2025 Joint Annual Meeting of ACACR and USCACA

1:00 – 8:00 pm, Saturday, April 26, 2025

BSLC Auditorium 109 and BSLC Main Lobby
924 E 57th Street, Chicago, IL 60637
The University of Chicago Medical Center
Chicago, IL 60637
(*https://maps.app.goo.gl/XXMce9eiG5trqbse7*)

Organized by

Association of Chinese Americans in Cancer Research

www.acacr.org

United States Chinese Anti-Cancer Association

www.uscaca.org

Sponsored by

Massachusetts Biological Instruments Co.(MBI), Boston, MA
MedChemExpress (MCE), Mommouth Junction, NJ
Metware Biotechnology Inc (MetwareBio), Woburn, MA
RayBiotech, Peachtree Corners, GA
TargetMol, Wellesley Hills, MA
Caprico Biotechnologies, Inc. (CBI), Duluth, GA

Direction (https://maps.app.goo.gl/GLmNyNnKzoRHKZQ86)

a). From Chicago Loop/Downtown:

via US-41 S/S Lake Shore Drive: Follow E Jackson Blvd to US-41 S/S Lake Shore Dr. -- Turn right onto US-41 S/S Lake Shore Dr. -- Take Midway Plaisance to E 57th St. -- Turn right onto E 57th Dr -- Continue onto S Cornell Dr -- Continue onto Midway Plaisance -- Turn right onto S Ellis Ave -- Turn left onto E 57th St. https://maps.app.goo.gl/qB87vsXwAXj9tgiP8

via I-90 E/I-94 E: Take I-90 E/I-94 E to S Wells St. Take exit 57 from I-90 E/I-94 E -- Take W Garfield Blvd to E 57th St -- Merge onto S Wells St -- Turn left onto W Garfield Blvd -- Use the right lane to merge onto Morgan Dr -- Turn left onto E 57th St. https://maps.app.goo.gl/CEiJgsgRganqEyZR6

b). From McCormick Place Convention Center:

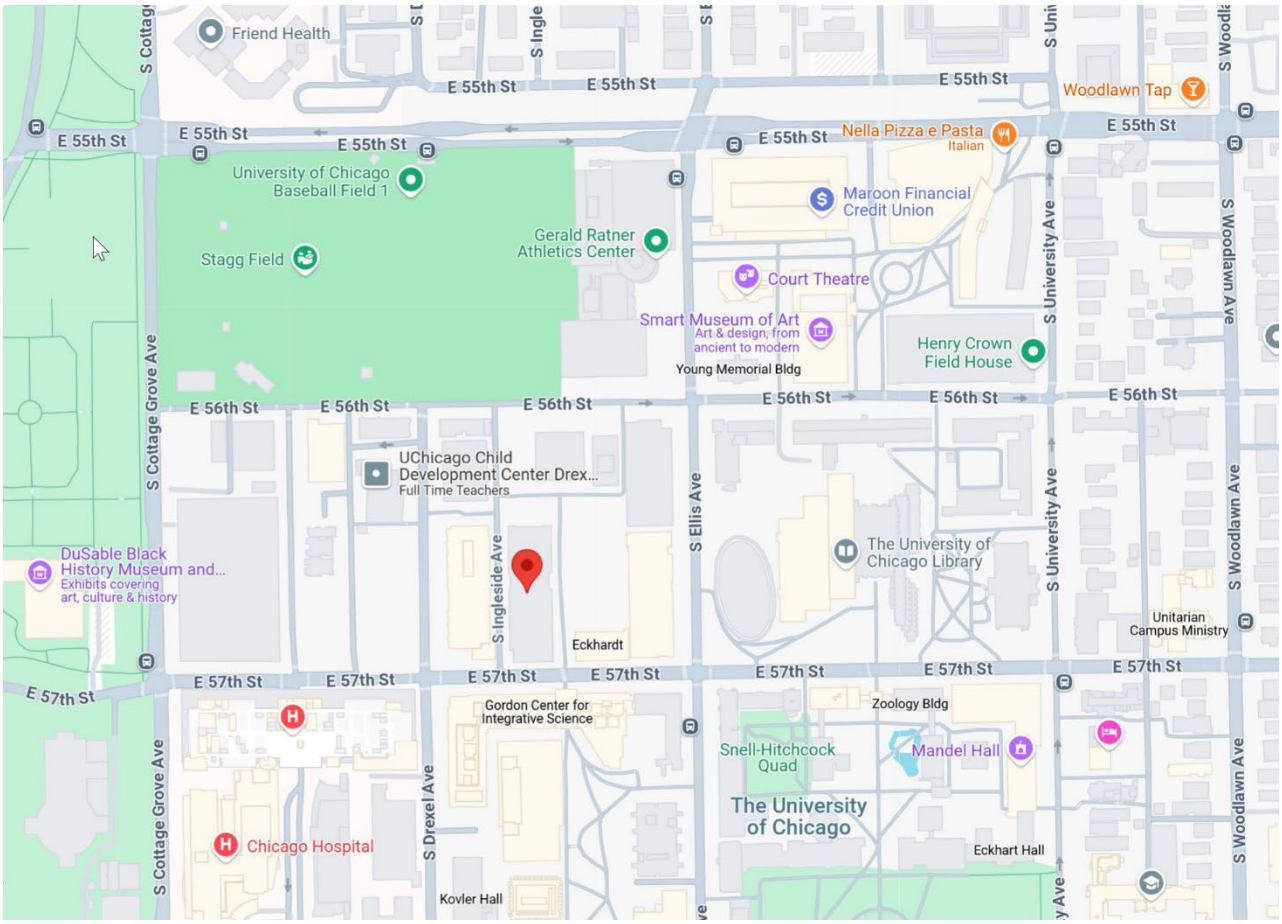
McCormick Place (2301 S Martin Luther King Dr, Chicago, IL 60616) -- Get on I-55 S -- Turn right onto E 24th Pl -- Use the left 2 lanes to turn slightly left to merge onto I-55 S toward I-90/I-94 -- Take I-90 E/I-94 E to S Wells St. Take exit 57 from I-90 E/I-94 E -- Merge onto I-55 S -- Take exit 293B to merge onto I-90 E/I-94 E -- Take exit 57 toward Garfield Blvd/5500 S -- Take W Garfield Blvd to E 57th St -- Merge onto S Wells St -- Turn left onto W Garfield Blvd -- Use the right lane to merge onto Morgan Dr -- Turn left onto E 57th St. https://maps.app.goo.gl/dyqMVZvqBTg32akv5

c). Metra Electric (ME): https://ridertools.metrarail.com/maps-schedules/train-lines/ME/map

ME has multiple stations in the Chicago Loop and McCormick Place Convention Center. Please get off the train at 55/56/57 Street Station. Take a 10 min walk to 924 E 57th Street. See the line map and schedule: https://ridertools.metrarail.com/maps-schedules/train-lines/ME

d). Take Uber or Lyft to: 924 E 57th Street, Chicago, IL 60637.

Parking: Free parking on 55th, 56th and 57th streets. Metered parking on Ellis Avenue (even on Saturdays).



Program

1:00 – 2:00 pm, Registration/check-in/vendor table setup

2:00 – 2:10 Welcome messages by Dr. Boyi Gan (ACACR President, MD Anderson) and Dr. Shi-Yong Sun (USCACA President, Emory University)

2:10 – 2:15 Announcement of 2025 Winners of Tony Hunter Award in Cancer Research by Award Committee Chair, Dr. Wei Xu, ACACR President-elect, University of Wisconsin-Madison

2:15 – 3:15 Keynote Speech: Dr. **Chuan He**, University of Chicago, Tony Hunter Award Lecture (Senior Investigator Awardee), introduced by Dr. Shi-Yuan Cheng, Northwestern University

Title: Chromatin Regulation by RNA Methylation in Cancer

3:15 – 3:40 Dr. **Liling Wan**, University of Pennsylvania, Tony Hunter Award Lecture (Junior Investigator Awardee), introduced by Dr. Qing Zhang, UT Southwestern Medical Center

Title: Chromatin Regulation in Cancer: Molecular Insights and Therapeutic Opportunities

3:40 – 3:50 AACR representative brief speech: Dr. **William Pao**, (Member of AACR Board of Directors, and Chair, the AACR Asian/AANHPI Task Force)

3:50 – 4:15 USCACA Award Session, Dr. Shi-Yong Sun, Emory University

USCACA Outstanding Young Chinese Scholar Awards Announcement and Presentations (Dr. Xuefeng Liu, The Ohio State University)

4:15 – 4:35 Coffee break (Group Photo)

4:35 – 5:10 Business meeting of the two societies, chaired by Boyi Gan, ACACR President

1. Update on ACACR Publication (*Genes & Disease*): Dr. Zhenghe Wang, Case Western Reserve University and Dr. Tong-Chuan He, University of Chicago
2. ACACR Annual Finance Report: Dr. Boyi Gan, ACACR President, MD Anderson Cancer Center
3. ACACR Newsletter: Dr. Wei Xu, ACACR President-elect, University of Wisconsin-Madison

5:10 – 5:40 Sponsor presentations, chaired by ACACR General Secretary, Dr. Erxi Wu, Baylor College of Medicine

Platinum Sponsor (5 min):

Massachusetts Biological Instruments Co.(MBI), Boston, MA

Gold Sponsors (3 min each):

Metware Biotechnology Inc (MetwareBio), Woburn, MA

MedChemExpress (MCE), Mommouth Junction, NJ

RayBiotech, Peachtree Corners, GA

TargetMol, Wellesley Hills, MA

Caprico Biotechnologies, Inc. (CBI), Duluth, GA

5:40 – 5:45 Concluding remarks, Dr. Wei Xu, ACACR President-elect, University of Wisconsin-Madison

5:45 – 8:00 Networking/Buffet Dinner

ACACR/USCACA 2025 Joint Annual Meeting Organizing Committee

Boyi Gan	The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Shi-Yuan Cheng	Northwestern University
Xuefeng Liu	Ohio State University
Shi-Yong Sun	Emory University
Erxi Wu	Baylor College of Medicine
Wei Xu	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lanjing Zhang	Rutgers University
Lin Zhang	University of Southern California
Tong-Chuan He	University of Chicago
Ui-Ying He	University of Chicago

Association of Chinese Americans in Cancer Research (ACACR)

Tony Hunter Award in Cancer Research

Nomination Period: November 20 - December 20, 2024
Submission Deadline for Candidates: January 10, 2025
Review and Decision by Committee: January 11 - January 31, 2025

Tony Hunter Award in Cancer Research was established in 2024 to recognize scientists of Chinese descent who have made fundamental or groundbreaking contributions to cancer research that exhibit significant or long-lasting impact on advancing our knowledge in basic and/or translational cancer research.

This award is named in honor of Dr. Tony Hunter, a world-renowned scientist who made seminal contributions to biomedical science in the discovery of the roles of protein tyrosine phosphorylation in cellular signaling critical in normal and pathological processes.

This award will be presented to one junior investigator and one senior investigator once a year at the annual ACACR meeting. Each awardee will give a presentation on the award-recognized research work when accepting the award.

Previous awardees:

Lieping Chen (2024 Senior Investigator Awardee)
Peiwen Chen (2024 Junior Investigator Awardee)

Administration:

1. The Award Committee is composed of a total of 11 members selected by the ACACR Executive Committee; thus, we will execute on the two-third majority rule in committee voting.
2. The Award Committee shall be the body responsible for the solicitation of nomination, evaluation, and the selection of final candidate(s), based on the two-third majority rule.
3. The ACACR Executive Committee shall be the final awarding body in deciding the award to the nominee(s), based on the two-third majority rule.
4. The Chair of the Award Committee or his/her designate, on behalf of the ACACR Executive Committee, shall inform the selected recipient of this award.
5. The Award recipient will receive an award recognition plaque and an honorarium of $1,000 US dollars. The ACACR Executive Committee will be responsible for fundraising to support the two awards annually.

Eligibility:

1. Tony Hunter Award in Cancer Research (Junior Investigator)
   This category is open to candidates who are presently in a tenure-track assistant professor role or an equivalent position at a US research university or institute within his/her initial six-year appointment.
2. Tony Hunter Award in Cancer Research (Senior Investigator):

Eligible candidates for this category are those holding a tenured full professor or an equivalent position at a US research university or institute. Additionally, exceptional mid-career candidates who currently hold a tenured associate professor position may also be considered.

3. The recipients must be members of ACACR at the time of accepting the award.

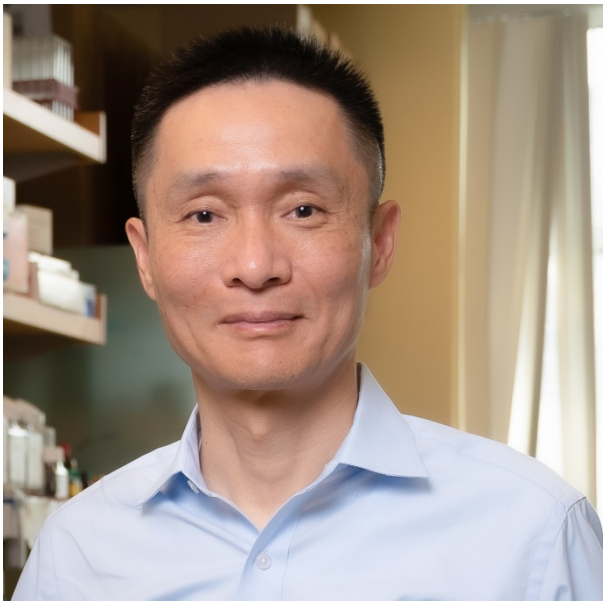
Nomination Process:

1. A qualified candidate can be nominated by the signatures of a minimum of three members of good standing, former recipients of this award, or any member of the Award Committee.
2. The nominated candidate shall provide the Award Committee a comprehensive curriculum vitae and a brief description of the major contributions or achievements in cancer research.
3. The Award Committee, on behalf of the ACACR Executive Committee, shall seek additional evaluation of the qualifications of the nominee, in the forms of recommendation letters and/or evaluation critiques.

Award Committee:

Chair:	Wei Xu	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Members:	Shi-Yuan Cheng	Northwestern University
	Gen-Sheng Feng	University of California San Diego
	Boyi Gan	The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
	Wenwei Hu	Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey
	Zhenkun Lou	Mayo Clinic
	Erxi Wu	Baylor College of Medicine
	Jing Yang	University of California San Diego
	Lanjing Zhang	Rutgers University
	Lin Zhang	University of Southern California
	Qing Zhang	University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

2025 Tony Hunter Award Winner
(Senior Investigator Awardee)



Dr. Chuan He is the John T. Wilson Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Chicago. He received his bachelor of science degree in 1994 from the University of Science and Technology of China and his Ph.D. in chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2000, studying under professor Stephen J. Lippard. After training as a Damon-Runyon postdoctoral fellow with professor Gregory L. Verdine at Harvard University, he joined the University of Chicago as an assistant professor, rising to associate professor in 2008 and full professor in 2010. He was selected as an investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in 2013. Dr. He's research spans a broad range of fields including chemical biology, RNA biology, epigenetics, biochemistry, and genomics. His recent research concerns reversible RNA and DNA methylation in biological regulation. In 2011, his group discovered reversible RNA methylation as a new mechanism of gene expression regulation. His laboratory characterized the RNA m^6A methyltransferase complex and several key reader proteins that bind preferentially to m^6A-modified RNA and regulate their stability and translation. This new layer of post-transcriptional regulation broadly affects cancer initiation and progression as well as signaling in the tumor microenvironment. In 2020, Dr. He's laboratory reported prevalent m^6A methylation on chromatin-associated regulatory RNAs (carRNAs), which regulates chromatin state and global transcription. The reversible methylation of carRNA controls mammalian and plant development. More recently, his group discovered chromatin regulation by carRNA m^5C methylation, a pathway that critically impacts tumorigenesis. His laboratory also spearheaded the development of enabling technologies to study RNA and DNA modifications as well as gene expression regulation. He is the winner of the 2017 Paul Marks Prize in Cancer Research, 2023 Wolf Prize in Chemistry, and 2023 Falling Walls Science Breakthrough of the Year, Life Sciences.

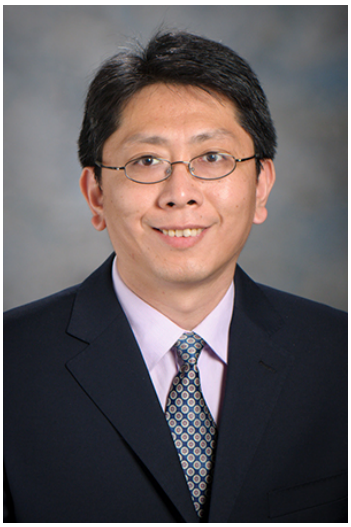
2025 Tony Hunter Award Winner
(Junior Investigator Awardee)

Dr. Liling Wan is an Assistant Professor at the Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania. She earned a B.S. in Biological Sciences and Biotechnology from Tsinghua University, followed by a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from Princeton University, where she studied the molecular mechanisms of cancer metastasis. She then completed her postdoctoral training in chromatin biology and epigenetics at Rockefeller University.

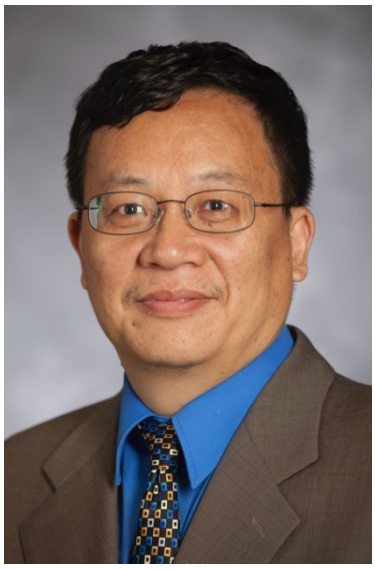
Dr. Wan's laboratory investigates fundamental mechanisms of gene regulation and their dysregulation in cancer, with the goal of leveraging these insights to develop targeted cancer therapies. Specifically, her lab focuses on cancer-specific dependencies on chromatin regulators, the regulation and function of transcriptional condensates, and the impact of epigenomic reprogramming on cellular plasticity in cancer progression, particularly metastasis.

Her contributions have been recognized with numerous awards, including NIH Director's New Innovator Award, Pew Scholar Award, V Scholar Award, and American Cancer Society Scholar Award.

Meeting Organizing and Award Selection Committees



Boyi Gan, Ph.D., ACACR President. Dr. Gan holds the N.G. and Hellen T. Hawkins Distinguished Professor for Cancer Research and is the Director of Radiation and Cancer Metabolism Research Program at MD Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Gan received his B.S. from Fudan University in China. In 2006, he obtained Ph.D. from Cornell University. He then conducted his postdoc training with Dr. Ron DePinho at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School. In 2011, he joined the MD Anderson Cancer Center as a tenure track Assistant Professor. His research has been at the interface between cancer metabolism and cell death, with a focus on ferroptosis and disulfidptosis. His research on ferroptosis has provided critical insights into its role in cancer and potential therapeutic targeting. Dr. Gan elucidated ferroptosis as a crucial tumor suppression mechanism and identified mitochondria-localized ferroptosis defense mechanisms, underscoring the importance of compartmentalization in ferroptosis regulation. Dr. Gan discovered that radiotherapy induces ferroptosis, laying the foundation for novel combination treatment strategies to combat radioresistance in cancer. Notably, Dr. Gan discovered disulfidptosis, a novel form of cell death induced by disulfide stress, which has opened new avenues in cell death research. Dr. Gan has served as the PI of multiple extramural grants, including several active R01s and a U54 grant from National Institute of Health (NIH), and has published more than 120 papers, including last-author publications in *Nature*, *Cancer Cell*, *Nature Cell Biology*, and *Cancer Discovery*. He is the recipient of many awards, including Kimmel Scholar Award, Ellison Medical Foundation New Scholar Award, and The Dallas/Fort Worth Living Legend Faculty Achievement Award in Basic Research. He was an elected fellow of American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in 2023.



Shi-Yong Sun, Ph.D., USCACA President. Dr. Sun has been a tenured full Professor in the Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology at the Emory University School of Medicine and Winship Cancer Institute since 2011. He is a Georgia Research Alliance Distinguished Cancer Scientist and Halpern Research Scholar and now serves as Co-Director of Thoracic Cancer Program of Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University. He is the current president of US-Chinese Anticancer Association (USCACA). Dr. Sun's research primarily focuses on the following areas: 1) regulation of death receptors, particularly TRAIL receptors, by small therapeutic molecules and their implications in drug-induced apoptosis and cancer therapy; 2) understanding mTOR signaling in cancer and targeting the mTOR axis for cancer therapy; and 3) understanding and managing acquired resistance to third generation EGFR inhibitors. Dr. Sun has been on the editorial boards of over 30 cancer-related journals and reviewed

manuscripts for over 100 scientific journals. He has been actively engaged in evaluating or reviewing grants for over 10 international organizations including different USA NIH/NCI study sections and is now a standing member of Cell Signaling Regulatory System (CSRS) study section (2021-2025). He has published over 170 original research papers in prominent peer-reviewed journals since 1994 in addition to over 30 review, editorial or commentary articles. He has supervised over 30 postdoctoral fellows and 18 visiting students who were Ph.D. or M.D. candidates.

Dr. Wei Xu, Ph.D., *ACACR President-elect, Tony Hunter Award Committee Chair.* Dr. Xu received B.S. in Chemistry from Beijing University and M.S. in Biophysics from Institute of Biophysics, Chinese Academy of Science. She graduated from Department of Biochemistry, Univ. of Iowa with Ph.D. After postdoctoral training with Dr. Ronald Evans in the Salk Institute, she started her lab as a tenure-tracked assistant professor at Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison in 2005. She was promoted from Assistant Professor to Full Professor in 9 years. The Xu lab focuses on targeting estrogen receptors and epigenetic regulators for breast cancer therapy. Dr. Xu's laboratory has employed biochemical and functional genomic approaches, as well as mouse genetics to decipher the contribution of protein arginine methylation to the epigenetic control of cancer cells. Through identification of hundreds of non-histone substrates of protein arginine methyltransferases, Dr. Xu revealed essential roles of "writers" and "readers" of protein arginine methylation in breast carcinogenesis and development of Wilms tumors. Dr. Xu is a Marian A. Messerschmidt Professor in Cancer Research and Vice Chair for Department of Oncology. Dr. Xu is also the Genetics and Epigenetics Program co-leader for Carbone Comprehensive Cancer Center, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Xu has received numerous awards including Department of Defense Era of Hope Scholar Award, Society of Toxicology Achievement Award, AACR-Bayer Innovation and Discovery Grant, AAAS fellow, among others.

Shi-Yuan Cheng, Ph.D. Dr. Cheng is currently a tenured Professor of Neurology at The Ken & Ruth Davee Department of Neurology, Lou & Jean Malnati Brain Tumor Institute, and the Lurie H. Robert Comprehensive Cancer Center, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL USA. Dr. Cheng was the President of US Chinese Anti-Cancer Association (USCACA) in 2013-2017, a non-profit professional organization that facilitates collaborations among cancer researchers and physicians in US and China. Dr. Cheng was also the funding president of Association of Chinese American in Cancer Research (ACACR). Dr. Cheng received his B.S. degree in biochemistry from Wuhan University in Wuhan, China in 1982 and his Ph.D. degree in biochemistry from The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, USA in 1992. From 1992 to 1999, Dr. Cheng received his postdoctoral trainings at UCSD and the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research in La Jolla, California, USA. From 1999 to 2012, Dr. Cheng was appointed as an Assistant then a tenured Associate Professor at Hillman Cancer Center & Department of Pathology at University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA. In 2012, Dr. Cheng joined faculty at Northwestern

University as a tenured Professor at the Department of Neurology. Dr. Cheng is a fellow of American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). He was also honored as a Zell Scholar, Kimmel Scholar, and V Scholar for Cancer Research. Dr. Cheng is an associate editor at Genes & Diseases, and an editorial board member of Neuro-Oncology, Journal of Biological Chemistry, Journal of Neuro-oncology. Dr. Cheng has published over 100 peer-reviewed research articles in top-ranking biomedical journals as first, senior or co-author including *Cancer Cell*, *Nat Cell Biol*., *Mol. Cell, JCI*, *Nat Commoms, PNAS*, *Cell Reports, Cancer Res.* and >20 invited review articles, editorials, and book chapters. Dr. Cheng's research interests are to study dysregulated oncogenic signaling, non-coding RNAs, autophagy, epigenetics, and ferroptosis in adult and pediatric brain gliomas, RNA splicing in glioma tumor and tumor-associated myeloid cells and T cells, mechanisms underlying GBM resistance to TMZ, and develop novel therapeutic approaches for treating brain tumors. His research has been continuously supported by the US NIH, American Cancer Society, DOD Research Programs, and other funding agencies.

Gen-Sheng Feng, Ph.D., ACACR Immediate Past President. Dr. Feng is Professor of Pathology and Molecular Biology at the University of California, San Diego. His research program aims at understanding cross-talk and regulation of signaling pathways in different cell types in health and disease, which was initiated by his discovery of an SH2-containing tyrosine phosphatase Shp2 (originally called Syp) in his postdoc studies with the late Tony Pawson. In the past three decades, his lab is in the driver's position to decipher how Shp2 promotes signaling through the RTK-Ras-Erk pathway. This work has led to his most recent discovery of a new type of vesicle, intercellsome, in cell-cell communication to offset intracellular proliferative signal deficit. One current focus of the lab is on elucidating the paradoxical anti-oncogenic effects of classic oncoproteins in hepatocellular cancer. These findings provide fresh insights into liver cancer initiation and progression, in the dynamic interactions between tumor cells and the microenvironment. By deciphering multi-faceted roles of the immune ecosystem, his lab is developing new strategies for combinatorial liver cancer immunotherapy through coordinated activation of innate and adaptive immune cells. Dr. Feng got BSc degree in Biology from Hangzhou University, and Ph.D. from Indiana University Bloomington. He received postdoctoral training at the University of Toronto, Canada. Dr. Feng has published 193 peer-reviewed research papers, reviews and book chapters. Dr. Feng has served on the editorial boards of *MCB, JBC, Hepatology, and Journal of Hepatol.* In 2016, Dr. Feng was elected as Fellow of American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Dr. Feng was the ACACR President from 2022 to 2024, and is also the president-elect for the Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America (SCBA).

Wenwei Hu, Ph.D. Dr. Hu is a professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Rutgers Cancer Institute, Rutgers University. Dr. Hu received both her M.B. and Ph.D. degrees in cancer biology from Zhejiang University School of Medicine. She then received postdoctoral training at NYU Medical School, focusing on DNA damage and repair, before she moved to the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey continuing her postdoctoral training with Dr. Arnold Levine studying p53 and its signaling pathway. Since 2009, Dr. Hu has been a faculty member at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey. The major research interests of Dr. Hu's group include the study on the function and regulation of p53 in both wild-type and mutant forms, which in turn impacts tumorigenesis; and the role of LIF, a cytokine that is a p53 target, in tumorigenesis and other human diseases. Dr. Hu has authored or co-authored over 100 peer-reviewed publications. She has received many awards, including ACS Research Scholar, Ellison Medical Foundation Young Investigator Award, DOD New Investigator Award for Genetic Cancer Research, AACR-ITO EN Young Investigator Award, and Rutgers University Board of Trustees Research Fellowship for Scholarly Excellence, among others. Her research has been continuously supported by NIH/NCI, DoD, American Cancer Society, Ellison Medical Foundation, and other funding agencies.

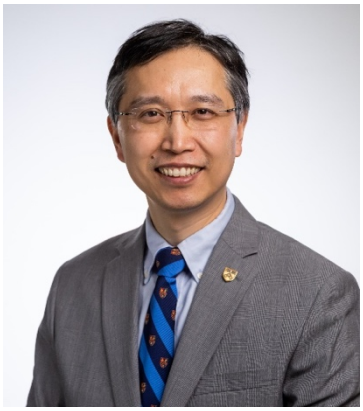
Zhenkun Lou, *Ph.D.* Dr. Lou is the Swanson/Schmucker Endowed Professor of Cancer Research, Professor of Pharmacology, Chair of the Division of Oncology Research, and Co-Leader of the Cell Genomics, Signaling, and Metastasis Program at the Mayo Clinic. His research focuses on signaling pathways activated by DNA damage-inducing radiation and chemotherapy. For over two decades, Dr. Lou's laboratory has been at the forefront of DNA repair pathway research, making significant contributions to the field. His team was among the first to characterize key players in the DNA damage response (DDR) pathway, shedding light on how factors such as ATM, ATR, DNA-PK, MDC1, NBS1, 53BP1, BRCA1, and Rad51 are activated or assembled at sites of DNA damage. Their studies have been instrumental in understanding how these factors facilitate DNA repair through non-homologous end joining (NHEJ) and homologous recombination (HR). Additionally, his lab was the first to characterize multiple E3 ligases and deubiquitinases involved in the DDR pathway. Beyond fundamental research, Dr. Lou's lab conducts extensive translational studies to explore how cancer cells respond to radiation, PARP inhibitors, and other DNA damage-inducing chemotherapies, as well as the mechanisms of resistance. Dr. Lou has published over 130 peer-reviewed papers, many in high-impact journals including *Nature, Cell, Cancer Cell, Cancer Discovery, Nature Cell Biology, Nature Cancer,* and *Molecular Cell*. His contributions have earned him numerous accolades, including the Richard Schulze Scholar Research Award, recognition as a Susan G. Komen Scholar, and election as an AAAS Fellow. He also served as the ACACR President from 2018 to 2020.

Erxi Wu, Ph.D., ACACR General Secretary. Dr. Wu is a dedicated cancer biologist and neuroscientist, whose work has gained both national and international acclaim. He is Professor at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM), Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Neurosurgery at BCM-Temple, Deputy Director of Neuroscience Institute at Baylor Scott & White Health (BSWH), and Chief, Neuro-Oncology Research, Neuroscience Institute at BSWH as well as Clinical Professor at Texas A&M School of Medicine; he is Professor (Affiliate) of LIVESTRONG Cancer Institutes and Department of Internal Medicine, Dell Medical School at the University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin). Critically, Dr. Wu is the PI and Director of the CPRIT Cancer Agent Target Discovery and Aptamer Development (CATDAD) Core at BSWH. Central to his research program is the development of biomarkers, the identification of therapeutic targets, and the discovery of novel drugs for cancer and neurodegenerative diseases. Among his notable achievements are the discovery of agents targeting cancer stem cells, the establishment of a comprehensive biomarker analysis platform, and significant advancements in understanding neurodegenerative disease pathology. Dr. Wu obtained Ph.D. from the University of Sheffield, UK under the tutelage of Professor Graham Russell and received postdoctoral training with Professor Margaret Shipp at Dana-Faber Cancer Institute, Harvard University. He has published 186 scientific papers in various scientific journals, many of which are highly regarded, such as *Nature Medicine, Molecular Cancer, Bioactive Materials, Nature Communications, JACS*, as evidenced by over 9,700 citations and an H-index of 55. Supported by grants from the NIH, CPRIT, and others, his work extends to the scientific community through roles like the NIH study section reviewer since 2017 and editorial positions in *Genes & Diseases* and *Drug Resistance Updates*. He has reviewed for over 140 scientific journals, delivered over 40 seminars globally, and introduced Nobel Laureates at conferences. Mentorship is a key aspect of his career, guiding over 80 professionals in their academic and industry endeavors. His involvement in shaping educational curricula and leadership roles in organizations like the Association of Chinese Americans in Cancer Research ACACR) reflects his commitment to advancing science. Dr. Wu serves as the President of the Chinese Association for Science & Technology USA (CAST-USA). Dedicated to pioneering new diagnostic and therapeutic methods for cancer and neurodegenerative diseases, he strives to impact human health through teaching, research, service, and leadership.

Dr. Lin Zhang, Ph.D. Dr. Zhang is a Professor of Medicine at the Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, Keck School of Medicine of University of Southern California (USC). He received his BS in Biochemistry from Sichuan University, and PhD in Molecular Biology from USC. After postdoctoral training at Johns Hopkins with Dr. Bert Vogelstein, he started his faculty position in 2002 at the University of Pittsburgh Hillman Cancer Center. He returned to USC in 2023 as a tenured Professor at the Department of Medicine. Dr. Zhang has tried to gain deep understanding on how cell death is initiated and executed in response to stress and drug treatment in colorectal cancer cells; how oncogenic driver mutations affect cell death signaling and ensuing antitumor immunity; why most of colorectal tumors respond poorly to therapeutic treatment; and what can be done to stimulate tumor cell killing and restore

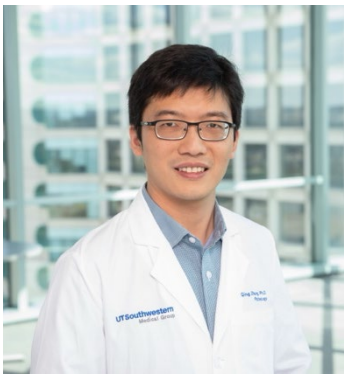
immunosurveillance of cancer. His long-term goal is to translate basic research findings on cell death to novel strategies and agents for improving colorectal cancer treatment and prevention. Dr. Zhang has authored over 150 research and review articles. His research has been continuously supported by NCI and led to multiple NCI-sponsored clinical trials. He received several honors including V Scholar, General Motor Scholar, ACS Research Scholar, and American Lung Association Career Investigator Award. He has served in NIH study sections and editorial boards of Cancer Research and other journals. He was a member of the AACR Special Conferences and Annual Meeting Program Committees. He was also a founding member of ACACR and served as the ACACR President from 2021 to 2022.

Dr. Jing Yang, Ph.D. Dr. Yang, an esteemed Professor of Pharmacology at the University of California, San Diego, is a prominent figure in the field of oncological research. Her academic journey includes a Ph.D. from Duke University, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at the Whitehead Institute. Professor Yang's expertise primarily lies in the realm of tumor metastasis, delving into areas such as the Twist gene, invadopodia, the degradation of the extracellular matrix, mechanobiology, and the intricacies of matrix stiffness. A significant portion of her work is dedicated to unraveling the complexities of the Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition (EMT) process and its implications in cancer metastasis. The Yang Laboratory stands out for its cutting-edge use of functional genomics along with advanced cellular and molecular biology techniques. Her current research initiatives are groundbreaking, encompassing the dissection of the mechanotransduction pathway in breast cancer, investigating the regulatory mechanisms of metastasis dormancy, deciphering the role of invadopodia in cancer progression, and examining how epithelial polarity influences EMT and metastatic processes. Dr. Yang's contributions to the field are evidenced by her high-quality publications in esteemed journals such as Cell and Cancer Cell, showcasing her dedication to advancing our understanding of cancer biology. Her work not only enhances academic knowledge but also holds significant potential for developing novel therapeutic strategies in the battle against cancer.



Lanjing Zhang, M.D., ACACR Treasurer. Dr. Zhang is the Chair of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Princeton Medical Center, Plainsboro, NJ. He is also a Research Professor of Chemical Biology at Rutgers Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, Piscataway, NJ, a Full Member of Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey. His research focuses on epidemiology, machine learning, computational biology, hepatology and cancer. Dr Zhang has published more than 130 articles and letters. He has mentored more than 10 undergraduate and graduate students, and is funded by the NSF and NIH, USA. His honors include the Ramzi Cotan Award from the US and Canadian Academy of Pathology, the Presidential Award from Sonic Healthcare USA and the MERIT (R37) Award from the NCI, NIH. He served on a panel of the Medical Devices Advisory Committee, U.S. FDA, regularly reviews grant proposals for U.S. and foreign governmental agencies, presided the New Jersey Society of Pathology (2019-2021) and chaired the steering committee of Cancer Epidemiology Service, New Jersey State Department of Health. Dr Zhang is on the editorial boards of several

peer-reviewed biomedical journals. He was the editor of the ACACR newsletter in 2022-2023 and has been the Treasurer of the ACACR since 2023.



Qing Zhang, Ph. D. Dr. Zhang obtained his Bachelor's degree from Wuhan University in China in 2001 followed by a Ph.D study working with Dr. Jennifer Grandis at Department of Pharmacology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine until Late 2005. From 2006 to early 2013, He worked as a postdoctoral fellow (2006-06/2011) and an instructor (07/2011-01/2013) in the lab of Nobel Laureate Dr. William Kaelin Jr. at Dana Farber Cancer Institute on prolyl hydroxylase and oxygen sensing pathway in cancer. He became an assistant professor at Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in Feb of 2013. He was promoted to associate professor with tenure in Feb of 2019 at UNC Chapel Hill and now he is a tenured full professor with tenure in the Department of Pathology at UT Southwestern Medical Center (UTSW) in Dallas. He also serves as the Director of Investigative Pathology at UTSW. He is endowed with Komen Distinguished Chair at UTSW. He is also currently holding the title of Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) Scholar in Cancer Research. Dr. Zhang has made a number of discoveries to deepen our understanding of oxygen sensing signaling pathway in cancer. These discoveries include identifying new regulatory pathways regulated by tumor suppressor Von Hippel Lindau (VHL) in kidney cancer and potential new therapeutic targets in oxygen sensing signaling in breast cancer. For his work, Dr. Zhang has received numerous honors, including the Kimmel Scholar (2014), Susan G. Komen Career Catalyst Award (2014), the V Scholar (2015), Mary Kay Foundation Award (2017), American Cancer Society Research Scholar Award (2018), CPRIT Rising Star Award (2019), Outstanding Investigator Award from American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP) and Young Investigator Award from Chinese Biomedical Investigator Society (CBIS).

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