

## **Lecture Abstract**

**Event:** FOCUS – Infertility and Miscarriage

**Date:** December 15, 2022 (Thursday)

**Time:** 17:00 – 18:30 (HKT)

**Format:** Zoom Live

This FOCUS webinar addresses one of the most challenging frontiers in reproductive medicine: the role of the immune system in recurrent implantation failure (RIF) and pregnancy loss. As our understanding of reproductive immunology continues to evolve, the identification and characterization of uterine natural killer (uNK) cells have emerged as a promising area of research with potential implications for diagnosis, treatment, and patient counselling. This session brings together a distinguished panel of local and international experts to explore the latest research, clinical applications, and future directions in immune-based treatments for infertility and recurrent miscarriage.

Designed for obstetricians, gynaecologists, reproductive medicine specialists, clinical researchers, and allied healthcare professionals, this webinar aims to provide a comprehensive update on the science and practice of reproductive immunology, with a particular focus on uterine NK cell testing and its integration into clinical care.

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## **Moderator**

**Dr. Chung Pui Wah, Jacqueline**

Associate Professor

Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Hong Kong SAR

Dr. Chung will serve as the moderator for the session, guiding the discussion and facilitating an interactive exchange between the speakers and attendees. Her expertise in reproductive medicine and research will provide a strong foundation for the exploration of this complex and rapidly evolving field.

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## Speakers

### Dr. Joanne Kwak-Kim

Professor, Reproductive Immunology Specialist

Director of Reproductive Medicine and Immunology

Rosalind Franklin University, USA

Dr. Kwak-Kim is a globally recognized leader in the field of reproductive immunology. Her presentation will focus on **the update and future perspective of immune treatments for repeated implantation failure**, with a particular emphasis on research progress in uterine NK cell testing. She will provide an international perspective on the evolving evidence base for immune modulation in RIF, discuss the clinical utility of uNK cell assessment, and explore the challenges and opportunities in translating immunological research into effective therapeutic strategies. Attendees will gain insights into the state of the science, the controversies surrounding immune testing and treatment, and the future directions that may shape clinical practice in the years ahead.

### Prof. ZHANG Tao, Judy

Research Assistant Professor

Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Hong Kong SAR

Prof. Zhang will complement the international perspective with a focus on local research and development. Her presentation will address the **development of uterine NK cell test / EndoTest in reproductive medicine**, highlighting the scientific principles, methodological advancements, and clinical applications of this diagnostic tool. She will discuss the research journey from bench to bedside, the validation of testing protocols, and the integration of uNK cell assessment into the clinical evaluation of women with recurrent implantation failure and recurrent miscarriage. Attendees will gain an understanding of the local research landscape, the interpretation of test results, and the potential role of immunological testing in personalized reproductive care.

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Following the presentations, a moderated Q&A session will allow attendees to engage directly with the speakers, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue on the clinical application of immunological testing, the interpretation of emerging evidence, and the practical considerations for incorporating these approaches into patient care.

This webinar is made possible through the support of the Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme (PASS) of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. By bringing together international expertise and local research, this session aims to equip healthcare professionals with a deeper understanding of the role of reproductive immunology in infertility and miscarriage, ultimately supporting more informed patient care and advancing the field of reproductive medicine.