Title: Parkinson's Disease – Mechanisms, Models and Medicine

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Abstract

To develop better treatments for Parkinson's disease (PD) patients, it is necessary to clarify the molecular pathogenesis of the disease, information of which would allow the identification and therapeutic exploitation of key molecules involved in the pathogenic process. Although the etiology of PD remains poorly understood, the recent identification of several genes whose mutations are causative of rare familial forms of PD has provided tremendous opportunities for us to gain insights into the otherwise enigmatic pathogenic events surrounding the more common sporadic PD cases. A main part of our current research thus focuses on the functional characterization of key PD-linked genes such as parkin and LRRK2. Alongside, we also hope to generate representative genetic models of the disease that would facilitate the development and evaluation of experimental PD therapeutics. In this talk, I will provide some highlights of our research, which include the elucidation of important mechanistic insights on the role of aberrant protein and mitochondrial homeostasis in neurodegeneration, as well as the generation of Drosophila models of PD that are useful for genetic interaction studies and drug screening.

Convener: Assoc Prof Manoor Prakash Hande

All Are Welcome