

# AIR PRODUCTS DISTINGUISHED LECTURE

Monday, January 30, 2017, 4:00 p.m.  
26 Hosler Building



## Redefining the Drug Discovery Pathway – From Drug Candidate Search to Phenotypic Personalized Medicine

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UCLA School of Engineering*

Patient response rates to chemotherapy are fairly low in cancer treatment, often due to human diversity and cancer heterogeneity. For example, the response rate for lung cancer is about 25 percent and only 10 percent for hepatoma. Therefore, personalized medicine is necessary to improve treatment efficacy/response rate as well as safety by providing precisely tailored patient therapy.

Cancer and infectious disease therapy often use combinatorial medicine, where multiple compounds that address different pathways may improve treatment outcomes. Conventional multi-drug regimens are often additively determined. In addition, the maximum tolerated doses (MTD) of each drug for ensuring cancer-killing efficiency is usually used as a reference in the combinatorial regimen. Toxicity, hence, becomes a challenge in developing drug combinations. Current methods are far from optimal. Rational combinatorial design must move beyond arbitrary dosing practice.

To address these major challenges, recent technology developments have enabled the precise determination of which medicines may be most effective for a single patient based on his/her specific phenotypic expression. We have discovered that the patient response to drug inputs is governed by a parabolic response surface (PRS). Based on the PRS platform, phenotypic personalized medicine (PPM) can realize unprecedented levels of adaptability to rapidly home in on an optimized drug-dose combination based on the measured end-point phenotype of a specific patient. PPM is an indication agnostic and mechanism-free platform technology, which has been successfully demonstrated in about 25 diseases for children and adults.

Chih-Ming Ho holds a Ph.D. from The Johns Hopkins University. He is a Distinguished Research Professor in the UCLA School of Engineering and served as UCLA associate vice chancellor for research from 2001 to 2005.

He is known for his research in personalized medicine, micro/nano fluidics, and turbulence. In 1997, Ho was inducted as a member of the National Academy of Engineering. In the next year, he was elected as an academician of Academia Sinica. In 2014, Ho received a doctor of engineering honoris causa from Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Ho holds ten honorary chair professorships including the Einstein Professorship from the Chinese Academy of Sciences. He was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and the 3M-NANO Society.

On the international level, Ho has served on advisory panels to provide assistance to many countries and regions including China, France, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, and United Kingdom, on the developments of medicine, engineering, and science.

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