Treading the Fine Line Between Drugs and Poisons

Synopsis

One man’s meat is another man’s poison. This is a phrase that we use broadly to describe how individuals respond differently to the same stimuli. The object of reference could be mundane, such as a food preference, but it can also be critical, such as a differing reaction to medication. In pharmacy, the ability to distinguish between the two is not just important, but central to our practice. In this class, we will explore the scientific basis to show why the same medication can present unexpected side effects.

Speaker

Prof Ho Han Kiat

Prof Ho Han Kiat received his B.Sc. (Hons) in Pharmacy from NUS in 2000. Subsequently, he took on the A*STAR Overseas Graduate Scholarship and obtained his Ph.D. in Medicinal Chemistry from the University of Washington in 2005. He returned to Singapore for a three-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute of Medical Biology before rejoining NUS to establish his own research programme focusing on drug-induced liver toxicity and the study of new drug targets for various chronic liver diseases. He also directs a toxicology division within NUS’ Drug Development Unit. He has published more than 60 papers in internationally recognised journals and has won multiple faculty- and university-level teaching excellence awards. He is an elected fellow of the NUS Teaching Academy and a joint appointee of the University Scholars Programme. He is currently Deputy Head (Education) at the Department of Pharmacy.