

**Principal Investigator: Dr. Catherine Poh**

**Systemic Approach to Characterize Prognostic Features of Regional Lymph Node Metastasis in Oral Cancer**

Tumour spread to lymph nodes in the neck occurs in 1-in-2 oral cancer (OC) patients; once spread, survival decreases by 50%. Thus, early intervention may prevent tumour spread and improve survival. However, currently available clinical markers have been not effective in early detection of this spread and often lead to high incidence of over- and under-treatment. Therefore, new and more effective markers are needed. This study investigates the molecular profiles of primary tumours and circulating blood markers that can be potentially used at the time of diagnosis for optimal early intervention.”