



Academy of Cardiovascular Research Excellence  
(ACRE)



Chinese American Academy of Cardiology  
(CAAC)

## ACRE-CAAC Joint Seminar Series



**Ngar Yun Ellen Poon, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**School of Biomedical Sciences**  
**The Chinese University of Hong Kong**

*Using mitochondria-rich human pluripotent stem cell  
derived-cardiomyocytes to study cardiac damage*

**Moderator: Wing Tak Jack Wong, PhD**  
**Associate Professor**  
**School of Life Sciences**  
**The Chinese University of Hong Kong**

**November 27<sup>th</sup> , 2024, Wednesday, 12 PM, EST**

9:00<sup>AM</sup>  
PST

11:00<sup>AM</sup>  
CST

5:00<sup>PM</sup>  
UK time

6:00<sup>PM</sup>  
German time

1:00<sup>AM, 28th</sup>  
Beijing time

**Zoom: 835 9282 5409**

Passcode: 980441

Ngar Yun Ellen Poon, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
School of Biomedical Science  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong.  
Phone: 85235133164  
Email: [ellen.poon@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:ellen.poon@cuhk.edu.hk)  
Website: <https://www.hope.cuhk.edu.hk/faculty-staff/academic-staff/ellen-poon/>

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Dr. Poon's research focuses on the application of human pluripotent stem cell-derived cardiomyocytes for disease modelling and drug screening. The immaturity of human pluripotent stem cell-derived cardiomyocytes has long been a barrier to the use of these cells for research and therapy. Combining transcriptomic, proteomic, and microRNA profiling, she revealed novel mechanisms that facilitate the generation of cardiomyocytes with adult-like mitochondrial and metabolic properties. Her current focus is to utilize her cardiomyocyte platform for the modelling of human cardiac diseases, investigations of cardiotoxicity, and discovery of cardioprotective agents.

*This seminar series is co-organized by Rongxue "Rosie" Wu, M.D., Ph.D., Liya Yin, M.D., Ph.D., and Li Qian, Ph.D.*

The 66<sup>th</sup>

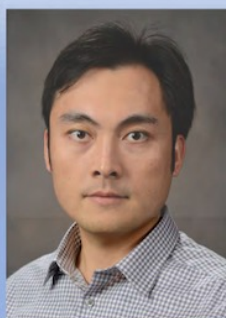


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## ACRE-CAAC Joint Seminar Series



**Xing Fu, PhD**  
Associate Professor  
Ralph and Lela Boulware Endowed Professor  
LSU AgCenter  
School of Animal Sciences  
Louisiana State University

### Regulation of Cardiac Fibroblast Activity after Myocardial Infarction

**Moderator: Chi Keung Lam, PhD**  
Assistant Professor  
Biological Science  
University of Delaware

**October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, Wednesday, 12 PM, EST**

**9:00** AM  
PST

**11:00** AM  
CST

**5:00** PM  
UK time

**6:00** PM  
German time

**12:00** AM, 24th  
Beijing time

**Zoom: 885 0948 0606**

Passcode: 583282

Xing Fu, PhD  
Associate Professor  
Ralph and Lela Boulware Endowed Professor  
LSU AgCenter  
School of Animal Sciences  
Louisiana State University  
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Email: [xfu1@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:xfu1@agcenter.lsu.edu)  
Website: <https://faculty.lsu.edu/fu/index.php>

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Dr. Fu received his PhD degree from Washington State University and postdoctoral training with Dr. Jeffery Molkentin at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Dr. Fu's lab focuses on the function of cardiac fibroblasts in post-injury fibrosis and tissue repair, and the molecular mechanisms regulating cardiac fibroblast activities and differentiation. Dr. Fu's lab is also interested in the function of similar cells in the development, growth, and diseases of other organs/tissues, such as adipose tissue and skeletal muscle.

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The 65<sup>th</sup>



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## ACRE-CAAC Joint Seminar Series



**Guizhen Zhao, PhD**  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of Pharmacological and  
Pharmaceutical Sciences,  
College of Pharmacy,  
University of Houston

### Exploring the Role of SWI/SNF Complex in Vascular Biology and Diseases

**Moderator: Hong S. Lu, MD, PhD, FAHA**  
Associate Professor,  
Department of Physiology,  
Saha Cardiovascular Research Center Saha Aortic Center,  
University of Kentucky College of Medicine

**October 9<sup>th</sup> , 2024, Wednesday, 12 PM, EST**

**9:00** AM  
PST

**11:00** AM  
CST

**5:00** PM  
UK time

**6:00** PM  
German time

**12:00** AM, 10<sup>th</sup>  
Beijing time

**Zoom: 851 2664 4443**

Passcode: 885935

**Guizhen Zhao, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences  
College of Pharmacy, University of Houston  
4349 Martin Luther King Blvd; Health 2 Building, Room 5021  
Houston, TX 77204-5037  
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Dr. Zhao lab focuses on elucidating the metabolic and epigenetic properties of vascular cells in cardiovascular diseases (CVD) and identifying potential drug targets. The goal is to enhance our understanding the metaboloepigenetic factors contributing to CVD progression and to provide novel insights into the therapeutic strategies for disease conditions, such as aortic aneurysm and atherosclerosis. Dr. Zhao's studies are supported by NIH R01 and AHA-Career Development Award.

*This seminar series is co-organized by Rongxue "Rosie" Wu, M.D., Ph.D., Liya Yin, M.D., Ph.D., and Li Qian, Ph.D.*

The 64<sup>th</sup>



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## ACRE-CAAC Joint Seminar Series



Liang Xie, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Cardiovascular Research Institute  
Department of Medicine  
Baylor College of Medicine

### Exploring the Role of Endothelial-myocardial Interaction in Heart Regeneration

Moderator: Ke Huang MD, PhD, FAHA  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Molecular Biomedical Sciences  
North Carolina State University

September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Wednesday, 12 PM, EST

9:00<sup>AM</sup>  
PST

11:00<sup>AM</sup>  
CST

5:00<sup>PM</sup>  
UK time

6:00<sup>PM</sup>  
German time

12:00<sup>AM, 26th</sup>  
Beijing time

**Zoom: 869 4266 3636**

Passcode: 050016

Liang Xie, PhD  
Assistant Professor,  
Cardiovascular Institute,  
Department of Medicine,  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Email: [liang.xie@bcm.edu](mailto:liang.xie@bcm.edu)  
Tel: 713.798.5985  
<https://www.bcm.edu/people-search/liang-xie-33287>

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Dr. Xie's lab focuses on defining the roles of prolyl hydroxylase domain (PHD) proteins in cardiac function and exploring the molecular mechanisms driving the cardiomyocyte-intrinsic innate immune responses in heart failure. The goal is to enhance our understanding of heart diseases and provide novel insights into therapeutic strategies for heart failure. Dr. Xie's studies have been supported by multiple grants from NIH and AHA, and the findings have been published in high-impact journals, such as *Nature Metabolism*, *Circulation*, and *Journal of Clinical Investigation*.

*This seminar series is co-organized by Rongxue "Rosie" Wu, M.D., Ph.D., Liya Yin, M.D., Ph.D., and Li Qian, Ph.D.*



The 63<sup>rd</sup>



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## ACRE-CAAC Joint Seminar Series



Lilei Zhang, MD, PhD  
Chief of Cardiovascular Genetics Clinic,  
Associate Professor,  
Molecular and Human Genetics &  
Internal Medicine &  
Molecular Physiology and Biophysics  
Baylor College of Medicine

## Circadian Regulation of Cardiac Remodeling

Moderator: Nuo Sun, PhD  
Associate Professor,  
Physiology and Cell Biology,  
Ohio State University

September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Wednesday, 12 PM, EST

9:00<sup>AM</sup>  
PST

11:00<sup>AM</sup>  
CST

5:00<sup>PM</sup>  
UK time

6:00<sup>PM</sup>  
German time

12:00<sup>AM, 12th</sup>  
Beijing time

**Zoom: 836 2198 9255**

Passcode: 652240

Lilei Zhang, MD, PhD  
Chief of Cardiovascular Genetics Clinic,  
Associate Professor,  
Molecular and Human Genetics  
Internal Medicine  
Molecular Physiology and Biophysics,  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Email: [Lilei.Zhang@bcm.edu](mailto:Lilei.Zhang@bcm.edu) | Tel: (713) 798-2285  
<https://www.bcm.edu/people-search/lilei-zhang-33562>

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Dr. Zhang is a physician scientist specialize in adult genetics. The overarching theme of her laboratory is to understand the genomic and epigenomic regulation of the cardiovascular system in health and in disease with an emphasis on heart failure and cardiomyopathies. The goal is to gain knowledge on circadian gene regulation in the heart and ultimately to use this information to design novel therapeutics for heart failure. Her lab is also interested in studying inherited cardiac diseases using patient-derived induced pluripotent stem cell differentiated cardiomyocytes from patients with inherited cardiomyopathies.

*This seminar series is co-organized by Rongxue "Rosie" Wu, M.D., Ph.D., Liya Yin, M.D., Ph.D., and Li Qian, Ph.D.*

The 62<sup>nd</sup>



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## ACRE-CAAC Joint Seminar Series



Jinhu Wang, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Medicine  
Emory University

### Understanding the Role of the Epicardium on Zebrafish Heart Regeneration

Moderator: Xiao Li, Ph.D.  
Assistant Investigator  
McGill Gene Editing Lab  
The Texas Heart Institute

**July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Wednesday, 12 PM, EST**

9:00<sup>AM</sup>  
PST

11:00<sup>AM</sup>  
CST

5:00<sup>PM</sup>  
UK time

6:00<sup>PM</sup>  
German time

12:00<sup>AM, 11th</sup>  
Beijing time

**Zoom: 878 0069 7012**

Passcode: 354505

Jinhu Wang, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Medicine  
Emory University  
Email: [jinhu.wang@emory.edu](mailto:jinhu.wang@emory.edu)  
Office: (404) 727-9540  
Web page: <https://med.emory.edu/departments/medicine/profile/?u=JWANG70>

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Dr. Wang's lab focuses on understanding how regenerative responses to injury have been optimized in non-mammalian vertebrates, like zebrafish. By scRNA-seq analyses, live imaging, and genetic tools, his lab characterizes the regeneration capacity of the myocardium and epicardium and defines new subsets of epicardial cells (*hapln1a*<sup>+</sup> cells and *ptx3a*<sup>+</sup> cells). Their goal is to discover new targets that underlie regenerative deficiencies in mammals.

*This seminar series is co-organized by Rongxue "Rosie" Wu, M.D., Ph.D., Liya Yin, M.D., Ph.D., and Li Qian, Ph.D.*





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## ACRE-CAAC Joint Seminar Series



**Qing Robert Miao, Ph.D.**  
**Professor**  
**Diabetes and Obesity Research Center**  
**New York University Long Island School of Medicine**

### Host Resilience to Obesity-induced Diabetes and Diabetes-associated Vascular Complications

**Moderator: Chunying Li, Ph.D.**  
**Associate Professor**  
**Institute of Biomedical Sciences**  
**Georgia State University**

**June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Wednesday, 12 PM, EST**

**9:00** <sup>AM</sup>  
**PST**

**11:00** <sup>AM</sup>  
**CST**

**5:00** <sup>PM</sup>  
**UK time**

**6:00** <sup>PM</sup>  
**German time**

**12:00** <sup>AM, 13<sup>th</sup></sup>  
**Beijing time**

**Zoom: 897 8784 7582**

Passcode: 319735

Qing Robert Miao, Ph.D.  
Professor  
Diabetes and Obesity Research Center  
New York University Grossman Long Island School of Medicine  
Mineola, NY 11501  
Email: [qing.miao@nyulangone.org](mailto:qing.miao@nyulangone.org)  
Office: 516-663-1427  
Web page: <https://medli.nyu.edu/faculty/qing-miao>

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Dr. Miao is well recognized for his research on elucidating the biological functions of the Nogo-B receptor and its roles in the pathogenesis of human diseases. Nogo-B receptor (NgBR) is a cell surface receptor that was identified by Dr. Miao during his postdoctoral training in Dr. William Sessa's laboratory at the Yale School of Medicine. By identifying physiological defects in NgBR tissue-specific knockout mice, Dr. Miao's team has successfully established unique animal models to elucidate the novel underlying mechanisms of several human diseases, including cerebrovascular malformations, nonalcoholic fatty liver diseases, obesity-induced diabetes, and diabetes-associated vascular complications.

*This seminar series is co-organized by Rongxue "Rosie" Wu, M.D., Ph.D., Liya Yin, M.D., Ph.D., and Li Qian, Ph.D.*



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## ACRE-CAAC Joint Seminar Series



Patrick C.H. Hsieh, MD, PhD, FAHA  
Distinguished Research Fellow and Chief  
Division of Cardiovascular & Metabolic Diseases,  
Institute of Biomedical Sciences, Academia Sinica  
Professor,  
National Taiwan University College of Medicine and  
Kaohsiung Medical University

## Metabolic Insights and Synergistic Cell Therapy for Cardiac Regeneration

Moderator: Xuejun "XJ" Wang, MD, PhD, FAHA, FISHR  
Professor, Division of Basic Biomedical Sciences,  
Director, The Physician Scientist Program,  
University of South Dakota  
Sanford School of Medicine

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, Wednesday, 11 AM, EST**

8:00<sup>AM</sup>  
PST

10:00<sup>AM</sup>  
CST

4:00<sup>PM</sup>  
UK time

5:00<sup>PM</sup>  
German time

11:00<sup>PM, 22nd</sup>  
Beijing time

**Zoom: 891 5101 9612**

Passcode: 100126

Patrick C.H. Hsieh, MD, PhD, FAHA  
Distinguished Research Fellow and Chief  
Division of Cardiovascular & Metabolic Diseases  
Institute of Biomedical Sciences, Academia Sinica  
Professor  
National Taiwan University College of Medicine and Kaohsiung Medical University  
Email: [phsieh@ibms.sinica.edu.tw](mailto:phsieh@ibms.sinica.edu.tw)  
Office: 886-2-27899074  
<https://www.mc.ntu.edu.tw/manage/upload/news/2022/9eab860f-17a6-41fa-86ea-8c8431850248.pdf>

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Dr. Hsieh focuses on cardiovascular regeneration, cancer nanomedicine, microbiota and metabolism, iPSC technologies, and translational research. Dr. Hsieh is the Principal Investigator of several flagship projects and leads the Taiwan iPSC Consortium, the Taiwan Tissue Chip Project, and the Taiwan Precision Regenerative Medicine project, and establishing Taiwan's super-donor iPSC cell bank for clinical cell therapy.

*This seminar series is co-organized by Rongxue "Rosie" Wu, M.D., Ph.D., Liya Yin, M.D., Ph.D., and Li Qian, Ph.D.*





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## ACRE-CAAC Joint Seminar Series



**Kai Jiao, MD, PhD**  
**Professor**  
**Center for Biotechnology & Genomic**  
**Medicine (CBGM)**  
**Medical College of Georgia**

# The Function of MIPEP, a Mitochondrial Intermediate Peptidase, in Mouse Hearts

**Moderator: Ning Liu, PhD**  
**Associate Professor**  
**Department of Molecular Biology**  
**The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center**

**May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Wednesday, 12 PM, EST**

**9:00** <sup>AM</sup>  
PST

**11:00** <sup>AM</sup>  
CST

**5:00** <sup>PM</sup>  
UK time

**6:00** <sup>PM</sup>  
German time

**12:00** <sup>AM, 9th</sup>  
Beijing time

**Zoom: 833 0087 8970**

Passcode: 754403

Kai Jiao, MD, PhD  
Professor  
Center for Biotechnology & Genomic Medicine (CBGM)  
Medical College of Georgia  
Email: [kaijiao@augusta.edu](mailto:kaijiao@augusta.edu)  
Office: 706-446-5573  
<https://www.augusta.edu/faculty/directory/view.php?id=KAIJIAO>

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Dr. Jiao's lab has mainly focused on studying the genetic and epigenetic regulatory mechanisms governing normal heart development and their potential contributions to congenital heart diseases. Dr. Jiao's lab has been using mouse and human iPS cells as their major model systems in the research. A new direction of Dr. Jiao's research is to study the role of mitochondria in embryonic and adult hearts.

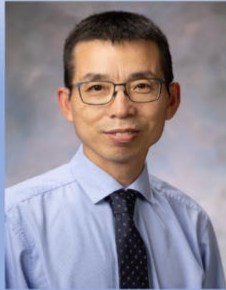


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## ACRE-CAAC Joint Seminar Series



**Dr. Deqiang Li, MD, PhD**  
**Associate Professor**  
**Research Institute at Nationwide**  
**Children's Hospital**  
**Ohio State University College of Medicine**

## Epigenetic Regulation on Myocardial Compaction and Trabeculation

**Moderator: Ziqing Liu, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Department of Physiology & Cardiovascular Center**  
**Medical College of Wisconsin**

**March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Wednesday, 12 PM, EST**

9:00 <sup>AM</sup>	11:00 <sup>AM</sup>	4:00 <sup>PM</sup>	5:00 <sup>PM</sup>	12:00 <sup>AM, 14th</sup>
PST	CST	UK time	German time	Beijing time

**Zoom: 867 0348 2283**

Passcode: 683627

**Dr. Deqiang Li, MD, PhD**  
**Associate Professor**  
**Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital**  
**Ohio State University College of Medicine**  
Email: [Deqiang.Li@nationwidechildrens.org](mailto:Deqiang.Li@nationwidechildrens.org)  
Office: (614) 355-5826  
<https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/find-a-doctor/profiles/deqiang-li>

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The goal of Dr. Li's lab is to understand the mechanisms of cardiac development and regeneration using genetic mouse models. The Li Lab studies the molecular mechanisms that underlie normal and abnormal heart development (e.g., congenital heart disease) and cell – cell signaling communications during these processes. Recently, the Li Lab focuses on whether and how epigenetics such as histone acetylation/deacetylation dictates cell lineage specification and its impacts on heart morphogenesis.



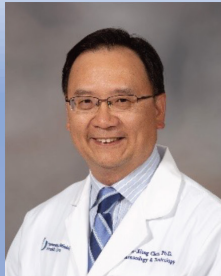


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## ACRE-CAAC Joint Seminar Series



**Dr. Jian-Xiong Chen, M.D.,**  
**Professor**  
**Pharmacology and Toxicology**  
**University of Mississippi Medical Center**

# Targeting Glycolysis In Heart Failure: What Are Experimental Proofs?

**Moderator: Jun Feng, MD, PhD, FAHA**  
**Associate Professor of Surgery**  
**Director, Cardiothoracic Surgery Research Lab.**  
**Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, CVRC**  
**RIH, Alpert Medical School of Brown University**

**February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Wednesday, 12 PM, EST**

**9:00** AM  
PST

**11:00** AM  
CST

**5:00** PM  
UK time

**6:00** PM  
German time

**1:00** AM, 15<sup>th</sup>  
Beijing time

**Zoom: 823 3608 3181**

Passcode: 868130

**Dr. Jian-Xiong Chen, M.D.,**  
**Professor**  
**Pharmacology and Toxicology**  
**University of Mississippi Medical Center**  
Email: [JChen3@umc.edu](mailto:JChen3@umc.edu)  
Office: 601-984-1731

<https://www.ums.edu/som/Departments%20and%20Offices/SOM%20Departments/Pharmacology%20and%20Toxicology/Faculty/Jian-Xiong-Chen.html>

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Dr. Chen's lab aims to understand the pathogenesis and identify the intracellular molecular basis that may contribute to microvascular rarefaction, vascular stiffness and calcification, and diastolic heart failure. Dr. Chen's lab studies the novel regulatory roles of mitochondrial Sirtuin 3, p53 acetylation, mitochondrial ferroptosis, and glucose metabolism on coronary microvascular dysfunction in the diabetic/obese heart, pressure-overload-induced HF and HFpEF.

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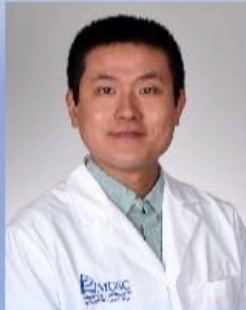


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## ACRE-CAAC Joint Seminar Series



**Ge Tao, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Dept. of Regenerative Medicine & Cell Biology**  
**Medical University of South Carolina**

### Redox Balance in Cardiomyocyte Death and Repair

**Moderator: Shijie Liu, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Department of Pediatrics**  
**Cincinnati Children's Hospital**

**January 10<sup>th</sup> , 2024, Wednesday, 12 PM, EST**

9:00<sup>AM</sup> PST      11:00<sup>AM</sup> CST      5:00<sup>PM</sup> UK time      6:00<sup>PM</sup> German time      1:00<sup>AM, 9th</sup> Beijing time

**Zoom: 827 1987 2917**

Passcode: 449043

**Ge Tao, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor,**  
**Department of Regenerative Medicine & Cell Biology**  
**Medical University of South Carolina**  
Email: [taog@musc.edu](mailto:taog@musc.edu)  
Office: 843-792-5059  
<https://medicine.musc.edu/departments/regenerative-medicine/research/tao-lab>

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Dr. Tao's group aims to understand how neonatal mouse hearts regenerate while the adult hearts cannot. The Tao Lab uses mouse genetic and surgical models to study the injury response, cell death, and repair of cardiac muscle after traumatic or ischemic stress. The Tao Lab is interested in identifying healing factors that promote adult mouse heart regeneration after myocardial infarction (MI).



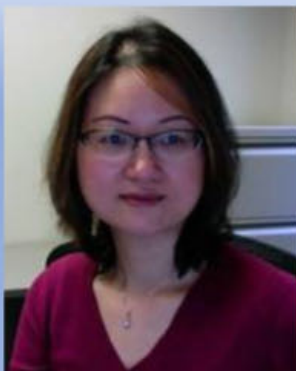


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## ACRE-CAAC Joint Seminar Series



**Shan Liao, PhD**  
Associate Professor  
Microbiology, Immunology and  
Infectious Diseases  
Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases  
Cumming School of Medicine  
University of Calgary

### Lymphatic Function and Immune Regulation in the Lymph Nodes

**Moderator: Hong Chen, PhD, FAHA**  
Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School  
Principal Investigator, Vascular Biology Program  
Department of Surgery, Boston Children's Hospital

**December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Wednesday, 12 PM, EST**

9:00<sup>AM</sup>  
PST

11:00<sup>AM</sup>  
CST

5:00<sup>PM</sup>  
UK time

6:00<sup>PM</sup>  
German time

1:00<sup>AM, 9th</sup>  
Beijing time

**Zoom: 826 3141 0744**

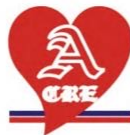
Passcode: 632927

Shan Liao, PhD  
Associate Professor  
Dept. of Microbiology, Immunology and Infectious Diseases  
Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases  
Cumming School of Medicine  
University of Calgary  
Email: [liaos@ucalgary.ca](mailto:liaos@ucalgary.ca)  
Tel: 403.220.7356  
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/irn/shan-liao>

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Lymphatic vessels maintain fluid balance and transport tissue waste, pathogens, and cells to lymph nodes for protection by the immune system. In the lymph node, lymph flow direction determines the time, location, and cell types that encounter the antigens after an immune stimulation. Dr. Liao's lab aims to understand how lymph flow is regulated in healthy and diseased states, determine how altered lymph flow affects host immunity in inflammation and cancer and target lymph flow in order to develop potential therapeutic methods to reduce edema, and improve host immune protection or anti-tumor immunity.

*This seminar series is co-organized by Rongxue "Rosie" Wu, M.D., Ph.D., Liya Yin, M.D., Ph.D., and Li Qian, Ph.D.*



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Chinese American Academy of Cardiology  
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## ACRE-CAAC Joint Seminar Series



**Yucheng Yao, MD, PhD**  
Professor  
Department of Medicine  
David Geffen School of Medicine  
University of California, Los Angeles

### Transitioning Endothelial Cells Contribute to Pulmonary Fibrosis

**Moderator: Rong Lu, PhD**  
Associate Professor of Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative  
Medicine, Biomedical Engineering, Medicine, and Gerontology,  
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Scholar,  
Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California

**October 11, 2023, Wednesday, 12 PM, EST**

**9:00** <sup>AM</sup>  
PST

**11:00** <sup>AM</sup>  
CST

**5:00** <sup>PM</sup>  
UK time

**6:00** <sup>PM</sup>  
German time

**12:00** <sup>AM, 14th</sup>  
Beijing time

**Zoom: 823 3166 2200**

Passcode: 672594

Yucheng Yao, MD, PhD  
Professor  
Department of Medicine  
David Geffen School of Medicine  
University of California, Los Angeles  
[yyao@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:yyao@mednet.ucla.edu)  
TEL: 310-825-3239  
<https://profiles.ucla.edu/yucheng.yao>

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Dr. Yao is Professor of Medicine at University of California, Los Angeles. His lab focuses on multiple aspects of cardiovascular disease, such as arteriovenous malformations and the prevention of vascular calcification. The Yao lab is also broadly interested in endothelial differentiation in the vascular-related diseases.





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## ACRE-CAAC Joint Seminar Series



**Lei Yang, PhD, FAHA,**  
Professor  
Department of Pediatrics, Anatomy,  
Cell Biology & Physiology  
Herman B Wells Center For Pediatric Research  
Indiana University School of Medicine

### Long Non-Coding RNAs: Dark Matter Behind Human Heart Development and Metabolism

**Moderator: Hongchao Guo, PhD**

Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery  
Principal Investigator,  
Nora Eccles Harrison Cardiovascular Research and Training Institute (CVRTI)  
University of Utah

**September 13, 2023, Wednesday, 12 PM, EST**

9:00<sup>AM</sup>  
PST

11:00<sup>AM</sup>  
CST

5:00<sup>PM</sup>  
UK time

6:00<sup>PM</sup>  
German time

12:00<sup>AM, 14th</sup>  
Beijing time

**Zoom: 885 1150 4642**

Passcode: 235733

Lei Yang, PhD, FAHA  
Professor  
Department of Pediatrics, Anatomy, Cell Biology & Physiology  
Herman B Wells Center For Pediatric Research  
Indiana University School of Medicine  
1044 W Walnut Street, Indianapolis, IN, 46202  
Email: [lyang7@iu.edu](mailto:lyang7@iu.edu)  
TEL: 317-278-5233 (office)  
<https://medicine.iu.edu/faculty-labs/yang-lei>

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The Yang laboratory utilizes a combination of human embryonic stem (ES) cells, human induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells, mouse genetic models, and tissue engineering approaches to study human-specific molecular mechanisms underlying heart development, cardiac metabolism, cardiovascular diseases, and therapy.

*This seminar series is co-organized by Rongxue "Rosie" Wu, M.D., Ph.D., Liya Yin, M.D., Ph.D., and Li Qian, Ph.D.*



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## ACRE-CAAC Joint Seminar Series



### Rhian M. Touyz, PhD

Dr. Phil Gold Chair in Medicine,  
Professor in Family Medicine,  
Executive Director and Chief Scientific Officer of the  
Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre,  
McGill University, Montreal, Canada  
Editor-in-chief, *Hypertension*,  
Associate Editor, *Pharmacological Reviews*

## Vasculome in Hypertension and Small Vessel Disease

**Moderator: Jiang Chang (JC), MD, PhD, FAPS**

Professor and Deputy Director  
Center for Genomic and Precision Medicine  
Institute of Biosciences and technology (IBT)  
Texas A&M University

**May 17, 2023, Wednesday 12 PM, EST**

9:00<sup>AM</sup>  
PST

11:00<sup>AM</sup>  
CST

5:00<sup>PM</sup>  
UK time

6:00<sup>PM</sup>  
German time

12:00<sup>AM, 18th</sup>  
Beijing time

**Zoom: 820 2802 0862**

Passcode: 865084

Rhian M. Touyz, PhD  
MBBCh, PhD, FRCP, FRSE, FCAHS, FMedSci  
[Rhian.touyz@mcgill.ca](mailto:Rhian.touyz@mcgill.ca)  
<https://www.mcgill.ca/familymed/rhian-m-touyz>

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Dr. Rhian M. Touyz, the Executive Director and Chief Scientific Officer of the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre, is a distinguished clinician-scientist noted for her contributions to cardiovascular medicine. She holds prestigious positions at McGill University and previously directed the Institute of Cardiovascular and Medical Sciences at the University of Glasgow. Her numerous accolades include the Dahl Award and Hypertension Research Excellence Award. As the editor-in-chief of *Hypertension*, she plays a significant role in shaping clinical practices. Dr. Touyz's research spans hypertension, cardiometabolic disease, cardiovascular toxicity of anti-cancer drugs, and vascular dementia, with a focus on translational impact. Her work, represented in over 600 peer-reviewed papers, illuminates the molecular and vascular biology of these conditions. This presentation will spotlight key mechanisms underpinning vascular damage in hypertension and small vessel disease.

*This seminar series is co-organized by Rongxue "Rosie" Wu, M.D., Ph.D., Liya Yin, M.D., Ph.D., and Zhao Wang, Ph.D.*





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## ACRE-CAAC Joint Seminar Series



**Xian-Cheng Jiang (蒋宪成), Ph.D.**  
Distinguished Professor  
Department of Cell Biology  
SUNY Downstate Medical Center  
State University of New York

### Phospholipid Remodeling and its Potential Impact on Metabolic Diseases

**Moderator: Bin Ren, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Department of Surgery  
School of Medicine  
University of Alabama at Birmingham

**May 3, 2023, Wednesday 12 PM, EST**

**9:00** <sup>AM</sup>  
PST

**11:00** <sup>AM</sup>  
CST

**5:00** <sup>PM</sup>  
UK time

**6:00** <sup>PM</sup>  
German time

**12:00** <sup>AM, 4th</sup>  
Beijing time

**Zoom: 831 7399 9744**

Passcode: 986184

**Xian-Cheng Jiang (蒋宪成), Ph.D.**  
Professor  
Department of Cell Biology  
SUNY Downstate Medical Center  
State University of New York  
Email: [xjiang@downstate.edu](mailto:xjiang@downstate.edu)  
Tel: (718) 270-6701  
<https://www.downstate.edu/faculty/cell-biology/jiang.html>

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The Jiang laboratory investigates the effect of lipid metabolism and metabolic diseases, such as atherosclerosis, metabolic syndrome, obesity, and liver steatosis. The Jiang lab is particularly interested in understanding how phospholipid metabolism influences plasma lipoprotein metabolism, cell membrane lipid composition and function, and the development of metabolic diseases.

*This seminar series is co-organized by Rongxue "Rosie" Wu, M.D., Ph.D., Liya Yin, M.D., Ph.D., and Zhao Wang, Ph.D.*



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## ACRE-CAAC Joint Seminar Series



**Chuanfu Li, M.D.**  
Professor  
Department of Surgery  
James H. Quillen College of Medicine  
East Tennessee State University

# Lactate Induces Endothelial Cell Permeability in Sepsis and Promotes EndoMT after MI

**Moderator: Guo-Chang Fan, Ph.D.**  
Professor  
Pharmacology & Systems Physiology  
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

**April 5, 2023, Wednesday 12 PM, EST**

9:00<sup>AM</sup>  
PST

11:00<sup>AM</sup>  
CST

5:00<sup>PM</sup>  
UK time

6:00<sup>PM</sup>  
German time

12:00<sup>AM, 6th</sup>  
Beijing time

**Zoom: 833 1314 5872**

Passcode: 551119

Chuanfu Li, MD.  
Professor  
Department of Surgery  
Quillen College of Medicine  
East Tennessee State University  
Email: [LI@mail.etsu.edu](mailto:LI@mail.etsu.edu)  
Tel: 423-439-6215  
<https://www.etsu.edu/com/surgery/research/chuanfuli.php>

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**The Li Lab focuses on 1) Innate immunity and myocardial ischemic injury and septic cardiomyopathy; 2) Lactate-lactylation and cardiovascular dysfunction in myocardial ischemic injury and septic cardiomyopathy; 3) Cellular senescence and cardiovascular function in myocardial ischemic injury and septic cardiomyopathy.**



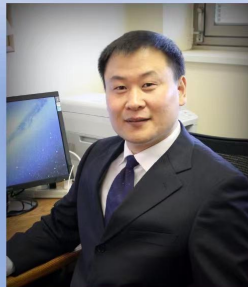


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## ACRE-CAAC Joint Seminar Series



**Wei Guo, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
Cardiovascular Research Center  
Animal Health & Biomedical Sciences  
Cellular and Molecular Biology Graduate Program  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

## A New Paradigm for Heart Failure: RBM20 Granules Disease

**Moderator: Xuejun "XJ" Wang, M.D., Ph.D.**

Professor of Basic Biomedical Sciences  
Director of the MD/PhD Program  
Sanford School of Medicine  
University of South Dakota

**March 22, 2023, Wednesday 12 PM, EST**

9:00<sup>AM</sup>  
PST

11:00<sup>AM</sup>  
CST

4:00<sup>PM</sup>  
UK time

5:00<sup>PM</sup>  
German time

12:00<sup>AM, 23rd</sup>  
Beijing time

**Zoom: 836 2974 6726**

Passcode: 559248

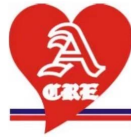
**Wei Guo, Ph.D.**

1933 Observatory Dr.  
2112 Meat Science & Animal Biological Discovery Building  
Madison, WI 53706  
Tel: 608-263-3676  
Email: [wguo2@wisc.edu](mailto:wguo2@wisc.edu)

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Dr. Guo's laboratory focuses on studying the role of RNA metabolism in striated muscle structure and function. The lab aims to understand the molecular and cellular mechanisms of RNA binding motif protein 20 (RBM20) and titin-based stiffness in heart failure, and how to treat heart failure with preserved ejection fraction patients. The Guo lab identified RBM20 as a new muscle-specific splicing factor that primarily regulates alternative splicing of titin gene, which encodes a giant sarcomeric protein that is responsible for myocardial stiffness. Genetic mutations in RBM20 can cause severe dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) by facilitating RBM20 nucleocytoplasmic transport and protein/RNA granules formation. The lab also aims to identify new therapeutic targets to treat RBM20 granules disease. Dr. Guo's lab has published over 50 research papers in top-tier journals such as Nature Medicine, and their work is supported by grants from NIH, AHA, and USDA.

*This seminar series is co-organized by Rongxue "Rosie" Wu, M.D., Ph.D., Liya Yin, M.D., Ph.D., and Zhao Wang, Ph.D.*



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## ACRE-CAAC Joint Seminar Series



**Ying Yang, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Physiology  
College of Medicine  
University of South Florida

### A Novel Mechanism to Enhance Lymphatic Valve Formation: Therapeutic Implications for Lymphedema

**Moderator: Pengchun Yu, Ph.D.**

Assistant Member  
Cardiovascular Biology Research Program  
Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation

**March 8, 2023, Wednesday 12 PM, EST**

9:00<sup>AM</sup>  
PST

11:00<sup>AM</sup>  
CST

5:00<sup>PM</sup>  
UK time

6:00<sup>PM</sup>  
German time

1:00<sup>AM, 9th</sup>  
Beijing time

**Zoom: 853 4620 2887**

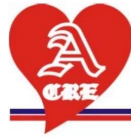
Passcode: 105119

**Ying Yang**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Physiology  
University of South Florida College of Medicine  
Email: [yingyang@usf.edu](mailto:yingyang@usf.edu)  
Tel: (813) 974-8078  
<https://health.usf.edu/medicine/mpp/faculty/yingyang>

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The main research interest in Dr. Yang's laboratory is to understand the biological functions of the transcription factor FoxO1 during lymphatic development and lymphatic disease and to develop novel therapeutic targets for lymphedema. Her NIH-funded laboratory is the first to stimulate the growth of new lymphatic valves in a physiological manner by deleting FoxO1, which has the potential to treat several types of primary lymphedema where valves regress or disintegrate. Dr. Yang has received the 2021 NAVBO Springer Junior Investigator Award.





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## ACRE-CAAC Joint Seminar Series



Na Li, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Department of Medicine,  
Section of Cardiovascular Research  
Baylor College of Medicine

## Inflammasome In Atrial Fibrillation

**Moderator: Liang Xie, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Medicine  
Cardiovascular Research Institute  
Baylor College of Medicine

**February 22, 2023, Wednesday 12 PM, EST**

9:00<sup>AM</sup>  
PST

11:00<sup>AM</sup>  
CST

5:00<sup>PM</sup>  
UK time

6:00<sup>PM</sup>  
German time

1:00<sup>AM, 23rd</sup>  
Beijing time

**Zoom: 861 9629 2848**

Passcode: 329405

Na Li, PhD  
Associate Professor  
Department of Medicine (Section of Cardiovascular Research)  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Email: [nal@bcm.edu](mailto:nal@bcm.edu)  
Website: <https://www.bcm.edu/people-search/na-li-25453>  
Twitter: @naliphd

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The research focus in Dr. Li's lab is to better define the molecular pathways that are responsible for cardiac arrhythmias, with the goal of developing novel therapeutic strategies. She has built an impactful research program focusing on the role of inflammasome signaling in the pathogenesis of cardiac arrhythmias. In 2018, her lab published the first evidence for this concept in *Circulation* by revealing that cardiomyocyte inflammasome signaling plays a causative role in the pathogenesis of atrial fibrillation by promoting the electrical remodeling, which has been cited over 300 times so far. Her follow-up work further demonstrate NLRP3 inflammasome as a pathogenic link in different populations with high risk for AF, such as obesity, surgical operation, diabetes, and chronic kidney disease. Her lab is currently supported with multiple NIH grants. Dr. Li has received an Established Investigator Award from American Heart Association to investigate the novel mechanisms of congenital cardiac arrhythmic syndrome. She has a track-record and published over 70 peer-reviewed papers to date, many of which are in top journals of cardiovascular science. She serves on multiple NIH and AHA study sections. She is also devoted to teaching and mentoring of next generation of scientists.



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## ACRE-CAAC Joint Seminar Series



**Yun Fang, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Associate Director, Physician Scientist Development Program  
Associate Director, Research Training in Respiratory Biology Program  
Section of Pulmonary and Critical Care  
Biological Sciences Division, Department of Medicine  
The University of Chicago

### Precision Nanomedicine Targeting Novel Endothelial Mechano-sensing Mechanisms to Treat Vascular Diseases

**Moderator: Zhen Bouman Chen, MB, PhD**

Associate Professor  
Department of Diabetes Complications & Metabolism  
Arthur Riggs Diabetes and Metabolism Research Institute  
Beckman Research Institute  
City of Hope National Medical Center

**February 8, 2023, Wednesday 12 PM, EST**

9:00 <sup>AM</sup>	11:00 <sup>AM</sup>	5:00 <sup>PM</sup>	6:00 <sup>PM</sup>	1:00 <sup>AM, 9th</sup>
PST	CST	UK time	German time	Beijing time

**Zoom: 837 8137 8012**

Passcode: 629757

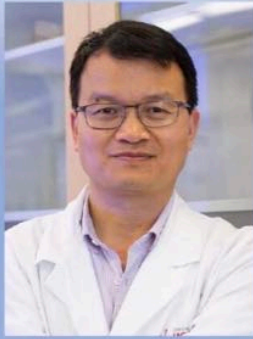
**Yun Fang, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Associate Director, Physician Scientist Development Program  
Associate Director, Research Training in Respiratory Biology Program  
Section of Pulmonary and Critical Care  
Biological Sciences Division, Department of Medicine  
The University of Chicago  
Email: [yfang1@bsd.uchicago.edu](mailto:yfang1@bsd.uchicago.edu)  
<https://metabolism.uchicago.edu/program/faculty/yun-fang>

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Dr. Fang's lab devises a cohort of new precision nanomedicine platforms to target novel dysregulated endothelial mechano-sensing mechanisms, a strategy effectively treating vascular complications *in vivo*. Their recent results elucidate previously unrecognized endothelial mechano-sensitive pathways in endothelial activation, with emphasis upon miRNA, transcription factors, cellular metabolism, human genetic variants, protein stability, and mRNA chemical modification/epi-transcriptome. Polymer or liposome-based nanoparticles are engineered to deliver therapeutic nucleotides such as mRNA, miRNA inhibitor, or CRISPR/Cas9 constructs specifically into inflamed endothelial cells to intervene aforementioned mechano-sensitive pathways.



# ACRE-CAAC Joint Seminar Series



**Mingfu Wu, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor of Pharmacology  
Department of Pharmacological and  
Pharmaceutical Sciences  
University of Houston College of Pharmacy

## Proepicardial Cells are Heterogeneous with Specified Smooth Muscle-like Cells and Pacemaker Progenitor Cells

**Moderator: Di “Didi” Ren, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Diabetes and Cancer Metabolism  
City of Hope National Medical Center

**January 18, 2023, Wednesday 12 PM, EST**

9:00<sup>AM</sup>  
PST

11:00<sup>AM</sup>  
CST

5:00<sup>PM</sup>  
UK time

6:00<sup>PM</sup>  
German time

12:00<sup>AM, 19th</sup>  
Beijing time

**Zoom: 897 7607 0698**

Passcode: 966012

**Mingfu Wu, Ph.D.**

University of Houston College of Pharmacy  
Health 2, Room 5014  
4349 Martin Luther King Boulevard  
Houston, TX 77204-5037  
Email: [mwu25@central.uh.edu](mailto:mwu25@central.uh.edu)  
Tel: (713) 743-9880

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Dr. Mingfu Wu's lab is interested in the etiology of congenital heart defects. Specifically, his lab focuses on left ventricular non-compaction cardiomyopathy and hypoplastic left heart syndrome. One of the projects that his lab has been working on is the pro-epicardial cell differentiation and epicardial development.

Epicardial cells give rise to fibroblasts and coronary vascular smooth muscle cells (cVSMCs), and participate in cardiac remodeling and regeneration, making them a promising target for cardiac regeneration. However, whether fibroblasts and cVSMCs are specified in proepicardium (PE), epicardium, or myocardium is unknown. His study reveals that PE region contains three distinct progenitor populations. Unexpectedly, one is VSMC progenitor, and, for the first time, they determine that SMC is specified in PE in mammals. The source of the pacemaker lineage, whose abnormal development leads to arrhythmia, is elusive. His study applies dual reporter to define pacemaker progenitor cells localized to the PE region proximal to the atrial wall and provide transcriptomic analyses and insights into the earliest stages of sinoatrial progenitors.

**ACRE-CAAC Joint Seminar**



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## ACRE-CAAC Joint Seminar Series



**Zhongkui Hong, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Mechanical Engineering Department  
Texas Tech University

### Cellular Mechanics in Cardiovascular Diseases

**Moderator: Bo Liu, Ph.D.**  
Professor, Department of Surgery  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

**January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Wednesday, 12 PM, EST**

**9:00** <sup>AM</sup>  
PST

**11:00** <sup>AM</sup>  
CST

**5:00** <sup>PM</sup>  
UK time

**6:00** <sup>PM</sup>  
German time

**1:00** <sup>AM, 8th</sup>  
Beijing time

**Zoom: 811 6444 5972**

Passcode: 721359

**Zhongkui Hong, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Mechanical Engineering Department  
Texas Tech University  
Email: [zhongkui.hong@ttu.edu](mailto:zhongkui.hong@ttu.edu)  
[https://www.depts.ttu.edu/me/faculty/zhongkui\\_hong/untitled.php](https://www.depts.ttu.edu/me/faculty/zhongkui_hong/untitled.php)

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Dr. Hong's research focuses on biomechanics in cardiovascular diseases and cancer metastasis, mechanics in biomaterial design and tissue engineering, stem cell-derived tissue engineering, and nanomaterials for tissue engineering and drug delivery. His research has been funded by the American Heart Association (AHA), National Institute of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF), and South Dakota Board of Regents. His research and teaching have been widely recognized. Dr. Hong won the 2021 University President's Award for Research Excellence, one of the highest honors at the University of South Dakota, and the 2022 Richard and Sharon Cutler Outstanding Faculty Award from the College of Arts and Science for promoting liberal arts education at The University of South Dakota.