Highlights from Washington University’s Forum for Greater China

*Personalized Medicine and the Future of Healthcare*

December 14, 2018
Hong Kong
OVERVIEW

Washington University’s annual Forum for Greater China sought to further strengthen the university’s impact in China and showcase its world-leading, collaborative research. The annual forums highlight the work of top Washington University faculty members, and address global issues in ways that are accessible to a broad audience. This year’s event focused on a vitally important theme: personalized medicine and the future of healthcare.

The meeting in Hong Kong brought together leading researchers from Washington University, business executives from several industries, as well as academic and research leaders from Greater China to discuss the enormous opportunity and promise for personalized medicine in the region.

The forum featured keynote addresses from leading researchers at Washington University’s top-ranked School of Medicine—Dr. Francis Sessions Cole and Dr. Robert D. Schreiber—as well as an alumni panel that addressed business strategies for the future of healthcare, and a partner university panel that discussed trends in the practice of personalized medicine.

More than 160 people, including business leaders, government officials, alumni and prospective students, were in attendance for this exciting event, which further deepened the university’s close corporate, academic and research collaborations in the region.

“The Forum for Greater China showcased Washington University’s leadership role in advancing personalized medicine,” said Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton. “The university has been at the forefront of discovery and research when it comes to sequencing the genetic code, having played an integral role in the Human Genome Project. We continue to push forward this important work with new diagnostic and therapeutic breakthroughs, and discussed collaborative approaches with our partners in Hong Kong.”
WashU in Greater China at a Glance

3 current faculty named Yangtze River Scholars

WashU-Fudan EMBA rank worldwide (Financial Times, 2018)

10 partner institutions of the McDonnell International Scholars Academy in Greater China

4,500+ alumni currently living in Greater China

130+ incoming full-time MBA students will visit Shanghai for a required global immersive experience

40 current McDonnell Academy Scholars from Greater China

175 students students from WashU studied abroad in Greater China in the previous academic year

2,328 students from Greater China currently enrolled at WashU
KEYNOTES
Two top researchers from Washington University’s School of Medicine discussed their research as it pertains to personalized medicine, and the promise such breakthroughs hold for Greater China:

PERSONALIZED MEDICINE: FROM GENOMIC DISCOVERY TO CLINICAL IMPACT

Dr. Francis Sessions Cole
Chief Medical Officer, St. Louis Children’s Hospital
Executive Vice Chair, Department of Pediatrics
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Children’s Health
Division Chief, Newborn Medicine
Park J. White, M.D.
Professor of Pediatrics, Professor of Cell Biology and Physiology, Researcher, Pathobiology, Washington University
School of Medicine

Dr. Cole’s research focuses on using personalized medicine via gene code analysis to provide treatments for children who have undiagnosed diseases, as well as newborns in respiratory distress. During his address, Cole discussed the benefits of personalized medicine, and outlined a future that includes the promise of a tailored medical approach for each individual where risks for conditions including allergies, heart attacks and autism can be assessed and addressed using each patient’s genetic code. Cole explained the university’s areas of focus as it applies to a personalized approach: cancer, neuroscience, immunobiology, and antibiotic resistance. He also discussed the university’s involvement in the National Institutes of Science’s Undiagnosed Disease Network, and the potential personalized medicine has to help solve medical mysteries such as those examined by the Network.

The keynote also highlighted Washington University’s work on the Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer Network Trial Unit, or DIAN-TU, an international research effort focused on a rare hereditary form of the disease that could ultimately benefit from a personalized treatment approach.

Cole concluded that research is at a historic moment that could transform patient care, and that there are unparalleled opportunities to improve health and well-being for people around the world. It is Washington University’s responsibility, he told the audience, to seize upon the opportunity personalized medicine will provide to advance medicine for the benefit of society.
Dr. Robert D. Schreiber, Director of the Center for Human Immunology and Immunotherapy Programs at Washington University, told the audience about the nine current personalized cancer vaccine trials currently underway at Washington University, and how the university is working to further refine the technology involved.

He also discussed the nine personalized cancer vaccine trials currently underway at Washington University, and the timeframe to develop such treatments—just 8-10 weeks from initial biopsy to a vaccine based on a patient’s specific tumor and its markers.

Schreiber closed with a look at how Washington University is conducting in-depth analyses of successful vs unsuccessful cancer immunotherapy to learn more about the cellular and molecular mechanisms at work. This will allow further refinement of the technology involved in manufacturing personalized vaccines.
PANELS

Two separate sessions tackled broader trends and challenges for healthcare and medicine in Greater China.

BUSINESS STRATEGIES FOR THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE:
Comprised of Washington University alumni who currently hold c-suite positions at pharmaceutical firms in Greater China, this discussion centered on the shifting business landscape for the healthcare industry in the region.

Frank Jiang, PhD
CEO, CStone Pharmaceuticals

Guy Mills
CEO, Manulife Hong Kong

Sean Shan
President, Takeda China and Area head, Takeda Greater China

Justin Xiang, PhD
CIO and Co-Founder, Syno Capital

TRENDS IN SCIENCE AND PRACTICE OF PERSONALIZED MEDICINE IN GREATER CHINA
This panel featuring the region’s leading medical faculty, including two from McDonnell Academy partner universities, explored the ever-changing landscape of healthcare in Greater China—including the associated opportunities, challenges and how collaborative research and projects can help push ahead personalized medicine initiatives.

Pui-Yan Kwok, MD, PhD
Director, Institute of Biomedical Science, Academia Sinica

Leming Shi, PhD
Professor, Fudan University

Joseph J.Y. Sung, D, PhD
Professor, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
McDONNELL ACADEMY IN CHINA:
Through its McDonnell International Scholars Academy, Washington University has developed close partnerships within Greater China. These partners include:

- China Agricultural University
- The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Fudan University
- Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- National Chiao Tung University
- National Taiwan University (Taipei)
- Peking University
- Tsinghua University
- University of Hong Kong
- Xi’an Jiaotong University

UPCOMING EVENT
We invite you to register for and attend our upcoming Forum for India on February 22, 2019. The conference will also focus on the promise of personalized medicine.

global.wustl.edu/washington-university-in-st-louis-forum-for-india/

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