



Aya El Helali

Hong Kong

Professor Aya El Helali is a clinician scientist with a background in medical oncology and translational research. Recently, she joined the Department of Clinical Oncology at the University of Hong Kong and is also a co-chair of the HKU-HKSH MTB and President of the Hong Kong Neuro-Oncology Society.

Professor El Helali earned her Medical degree from the National University of Ireland Galway, where she graduated with first-class honors and gold medals in Medicine and Surgery. She received her PhD from Queen's University Belfast, where she was awarded the Sir Allen McClay Clinical Research Fellowship. Her doctoral research focused on biomarker development and drug development, while her postdoctoral fellowship focused on augmenting the adaptive immune system through novel drug combinations.

Professor El Helali's work in translational research focuses on colorectal cancer, and CNS tumors. Through her work on the HKU-HKSH MTB, she has continued to promote personalized medicine in CNS tumors. Her role in developing early phase clinical trials and drawing in CNS clinical trials in Hong Kong demonstrates her commitment and dedication to advancing medical oncology and translational research.

Topic: Harnessing Hope - Advances in Treatment of H3 K27M Diffuse Glioma

H3 K27M mutant diffuse glioma is a highly aggressive and difficult-to-treat brain tumor predominantly affecting children and young adults. This symposium will present the latest research and clinical findings on ONC201, a novel therapeutic agent showing promise in treating this malignancy. Key experts will discuss the molecular mechanisms of ONC201 in H3 K27M mutations and insights from the ongoing ACTION trial. The session aims to enhance understanding of this challenging glioma subtype and explore innovative treatment strategies to improve patient outcomes.