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Biography

Yong Li obtained his PhD degree at University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia in 2000. He became Cancer Research Group leader in 2006, and is an established cancer researcher, with expertise in cancer biomarker discovery, radiation biology, target cancer therapy and cancer metastasis. Currently, he is Principal Scientific Officer and Head of Cancer Research Program at Cancer Care Centre, St George Hospital, and Associate Professor at St George and Sutherland Clinical School, UNSW Australia. He has published more than 100 papers and book chapters in peer-reviewed journals in cancer research area. His current research program is aimed at: To investigate novel biomarkers from human body fluids and tissues, cancer cell lines and animal models for cancer diagnosis and developing personalized medicine; to investigate mechanisms of cancer metastasis and chemo-/radio-resistance and role of tumor microenvironment, cancer stem cells and epithelial-mesenchymal transition in cancer progression; to use targeted cancer therapy and combination therapy to control metastatic and therapeutic resistant cancers.

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EPITHELIAL CELL ADHESION MOLECULE (EpCAM) AS A CSC MARKER IN PROSTATE CANCER CHEMO-/RADIO-RESISTANCE

Prostate cancer (CaP) is the most common cancer in males in Australia which caused more than 3000 deaths in 2015. EpCAM is a transmembrane protein that is expressed at low levels in a variety of human epithelial tissues, but overexpressed in most solid tumors. Our previous study indicated that EpCAM was strongly expressed in metastatic CaP cell lines, primary human CaP tissues and lymph node metastasis and is a biomarker involved in CaP progression, and chemo-/radio-resistance. However, the role of EpCAM in CaP progression and therapeutic resistance is still uncertain. The aim of this study was to investigate the role of EpCAM in CaP progression and chemo-/radio-resistance as well as underlying mechanisms using *in vitro* CaP cell lines and *in vivo* mouse models for a potential therapeutic target.