse model.

----Innate Immun. 2012 ;18:685-93.

TLR4 signaling promotes the migration of human melanoma cells.

----Tohoku J Exp Med. 2014;234:57-65.

#### Activation of TLR4 promotes melanoma metastasis in mice.



----Nat Commun. 2014;5:5256.

### **TLR4 mediates STAT3 activation**



Nature Reviews | Cancer ----Nat Rev Cancer. 2014;14:736-46.

### TLR4 mediates STAT3 activation in different cell types

 LPS activates STAT3 in <u>splenic</u> <u>dendritic cells (DCs).</u>



----Cancer Res. 2009;69(6):2497-505.

 Increased TLR4 expression in <u>intestinal epithelial cells</u> activates STAT3 to promote colon tumor growth in mice.

----*Nat Rev Cancer*. 2014;14(11):736-46.

 TLR4 mediates STAT3 activation and increases IL-6 and IL-10 secretion in <u>bladder epithelial cells</u>.



#### **AT-II reduced LPS binding to TLR4 in A375 cells**

AT-II (µM)



## AT-II downregulated mRNA expression levels of TLR4 signaling molecules in A375 melanoma cells



#### AT-II inhibited the activities of TLR4 signaling molecules in A375 melanoma cells



#### TLR4 activation diminished the inhibitory effects of AT-II on STAT3 phosphorylation in A375 cells



#### TLR4 activation diminished the invasion-inhibitory effect of AT-II in A375 cells



AT-II 20 µM

### **Summary**

- 1. AT-II exerted *in vitro* and *in vivo* antimelanoma activities.
- 2. AT-II downregulated STAT3 signaling in B16 tumors and melanoma cultured cells.
- 3. AT-II inhibited TLR4 signaling in A375 cells.
- 4. Overexpression of STAT3C diminished the effects of AT-II on cell growth inhibition, apoptosis induction and invasion inhibition in A375 cells.
- 5. TLR4 activation diminished the inhibitory effects of AT-II on STAT3 phosphorylation and cell invasion in A375 cells.



Inhibition of TLR4/STAT3 signaling contributes to the antimelanoma effects of AT-II.

### **Our research team**







The Hong Kong PhD Fellowship provides an annual stipend of **HK\$240,000** (approximately **US\$30,000**) and a conference and research-related travel allowance of HK\$10,000 (approximately US\$1,300) per year to each awardee for a period of up to three years. Fellowships will be awarded in the 2016/17 academic year.

#### APPLICATION DEADLINE: *Dec. 1, 2015*

https://cerg1.ugc.edu.hk/hkpfs/index.html



## Welcome to join us !

### Dr YU Zhiling zlyu@hkbu.edu.hk

Hong Kong Baptist University

Expert in Pharmacology & Processing of Chinese Medicines

#### **Selected Publications:**



#### Subcutaneous Adipocytes Promote Melanoma Cell Growth by Activating the Akt Signaling Pathway ROLE OF PALMITIC ACID\*

Hiu Yee Kwan<sup>‡1</sup>, Xiuqiong Fu<sup>‡</sup>, Bin Liu<sup>§</sup>, Xiaojuan Chao<sup>‡</sup>, Chi Leung Chan<sup>‡</sup>, Huihui Cao<sup>‡</sup>, Tao Su<sup>‡</sup>, Anfernee Kai Wing Tse<sup>‡</sup>, Wang Fun Fong<sup>‡</sup> and Zhi–Ling Yu<sup>‡2</sup>



### Quercetin exerts anti-melanoma activities and inhibits STAT3 signaling

Hui-Hui Cao, Anfernee Kai-Wing Tse, Hiu-Yee Kwan, Hua Yu, Chi-Yan Cheng, Tao Su, Wang-Fun Fong, Zhi-Ling Yu ≜ · ⊠

