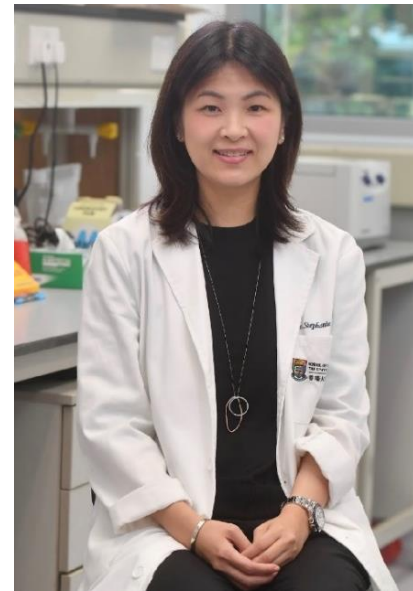


Professor Stephanie K.Y. Ma
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Professor Ma obtained a B.Sc. and M.Sc. from the University of British Columbia in Canada. She then graduated with a Ph.D. degree from the University of Hong Kong (HKU) with an outstanding ranking and was awarded the best Ph.D. thesis that year. She is currently a Professor and Associate Director (Knowledge Exchange and Global) in the School of Biomedical Sciences, and Assistant Dean (Innovation and Technology Transfer) in the Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, HKU (HKUMed). She is also a Principal Investigator at the State Key Laboratory of Liver Research at HKU.



Professor Ma's research interest focuses on exploiting stemness as a cancer cell vulnerability. Her team is dedicated to better understanding how a less differentiated and more stemness state in cancer cells can contribute to therapy resistance and tumour recurrence, with a particular interest in the locally prevalent tumour type hepatocellular carcinoma.

In her field, she was listed by Clarivate as a top 1% most-cited scholar (2010–2018) and by Stanford University among a top 2% of scientist worldwide (2022, 2023).

She has received numerous awards including the 2008 Young Scientist Award in Life Sciences from the Hong Kong Institution of Science, the 2012-13 Outstanding Young Researcher Award from HKU, the 2014 Croucher Innovation Award, the 2014 Scientific Research Outstanding Achievement Award (Second-class Award in the Science and Technology Section) from the Higher Education Institution of China, the 2017 University of British Columbia Alumni Builder Award (Canada), the 2018 Ton Duc Thang University Scientific Prize – Rising Star Award (Vietnam), the 2021 Research Grants Council (RGC) Research Fellow Scheme, the 2023 Croucher Senior Research Fellowship and the 2022-23 Outstanding Researcher Award from HKU.

Professor Ma is a Founding Member of the Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences, where she currently serves as Vice-President and Co-Chair of its Outreach Committee. She is a member of the Future Forum Young Scientist Innovation Alliance in China and a member of the Board of Directors at Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks (HKSTP) and the International Society of Differentiation. Professor Ma currently serves as a Senior Editor of *Cancer Research* and an Editorial Board Member of *Hepatology*, *Carcinogenesis* and *Differentiation*.