



Annie Huang
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Dr Huang is a professor of pediatrics, medical biophysics, lab medicine/pathobiology at the University of Toronto where she also serves as chair of pediatric research. She is a neurooncologist-scientist at SickKids, Labatt Brain Tumor Centre with a translational and discovery research lab focused on high-risk, high-fatality rare brain cancers of infants and younger children. She founded the first global collaborative network (rarebraintumorconsortium.ca) to advance biological and clinical research for these orphan cancers. Over the last 2 decades, landmark clinical and biological studies enabled by the RBTC's unique biobank and clinical registry has informed the WHO diagnostic classification, invigorated basic and clinical research, and clinical trials for rare cancers including ATRTs, ETMR and Pineoblastoma. Ongoing work in the Huang lab, supported by a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair, focuses on elucidating mechanisms of treatment resistance and tumor heterogeneity as well as development of novel therapeutic models and paradigms for these rare cancers.

Topic: Paediatric High Grade Glioma: Preclinical and Clinical Advances

Pediatric high-grade gliomas (pHGG) arise across a wide spectrum of ages ranging from children to young adult and are molecularly heterogenous diseases with disparate outcomes. While diffuse midline HGG are invariably fatal, hemispheric HGG arising in younger children have more favorable outcomes. This talk will provide an overview of recent advances in molecular understanding, novel therapeutic approaches to sub-classes of pHGG, and emerging, new paradigms of clinical practice.

Topic: Updates on Paediatric Embryonal Brain Tumours

Embryonal brain tumors span a wide clinical and molecular spectrum that includes medulloblastoma and more rare tumor types. Molecular risk-stratification has enabled treatment reduction for older children with favorable biology medulloblastoma, however best treatment approaches for higher risk diseases, particularly in young children remains heterogenous. This talk will review advances in biological concepts for medulloblastoma and rare EBTs, and prospects for refining therapeutic paradigms for EBTs.