



**THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG  
FACULTY OF MEDICINE  
SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**

**SBS PI Seminar Series 2023-2024**

**Prof. Bruce R. RANSOM**

Director, Gerald Choa Neuroscience Institute

Professor, School of Biomedical Sciences

Faculty of Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Professor Emeritus, Department of Neurology, University of Washington

will present a seminar entitled

**“Acute Ischemic Stroke:  
Why Don’t We Have Better Treatments?”**

*Abstract:* The human brain is a greedy organ! It constitutes only 2% of the body by weight but receives ~15% of resting blood flow and accounts for ~20% and 50%, respectively, of total resting oxygen and glucose consumption. Because of its high metabolic demands, the human brain is quickly damaged when normal blood flow is impaired. Ischemic stroke is the neurological condition that results. According to the World Health Organization, “cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) are the leading cause of death globally. An estimated 17.9 million people died from CVDs in 2019, representing 32% of all global deaths. Of these deaths, 85% were due to heart attack and stroke.” Moreover, survivors of stroke are often severely impaired leading to a heavy burden of human suffering. Intensive animal research on the cellular pathophysiology of ischemic stroke led to the development of promising ‘neuroprotective’ drugs that were highly beneficial in animal stroke models. Tragically, none of these drugs have worked in human trials. I will talk about what went wrong. I will also preview current research that offers hope for the development of neuroprotective drugs in the future. The stakes are high, and we must succeed in these efforts.

**7 December 2023, Thursday, 4:00 – 5:00 pm**

Room G02, Lo Kwee-Seong Integrated Biomedical Sciences Building,  
Area 39, The Chinese University of Hong Kong