香港中文大學
THE
CHINESE
UNIVERSITY
OF
HONG
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新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

To Editors

For Immediate Release 20 March 1997

CUHK Organizes Symposium on Research and Applications of Antioxidants

Green tea is said to contain dietary antioxidants against cardiovascular diseases and cancer. We take in antioxidants everyday as food manufacturers use antioxidants, such as flavonoid, in edible oil and food products. What is the effect of antioxidants on our bodies? Are antioxidants anti-aging agents?

Oxidants have been found related to over fifty human diseases such as atherosclerosis, ischemia-reperfusion, aged-related cataract, Parkinson disease and cancer. In some diseases, there is strong evidence for a preventive effect of dietary antioxidants, such as vitamins C and E.

To increase the understanding of the functions and uses of antioxidants, the Department of Biochemistry, The Chinese University of Hong Kong organizes a symposium on "Antioxidants: from Research to Industrial Development" to introduce the research achievements in and the applications of antioxidants to over 140 food manufacturers, dietitians, medical professionals and pharmacists from the medical and industrial sectors on 21 March 1997 (Friday).

The symposium is sponsored by Hong Kong Government Industry Department. Ms Annie Choi Suk-han, Assistant Director-General of Industry (Technology Development) will officiate and speak at the opening ceremony.

Professor Fung Kwok Pui of the Department of Biochemistry, CUHK, will present his research on the formulation of preservation solution for transplantation of organs. A major obstacle in transplantation is the lack of an ideal preservation solution which can maintain the organs at a completely viable status for the duration between organ harvest and the time of operation. Professor Fung is testing antioxidants (including active components from tea extracts and Chinese herbal medicinal extracts) which can scavenge free radicals formed in the organs during preservation. The project, supported by a grant from the Industry and Technology Development Council, aims to generate novel products for pharmaceutical companies in Hong Kong to manufacture and market.

Antioxidants may also play a critical role in the prevention of chronic, degenerating life-threatening diseases, including cardiovascular diseases, cancer and disorders of aging. There is increasing evidence that intake of dietary antioxidants, such as antioxidant vitamins,

phytochemicals from tea and Ginkgo leaves, flavonoids and carotenoids from fruit and vegetables is associated with a lower incidence of a wide variety of cancers. The Chinese University has been working actively on methods of screening and isolating effective antioxidants in traditional Chinese medicine and developing them into nutraceuticals or pharmaceuticals. At the symposium, Professor Leung Kwok Nam of the Department of Biochemistry will discuss the effects of various naturally occurring flavonoids on the proliferation, differentiation and apoptosis of tumours cells, particularly the myeloid leukemia cells. Professor Chen Zhen Yu of the Department of Biochemistry will look into green tea catechins as alternative for dietary antioxidants.

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Note to Editor 20 March 1997

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Press Invitation

You are cordially invited to send a representative to cover the symposium entitled "Antioxidants: from Research to Industrial Development" organized by the Department of Biochemistry, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. The symposium is sponsored by Hong Kong Government Industry Department and Ms Annie Choi Suk-han, Assistant Director-General of Industry (Technology Development) will officiate and speak at the opening ceremony. Media representatives are also invited to join a guided tour to research laboratories after the symposium. Details are as follows:

Date : 21 March 1997 (Friday)

Time : 2:00 - 5:30 pm

Venue : Cho Yiu Hall, University Administrative Building
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, N T

Enquiry : Ms Cheung Man-yi at the Information and Public Relations Office (26098896)

Enclosure : Programme of the symposium
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