CURRICULUM VITAE (updated on September 15, 2026)

Wei Li, PhD
UTHSC Distinguished Professor
Director of UTCoP Drug Discovery Center
Faculty Director of the UTCoP Shared Instrument Facility
Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, College of Pharmacy
Leader, Chemical Biology Program, Center for Cancer Research
University of Tennessee Health Science Center
881 Madison Avenue, Room 561, Memphis, TN 38163
Tel: (901)448-7532; Email: wli@uthsc.edu; Webpage: https://li.lab.uthsc.edu/

Founder and CSO
SEAK Therapeutics, LLC
881 Madison Ave, Suite 561, Memphis, TN 38103
Tel: (901)3409109; Email: wli@seaktherapeutics.com; Website: http://seaktherapeutics.com

EDUCATION HISTORY

B. S.	1992	(Chemistry) University of Science and Technology of China (USTC)
Ph.D.	1999	(Chemistry) Columbia University in the City of New York

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1992 – 1994	Graduate student, Dalian Inst. of Chemical Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences
1994 – 1999	Graduate Research Assistant, Columbia University in the City of New York
1999 – 2001	Instructor and Director of the UTCoP Shared Instrument Facility, University of Tennessee HSC
2001 – 2004	Assistant Professor (non-tenure track) and Director of the UTCoP Shared Instrument Facility, UTHSC
2004 – 2009	Assistant Professor (tenure-track) and Faculty Director of Shared Instrument Facility, UTHSC
2004 – present	Faculty Director of the UTCoP Shared Instrument Facility
2009 – 2014	Associate Professor with tenure, UTHSC
2014 – 2020	Professor, UTHSC
2017 – present	Director, UTHSC College of Pharmacy Drug Discovery Center
2017 – 2019	Member, the West Cancer Center, Memphis, TN
2018 – present	Founder and CSO, SEAK Therapeutics LLC
2020 – present	UTHSC Distinguished Professor
2023 – present	Executive Committee member, University of Tennessee Research Foundation
2024 – present	Program Leader, Chemical Biology Program, UTHSC Center for Cancer Research

HONORS/AWARDS

Faculty Fellowship, Columbia University, 1994-1999
Zhang ZhongZhi Fellowship, University of Science and Technology of China, 1991
Innovation Award, University of Tennessee Research Foundation, 2010
Research Award, University of Tennessee Research Foundation, 2012
Research Award, University of Tennessee Research Foundation, 2014
Health Care Heroes Award in the category of Innovation, the Memphis Business Journal, 2022
Innovator of the Year Award, the University of Tennessee Research Foundation, 2024

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

American Chemical Society (ACS)
American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)
American Association for Pharmaceutical Sciences (AAPS)
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION APPOINTMENTS:

- Secretary, American Chemical Society Memphis Local Section, 2015-2017.
- Vice President and Executive Committee Member, MALTO (Medicinal Chemistry-Pharmacognosy Meeting-in-Miniature), 2016-present.
- Member, Award Committee, AAPS, 2020-2023
- Member, Executive Committee of the ASPET Division for Drug Discovery and Development (DDD), 2022-present

- Secretary/Treasurer-elect (7/2024-6/2025); Secretary/Treasurer (7/2025-6/2026); Chair-Elect (7/2025-6/2026); and Chair (7/2026-6/2027 term), Division of Drug Discovery and Development, ASPET.
- Committee Member, the 2025 Tu Youyou Award Selection Committee, an award sponsored by MDPI.

EDITORIAL APPOINTMENTS:

- Guest Editor**, Pharmaceutical Research**, Theme Issue on tubulin inhibitors, 2012.
- Guest editor, **Molecules,** Theme Issue on Tubulin Inhibitors, 2016
- Guest editor with Dr. Guan Chen at Medical College of Wisconsin, **Acta Pharmaceutica Sinica B,** Theme Issue on signal transduction and cancer drug discovery, 2017-2018.
- Guest Editor with Dr. Kevin Piney at Baylor, **Molecules**, Special Issue Tubulin 2021, 2020-2021.
- Guest Editor, ***Molecules***, Special Issue to honor Dr. Duane D Miller, 2020-2021
- Guest Editor, ***Frontiers in Pharmacology***, Special Issue on cancer drug resistance, 2023.
- Guest Editor, ***Frontiers in Immunology***, Special Issue on small molecule immunotherapy potentiators. 2025-2026
- Editorial Board Member and Section Editor (Anti-Cancer Agents), **Current Med Chem,** 2014-2020.
- Editorial Board Member, **Acta Pharmaceutica Sinica B,** 2016-present
- Editorial Board Member, **Molecules,** 2018-present.
- Editorial Board Member, **Genes & Diseases**, 2018-present
- Editorial Board Member, **Cancer Letters**, 2020-2024
- **Ad-hoc journal reviewer (partial list)**:

ACS Applied BioMaterials
Acta Pharmaceutica Sinica B
Anti-cancer Agents in Med Chemistry
Bioorganic Chemistry
Bioorganic Medicinal Chemistry
Bioorganic Medicinal Chemistry Letters
BMC Cancer
British Journal of Cancer
British Journal of Pharmacology
Cancer Letters
Cancer Research
European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry
Expert Opinion on Drug Discovery
Expert Opinion on Biological Therapy
Genes & Diseases
International Journal of Nanomedicine
International J of Biological Sciences
J Pharmacology & Exp Therapeutics
Journal of the American Chemical Society
J Experimental & Clinical Cancer Res
Journal of Medicinal Chemistry
Materials Science and Engineering C
Medicinal Research Review
Molecular Cancer
Molecular Cancer Therapeutics
Molecular Diversity
Molecules
Molecular Therapy
Nature
Nature Communications
Pharmacological Reviews
Pharmacology Research & Perspective
PLoS One
PNAS
Royal Society of Chemistry Journals
Scientific Reports
The Open Magnetic Resonance Journal

INVENTED INVESTIGATIONAL NEW DRUG (IND) ADVANCED TO CLINICAL TRIALS

- Sabizabulin (other names known as ABI-231, VERU-111, GTx-230), originally invented and synthesized in my lab as compound ABI-231. It went through several clinical trials in prostate cancer and hospitalized COVID-19 patients. Currently licensed and in commercial development by Veru, Inc.

GRANT REVIEWER

- National Institute of Health
  - 2011/03: ZRG1 BCMB-U 30
  - 2012/03: ZRG1 BCMB-R 30
  - 2012/07: ZRG1 BCMB-D 30
  - 2012/11: NCI CDDT SBIR/STTR
  - 2014/03: NCI CDDT SBIR/STTR
  - 2014/07: NCI CDDT SBIR/STTR
  - 2015/03: NCI CDDT SBIR/STTR
  - 2015/06: NCI CDDT SBIR/STTR

- 2015/12: NCI CDDT SBIR/STTR
- 2016/01: NCI ZRG1 OTC-Y (02) M
- 2016/03: NCI CDDT SBIR/STTR
- 2016/06: NCI CDDT SBIR/STTR
- 2016/09: NCI ZRG1 OTC-K04
- 2016/11: NCI CDDT SBIR/STTR
- 2016/12: NCI CDDT SBIR/STTR
- 2017/03: NCI CDDT SBIR/STTR
- 2017/10: ZRG1 BCMB-D (30)
- 2017/10: ZRG1 BCMB-N (07)
- 2018/03: NCI CDDR SBIR/STTR
- 2018/07: NIH ZRG1 IDM-C(50)R
- 2018/11: NIH CDDT SBIR/STTR
- 2019/10-12: NIH Director's New Innovator Award DP2 Award-2020, ZRG1-MOSS-R70
- 2020/03: NCI OTC-T SBIR/STTR
- 2020/10-12: NIH Director's New Innovator DP2 Award-2021
- 2021/10: NIH EBIT
- 2021/10-12: NIH Director's New Innovator DP2 Award – 2022
- 2022/06: NCI CDDT SBIR/STTR
- 2023/09: NCI SPORE (P50)
- 2024/07: NCI SBIR/STTR
- 2024/09: NCI ZRG1 CTH-C (55)
- 2025/03: NCI MCTA R01/R21
- 2026/01: NCI MCTA R01/R21
- 2026/03: ZRG1 CTH-T (81) SEP R01/R21
- 2026/10: MCTA R01

- Department of Defense
  - 2026/9: 2026 Breast Cancer Research Program
- National Science Foundation
- US Army
- Human Frontier Science Program
- American Chemical Society
- Florida Department of Health
- Estonian Science Foundation (ETF)
- Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science & Technology (OCAST) -2015, 2017, 2019-2021
- Czech Science Foundation --2017
- The Cancer Society of New Zealand – 2017
- Prostate Cancer UK – 2019
- Health Research Council of New Zealand – 2019
- ITMO Cancer of the French National Alliance for Life and Health Sciences (AVIESAN)-2019, 2020
- French National Cancer Institute (INCa) – 2019-2021
- University of Maryland Pilot Grant Program -- 2022
- UT San Antonio and Mays Cancer Center Pilot Grant Program –2/2023

COURSES TAUGHT

Medicinal Chemistry I (MEDC112/612),	instructor (2006-present)
Medicinal Chemistry II (MEDC122/622),	instructor (2015-present)
Introduction to Pharmacy (PHSC115),	co-facilitator (2008)
Research Techniques in Medicinal Chemistry (MEDC813)	course director (2005-present)
Research Techniques in Medicinal Chemistry II (MEDC823)	course director (2005-present)
Medicinal Chemistry Journal Club (MEDC819)	instructor (2006-present)

CURRENT RESEARCH FUNDING

EXTERNAL ACTIVE GRANTS AND CONTRACTS:

1. 1R01CA295996 (NIH/NCI) **Li (contact PI); Wang (MPI)** **8/2025-7/2030**
"Targeted MDM2 degradation for improved treatment for triple-negative breast cancer"

Total cost: $3,238,801.

2. 1R01CA276152 (NIH/NCI) **Li (contact PI); Seagroves (MPI)** **4/2023-3/2028**
Targeting brain and bone metastases in metastatic breast cancer for improved patient survival"
The goal of this project is to develop brain-penetrable novel tubulin inhibitors to treat breast cancer brain metastasis, and develop small molecule drug conjugates to treat breast cancer bone metastasis.
Total cost $3,074,470.

3. HT9425-23-1-0216 (DoD) **Li (PI)** **7/2023-6/2027**
"Development of an Orally Available and Low-Toxic Chemotherapy for Improved Ovarian Cancer Therapy"
The goal of this project is to evaluate a new therapeutic agent for drug-resistant ovarian cancer.
Total direct cost: $600,000. Total cost: $924,000.

4. 1R01AG072703 (NIH/NIA) **Liao (contact PI); Li and Bhaskar (MPIs)** **6/2022-5/2027**
"Validation of a novel tau clearance mechanism"
Total cost: $3,595,305.

5. 1R01CA148706 (NIH/NCI) **Li (contact PI); Miller (MPI)** **8/2021-12/2026 (NCE: 7-12/2026)**
"Targeting the colchicine binding site in tubulin for cancer therapy"
This is the 3rd cycle of this project and it aims to continue our efforts in developing orally available tubulin inhibitors that interact with the colchicine-binding site in tubulin for cancer therapy.
Five-year total direct: $1,328,535, total cost $1,962,575.

6. Co-I: R01CA276135-01A1 (NIH/NCI) **Zhou (PI)** **12/2023-11/2028**
"Discovery of a novel MDM2-tubulin signaling pathway as a therapeutic target in AML"
Total cost: about $2.7 million.

7. Co-I: R01NS128336 (NIH/NIDDS) **Mahato (PI)** **7/2022-5/2027**
"Lipid nanomedicine targeting multiple signaling pathways of medulloblastoma"
The goal of this project is to develop new RVG peptide decorated lipid nanoparticles for co-delivery of potent BRD4/PI3K and MDM2/XIAP dual inhibitors.
Total cost: $2,391,270.

8. R16GM154786-01 (NIH/NIGMS) **Role: Mentor and Co-I (PI: Banerjee)** **7/2024-6/2028**
"Discovery of fused heterocyclic pyrazine based novel anti-mitotic agents for metastatic melanoma"
Total cost: $684,757. Li lab share: $138,600.

9. 2025-2026 UTRF Maturation Grant **Li (PI); Lebeche and Jiang (Co-Is)** **1/2026-10/2026**
"Discovery of SERCA2 Activators for the Treatment of Epilepsy". Total cost: $20,000.

10. R41CA310186-01 (NIH/NCI) **Li (PI)** **9/2025-8/2027**
"Development of a potent and highly brain-penetrable antimitotic agent SEAK193 to treat breast cancer brain metastasis"
Total cost: $399,981 (awardee: SEAK Therapeutics, LLC). A LaunchTN SBIR/STTR matching fund for this Phase 1 STTR grant from the State of Tennessee for $100,000 to expand the development support was also awarded to SEAK Therapeutics in October of 2025.

PENDING EXTERNAL GRANTS: None.

RELINQUISHED EXTERNAL GRANT

1R01CA239160-01A1 **Wei Li (contact PI); Seagroves, Miller (MPIs)** **6/2020-5/2025**
NIH/NCI
Impact score 20; Percentile 2%.
Funded but relinquished on 2/11/2020 due to the partial overlap with a DoD grant Breast Cancer Research Program, Breakthrough Level II with partner-PI option: BC190092.

UTHSC INTERNAL RESEARCH SUPPORT

1. Distinguished Professor Research Support for Li **9/2020-present**
UTHSC Chancellor's office and UTHSC College of Pharmacy.

2. UTCoP Drug Discovery Center **7/2017-present**
UTHSC College of Pharmacy

3. UTHSC Finish Line Award **PI: Wei Li** **4/2026-3/2028**
"AI-Guided Discovery of Small Molecule Compounds Restoring Tumor Suppressive Function of Hot-Spot Mutant p53-R175H in Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer"
Office of Research, UTHSC. Total amount: $25,000.

4. UTHSC Cancer Discovery Pilot Grant **PI: Wei Li** **9/1/2026-8/31/2027**
Office of Research, UTHSC, Total amount: $50,000

5. Paul and Jolanda Penczner Trust grant **PIs: Yue, Li and Zhang** **9/1/2026-8/31/2027**
Paul and Jolanda Penczner Trust Foundation
Total amount: $50,000.

COMPLETED SUPPORT

57. 1R01CA240447-01A1 (NIH/NCI) **Li (contact PI); Zhou (MPI)** **7/2020-6/2026 (NCE 7/2025-6/2026)**
"Dual inhibition of MDM2 and XIAP as a therapeutic strategy in cancer"
The goal of this project is to develop a potential new agent for pediatric cancers.
Total cost: $2.72 million.

56. UTHSC Finish Line Award **PI: Lebeche; MPIs: Li, Ishat** **4/2026-3/2028**
"Developing Calcium Stabilizing Therapy for Stroke"
Office of Research, UTHSC. Total amount: $25,000.

55. 1R61/R33 NS124923 (NIH/NINDS) **Jiang (contact PI); Li (MPI)** **12/2021-11/2025**
"Targeting TRPC3 Channels for Epileptic Seizures"
The goal of this project is to develop a selective TRPC3 inhibitor as a potential targeted therapy for epilepsy.
Total direct cost: $750,000; total cost at 54% IDC: $1.155 million

54. Co-I: 1R24EY029950 (NIH/NEI) **Jablonski (PI)** **3/2020-2/2025**
"Novel Extended Release Glaucoma Therapy for Once Daily Dosing"
The goal of this project is to develop a new agent and its formulations for glaucoma treatment.
Five year total budget: $4.94 millions.

53. R41NS135658-01 (NIH/NINDS) **Li (PI)** **9/2023-11/2024**
"Developing a selective TRPC3 ion channel inhibitor for epilepsy treatment"
Awarded to SEAK Therapeutics LLC (Li's startup company)
Total cost: $429,932

52. 1S10OD034237-01 (NIH) **Role: Minor User (PI: Paige Vinson)** **8/2023-8/2024**
"An Automated Compound Management System for Small Molecule Drug Discovery"
Direct cost: $1,038,536, equipment grant, no indirect cost allowed by NIH

51. Co-I: UTRF Maturation Grant **Quarles (PI)** **1/2023-10/2023**
"Optimizing small molecule mechanomimetics to treat age-related osteoporosis"
Total cost: $30,000

50. BC190092 (DoD) **Li (PI); Seagroves (Partner PI)** **3/2020-2/2024**
DoD Breast Cancer Research Program, Breakthrough Level II Award with Partnership Option
Total budget: $2,269,056 for the duration of 3 years
W81XWH2010011: Li's part of the project $1,271,866
W81XWH2010019: Seagroves' part of the project $997,190
"Discovery of orally bioavailable tubulin inhibitors to overcome taxane resistance in metastatic breast cancer"
The goal of this project to develop a more efficacious therapeutic agent for triple negative breast cancers.

49. New Grant Support -August 2021 **Wei Li (PI)** **8/2021-7/2023**

UTHSC Vice Chancellor for Research Office
This new grant support is to support the generation of additional preliminary data for the resubmission of an R01 grant application that scored 38.

48. UTHSC Functional Genomics CORNET grant **PIs (Yue, Li, Zhang)** **7/2022-6/2023**
"An ovarian cancer mouse model recapitulating human disease phenotype"

47. New Grant Support – October 2022 **Li (PI); Miller, Seagroves (MPIs)** **10/2022-9/2024**
UTHSC Vice Chancellor for Research Office
This new grant support is to support the generation of additional key preliminary data for resubmission of an NCI R01 grant application.

46. Sponsored Research Agreement #1 **Wei Li (PI)** **7/2019-6/2023**
Private Industry, total amount: $100,000.

45. Sponsored Research Agreement #2 **Wei Li and Duane Miller (MPIs)** **1/2020-6/2023**
Private Industry, total amount: $100,000.

44. Oxnard Foundation **Wei Li (PI)** **7/2019-2/2023**
This foundation grant is to support research in the Li lab to develop a new small molecule compound as potentially more effective treatments for pancreatic cancer.
Total direct amount: $120,000 ($40,000/year direct).

43. 1R43CA257324-01 (NIH/NCI) **Wei Li and Zhongzhi Wu (MPIs)** **9/2020-12/2022**
"Feasibility study of developing SEAK-114 for the treatment of pediatric cancers"
The goal of this project is to determine the feasibility of SEAK-114 as a potential drug for cancer.
One-year total amount: $399,964
Role: MPI for the grant; Founder and owner of the awardee company, SEAK Therapeutics LLC.

42. 1R01CA193609-01A1 (NCI) **Wei Li (PI)** **5/2016-4/2022**
"Selective targeting survivin for cancer therapy"
The goal of this project is to use integrated medicinal chemistry, structure biology, and molecule biology methods to develop potent and selective inhibitors for survivin as a potential therapeutic agent for cancer therapy.
Five year total direct $1,331,505, total cost: $1,913,635.

41. 1R43 CA246788-01 (NIH/NCI) **Zhongzhi Wu (PI)** **9/2019-12/2020**
Role: subcontract PI (transfer to Dr. Miller in consideration of my COI as advised by UTHSC)
"Development of a dual MDM2/XIAP inhibitor with a high therapeutic index for pediatric cancers"
This is a one-year, Phase I SBIR grant application that I wrote and submitted in April of 2019 for my company, SEAK Therapeutics LLC. Jim Wu is a research assistant professor in my lab. Amount: $299,830
Role: Founder and owner of the awardee company: SEAK Therapeutics LLC.

40. 3R43 CA246788-01S1 (NIH/NCI) **Zhongzhi Wu (PI)** **8/2020-12/2020**
Supplement award to R43CA246788 for participation of the NIH I-Corps training for the Sept-Nov 2020 cohort. Amount: $55,000.
Role: Founder and owner of the awardee company: SEAK Therapeutics LLC.

39. 4R33AR07158-03 (NIH/NIAMS) **Darryl Quarles (PI)** **8/2020-7/2021**
"Polycystins/TAZ as a novel therapeutic target to treat osteoporosis"
This goal of this R33 grant is to continue the work after the successful completion of the R61 phase which ends in 9/2020. The major goal of this R61/R33 project is to validate the Pkd1/Pkd2/TAZ complex as a therapeutic target in bone, and to develop a new class of bone anabolic agents that activate this complex to increased bone mass through unique actions to stimulate Ob-mediated bone formation and inhibit bone marrow adipogenesis. Amount: $380,000.
Role: Co-I

38. 2020 UTHSC CORNET AWARD **Seagroves, Li, and Miller (MPIs)** **9/2020-8/2021**
UTHSC Vice Chancellor for Research Office
"Testing efficacy of an orally bioavailable tubulin inhibitor (VERU-111) to inhibit taxane-sensitive and taxane-resistant HER2+ breast cancers"
Total direct amount: $50,000.

37. New Grant Support #3 **Wei Li** **10/2018-9/2020**
UTHSC Vice Chancellor for Research Office
This new grant support is to support the generation of additional preliminary data for resubmission of an NIH R01 that received a score of 13.0 percentile (impact score 29).
Total direct amount: $30,000.

36. 1R61AR073518 (NIH/NIAMS) **Darryl Quarles (PI)** **4/2018-9/2020**
"Polycystins/TAZ as a novel therapeutic target to treat osteoporosis"
This goal of this R61 grant is to validate the Pkd1/Pkd2/TAZ complex as a therapeutic target in bone, and to develop a new class of bone anabolic agents that activate this complex to increased bone mass through unique actions to stimulate Ob-mediated bone formation and inhibit bone marrow adipogenesis. Upon satisfactory completion of this R61 Phase, an R33 phase will likely be awarded. Amount: $760,000.
Role: Co-I

35. New Grant Support #2 **Wei Li and Tiffany Seagroves (MPIs)** **10/2018-2/2020**
UTHSC Vice Chancellor for Research Office
This new grant support is to support the generation of additional preliminary data for resubmission of a DoD grant application that scored 1.9.
Total direct amount: $30,000.

34. New Grant Support #1 **Wei Li and Glen Palmer (PIs)** **7/2017-6/2019**
UTHSC Vice Chancellor for Research Office
This new grant support is to support the generation of additional preliminary data for resubmission of an R21 that scored 10.0 percentile (impact score 26).
Total direct amount: $20,000.

33. West Cancer Center Research Grant **Wei Li (PI)** **1/2018-12/2019**
The West Cancer Center
"Orally Bioavailable Tubulin Inhibitors Overcoming Taxane Resistance for Breast Cancer"
This grant is to facilitate the development of new generation of tubulin inhibitors that can overcome taxane resistant for improved treatment of metastatic breast cancer, especially triple negative breast cancer.
Total direct cost: $50,000, no indirect cost allowed.

32. Co-I, Glaucoma Research Foundation Grant **Monica Jablonski (PI)** **2/2018-1/2019**
Glaucoma Research Foundation
"Extended release IOP-lowering formulation"
This project aims to develop novel formulations of IOP lowering agents for glaucoma treatment.
Role: Co-I
Total direct amount to the Li lab: $4,000; no indirect cost allowed.

31. PI: UTCoP Seed Research Grant **Wei Li (PI)** **10/2017-6/2018**
University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy internal grant
This seed research grant aims to support generating additional preliminary data for the resubmission of a previously scored (8.0 percentile, 2016) but not funded NCI R21 grant application.
Total direct cost support: $15,000.

30. PI: UTHSC Collaborative Research Network (CORNET) Grant, MPI: Kczorowski and Li
University of Tennessee Health Science Center
"Selective targeting of TRPC3 ion channel for Alzheimer's disease therapy"
5/1/2016-4/30/2017, $50,000 total direct

29. Co-I: UTHSC Collaborative Research Network (CORNET) Grant, PI: Liang Hong
University of Tennessee Health Science Center
"Novel 20-hydroxyvitamin D3 (20D3) analogues for periodontitis treatment"
5/1/2016-4/30/2017, $50,000 total direct (Li lab share: $20,000)

28. PI: 1R01CA148706-06 (NIH/NCI, MPI: Duane D Miller) **1/2016-7/2021**
Title: "Discovery of novel thiazole compounds for treating advanced melanoma"
This is the 2nd cycle of this project and the goal of this project is to develop new generations of orally available tubulin inhibitors targeting the colchicine binding site for advance melanoma and potentially other cancers.
Five year total direct: $1.3 million, total cost: $1.8 million.

27. PI: Grant Incentive Grants
University of Tennessee Health Science Center
$25,000, 7/2015-12/2016, support for resubmission of an R21 application (17% for A0). The resubmission obtained a score of 8.0% (impact score=23), missed the NCI payline at 7.0% for FY2016.

26. PI: UTHSC Strategic Investment Funds (SIF) 11/2011-10/2016
University of Tennessee Health Science Center
Institutional commitment to two NIH instrument grants to provide 5 years support for a full-time staff scientist and maintenance expenses to maintain the department shared instrument facility including two S10 awarded instruments (a 400 MHz NMR and a high resolution UPLC/q-TOF mass spectrometer, PIs: Wei Li). Total: $560,000.

25. PI: 1R21AR063242-01A1, MPI: Wei Li (NIH contact); Duane D. Miller 4/2013-3/2016
NIH/NIAMS
Title: "Discovery of tissue-selective, nonhypercalcemic VDR modulators for RA treatment"
Total direct cost: $233,750, total cost: $350,625

24. PI: 1R01CA148706-01A1 (NIH/NCI) PI: Wei Li 1/2011-12/2015
Title: "Discovery of novel thiazole compounds for treating advanced melanoma"
The goal of this project is to develop new generations of orally available tubulin inhibitors targeting the colchicine binding site for advance melanoma and potentially other cancers.
Five year total direct: $1,018,825, total cost: $1,507,861.

23. PI: Grant Incentive Grants 1/2015-12/2015
University of Tennessee Health Science Center
$25,000, support for resubmission of an R01 application (16% for A0). Resubmission of this R01 scored at 5% and funded for 2016-2021.

22. PI: Technology Maturation Award 1/2015-10/2015
University of Tennessee Research Foundation
Title: "Stability and in vivo pharmacokinetic evaluation of selective survivin inhibitors in rats"
Total direct: $15,000; total amount: $15,000.

21. PI: 2015 UTHSC College of Pharmacy Seed Research Grant 11/2014-6/2015
UTHSC College of Pharmacy (Internal funding)
Title: "Discovery of selective survivin inhibitors"
Amount: $15,000

20. PI: 2015 UTHSC College of Pharmacy Equipment Grant 1/2015 – 6/2015
UTHSC College of Pharmacy (Internal funding)
Title: "Purchase of a Western Blot imaging system for research"
Amount: $16,995

19. Co-I: 1R01AR056666-01A2 (NIAMS; PI: Andrzej T. Slominski) 8/2011-7/2016
Title: "Role of exogenous melatonin in skin biology"
Five year total: $1,662,408.
Role: Co-investigator

18. Co-I: 1S10OD016226-01A1 (PI: Bernd Meibohm) 4/2014-4/2015
Title: "MASS SPECTROMETER FOR SMALL MOLECULE DRUG DEVELOPMENT"
Direct cost: $315,651, instrument, no indirect cost.
This shared instrumentation application is for an AB Sciex Triple Quad 4500 triple quadrupole mass spectrometer as replacement for an outdated shared liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry instrument.
Role: Co-I (Major user)

17. Co-I: 2014 West Cancer Center Research Support Award 1/2014-12/2014
PI: Slominski
Title: "Pre-clinical testing of anti-melanoma activity of 20-hydroxyvitamin D3"
Direct cost: $50,000, no indirect cost.
The goal of is to test in vivo anti-melanoma activity of novel non-calcemic analogs of vitamin D.

16. Co-I: 2R01AR052190-06A1 (NIAMS, PI: Andrzej Slominski) 10/2013-9/2014
Title: "Novel Biosynthethic Pathway for Secosteroids and the Skin"

Direct cost: $200,000, total cost: $300,000 for the year.
Role: Co-investigator

15. PI: UTHSC Contract# 8500035962 **10/2013-12/2013**
Source: Private Company
Title: "UPLC/UV analysis of active components in sunscreen samples"
Service Contract: $4,415 to UTHSC

14. PI: 1S10OD010678-01 (NIH) **5/2012-4/2013**
Title: "Acquisition of a Q-TOF Mass Spectrometer"
Direct cost: $325,000, equipment grant, no indirect cost allowed by NIH

13. PI: 2012 Dean's Research Enhancement Program **11/2012-6/2013**
UTHSC College of Pharmacy (Internal funding)
Title: "Mechanistic and in vivo efficacy studies against breast tumors using a novel HIF-1alpha inhibitor"
Amount: 15,000

12. Co-I: 2012 Dean's Research Enhancement Program (PI: Bob Moore) **11/2012-6/2013**
UTHSC College of Pharmacy (Internal funding)
Title: "Acquisition of a Meso Scale Discovery SECTOR Imager 2400"
Amount: $35,000

11. Co-I: 1RO1 AR052190-01A2 (NIAMS, PI: Andrzej T. Slominski) **8/2006-7/2012**
Title: "Novel Biosynthetic Pathway for Secosteroids and the Skin"
Five year total award amount: $1,922,190

10. PI: Dean's Enhancement Program for Research Equipment **5/2012-6/2012**
College of Pharmacy, University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC internal fund)
Title: "Purchase of an inverted fluorescence microscope"
Total cost: $15,000

9. PI: Pilot Study to Assess Blood Chemistry at High Dose 20S-D3 in Mice **3/2012-6/2012**
University of Tennessee Research Foundation
Total cost: $3,000.

8. PI: Technology Maturation Award **1/2011-10/2011**
University of Tennessee Research Foundation
Title: "Preclinical studies of new vitamin D analogs as potential agents for arthritis"
Total direct: $15,000; total amount: $15,000.

7. PI: RR-026377-01 (NIH/NCRR) **8/2010-8/2011**
Title: "Acquistion of a 400M NMR with an autosampler"
Total direct: $252,900, total amount: $252,900, equipment grant, no indirect cost allowed by NIH.

6. PI: 1R15CA125623-01A2 (NIH/NCI) **3/2008-2/2011**
National Cancer Institute, NIH
Title: "Discovery of Novel Cytotoxic Agents for Advanced Melanoma"
Total direct: $150,000, total amount: $219,000

5. PI: Technology Maturation Award **2/2009-10/2009**
University of Tennessee Research Foundation, University of Tennessee
Title "In vivo Assessment of Efficacy of Novel Thiazole Compounds"
Total direct: $15,000; Total amount: $15,000.

4. PI: UTHSC College of Pharmacy Seed Research Fund **7/2006-6/2007**
Title: "Development of Novel Cytotoxic Agents towards Advanced Melanoma"
Total direct: $9,300; total amount: $9,300

3. Co-I: 1R03AI054798-01 (NIAID, PI: Richard Lee) **5/2003-12/2006**
Title: "Whole Cell NMR Studies of Mycobacteria"
Total direct: $100,000; Total amount: $146,000

2. Co-I: DAMD17-01-0830 (PI: Duane Miller) **9/2001-10/2005**
Department of Defense

Title: "Selective Cytotoxic Phospholipids for Prostate Cancer"
Total cost: $556,364

1. College of Pharmacy, faculty start-up fund for Dr. Wei Li **7/2004-6/2007**
$40,000/year ($120,000 total).

EXTERNAL PROMOTION/TENURE REFEREE

2014 Texas Tech University College of Pharmacy (two faculty promotion/tenure)
2015 University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (faculty promotion)
2016 University of Houston College of Pharmacy (faculty promotion)
2016 Texas Tech University College of Pharmacy (faculty promotion)
2016 University of Arkansas College of Pharmacy (faculty promotion)
2017 King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences, Saudi Arabia (faculty promotion)
2017 Ohio State University College of Pharmacy (faculty promotion)
2018 King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences, Saudi Arabia (faculty promotion)
2018 University of Hawaii College of Pharmacy (faculty promotion)
2019 Jordan University of Science and Technology (faculty promotion)
2019 University of Minnesota (faculty tenure/promotion)
2020 University of Florida (faculty tenure)
2020 University of Tennessee College of Medicine (two faculty promotions)
2021 University of Nebraska Medical Center (faculty tenure/promotion)
2021 University of Memphis (faculty promotion)
2022 Lerner Research Institute, Cleveland Clinic (faculty promotion)
2022 University of Houston (faculty tenure/promotion)
2022 University of Tennessee College of Medicine (faculty promotion)
2023 University of Tennessee College of Medicine (faculty promotion and tenure)
2023 Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine (faculty promotion).
2024 University of Maryland College of Pharmacy (faculty promotion**)**
2025 University of Miami School of Medicine (faculty promotion)
2025 UT Health Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine (faculty promotion).
2026 University of Houston College of Pharmacy (faculty promotion)

INVITED LECTURES/PRESENTATIONS

1. "Implementation and Optimization of In-Cell Multi-dimensional HRMAS NMR". Invited talk, 57th Southeast/61st Southwest Joint Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society, Memphis, TN, United States, November 1-4 (2005)
2. "Application of multi-dimensional HRMAS NMR in intact cells", Workshop on Metabonomics: a new tool for exploring biocomplexity, session chairman, Valencia, Spain, October 21st-24th, 2008.
3. "Noncalcemic vitamin D metabolites: from structure elucidation to in vivo efficacy studies", College of Pharmacy, the University of Mississippi, Feb 14, 2012.
4. "Discovery of tubulin inhibitors targeting the colchicine site for metastatic melanoma", College of Pharmacy, Western University of Health Sciences, September 16, 2014.
5. "Targeting the colchicine binding site in tubulin for advanced melanoma", University of South Alabama Mitchell Cancer Institute, January 20, 2015.
6. "Discovery of novel survivin inhibitors", session chair, 11th Chinese American Chemistry Professor Association annual meeting, Suzhou University, Jiangsu, China, June 21-24, 2015.
7. "Targeting the colchicine binding site in tubulin for advanced melanoma", Outstanding Alumni Lecture, Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Dalian, China, June 28, 2015.
8. "Discovery of novel tubulin inhibitors targeting the colchicine binding site", The University of Maryland at Baltimore Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, April, 2016.

9. "Discovery of novel tubulin and survivin inhibitor for cancer therapy", session chair, 12th Chinese American Chemistry Professor Association annual meeting, Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou, China, June 23-25, 2016.
10. "Targeting tubulin polymerization for cancer therapy", Sichuan University, Chengdu, China, June 28, 2016.
11. "Targeting tubulin polymerization and survivin inhibitors for cancer therapy", Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota, August 26, 2016.
12. "Discovery of small molecule tubulin and selective survivin inhibitors", University of Houston College of Pharmacy, Houston, TX, September 19, 2016.
13. "Discovery and development of small molecule tubulin inhibitors for cancer therapy", Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, China, January 6, 2017.
14. "Discovery of next generation anti-tubulin agents for cancer treatment", Medical College of Wisconsin Cancer Center Grant Round, Milwaukee, WI, September 7-8, 2017.
15. "Shared Analytical Chemistry Core Facility for Drug Discovery and Development at the College of Pharmacy", Hot Topics in Research, UTHSC Office of Research, September 26, 2017.
16. "Discovery of next generation anti-tubulin agents", one of the several Plenary Speakers in *Cancer Pharmacology Research Conference*, St. John's University, New York City, December 13-16, 2017.
17. "Discovery of a new generation of tubulin inhibitors overcoming taxane resistance", 15th Congress of Chemotherapeutic Pharmacology Specialized Committee of Chinese Pharmacological Society (CPS-CPSC), Chongqing, China, June 22-25, 2018.
18. "A new generation of orally available tubulin inhibitors: the discovery and development", Keynote speaker and session chair, Advanced Chemistry 2018, Paris, France, July 12-13, 2018.
19. Cancer Biology Meeting, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN, co-presentation with Dr. Stephen White, September 7, 2018.
20. Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, and Harper Cancer Research Institute, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN, September 24, 2018.
21. Department of Pharmacology seminar program, College of Medicine, UTHSC, Memphis, TN, November 14, 2018.
22. Department of Chemistry, Hunter College, New York, NY, Feb 8, 2019.
23. Department of Medicinal Chemistry, University of Florida College of Pharmacy, Gainesville, FL, September 25, 2019.
24. Department of Medicinal Chemistry, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, Jan 15, 2020.
25. Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Massey Cancer Center, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, May 7, 2020.
26. ACACR Summer Session Zoom Conference, "New wine in an old bottle: the discovery and development of an oral tubulin inhibitor for cancer therapy", August 28, 2020.
27. UTHSC Cancer Center Grand Rounds, "New wines in old bottles: the development of an anti-mitotic agent Sabizabulin (VERU-111) for cancer and the discovery of a selective TRPC3 inhibitor for neurological diseases", October 5, 2021.
28. Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Nebraska Medical Center, "New wines in old bottles: the development of Sabizabulin (VERU-111) for cancer and the discovery of a selective TRPC3 inhibitor for neurological diseases", Omaha, NE, October 29, 2021.
29. UTHSC Cancer Center retreat, one of the two speakers representing the Chemical Biology Program, "Chemical Biology in Cancer Research: Examples of chemistry-biology collaborations", December 4, 2021.
30. Health Sciences Entrepreneurship (HSE) Grand Rounds series, "The One-Mark Mile in a Marathon: First Tastes of Starting a Company in Developing a Small Molecule Drug", Jan 20, 2022.
31. Department of Chemistry, University of Memphis, "The development of Sabizabulin for cancer and the discovery of a selective TRPC3 inhibitor for epilepsy", Feb 11, 2022.

32. Glenn Family Breast Center at Winship Cancer Institute, Emory University School of Medicine, "The discovery of sabizabulin as a potential oral anti-mitotic agent for cancer and COVID-19 treatments", August 3, 2022.
33. Department of Cancer Biology, Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute, "Two examples of small molecule drug discovery projects: an oral tubulin inhibitor sabizabulin for cancer and a selective TRPC3 modulator for epilepsy indication", September 2, 2022.
34. College of Pharmacy, University of Arkansas Medical Center, "The discovery and development of sabizabulin for metastatic cancer and the discovery of JW-65 for epilepsy indication", December 4, 2022.
35. Department of Chemistry, Middle Tennessee State University, "Discovery of a New Generation of Tubulin Inhibitors that Overcame Taxane Resistance", February 17, 2023.
36. Distinguished Lecturer in the Medicinal Chemistry Seminar Series, Department of Medicinal Chemistry, the University of Minnesota, "The discoveries of new anti-tubulin agents for cancer and selective TRPC3 modulators for CNS diseases", September 26, 2023.
37. Invited speaker, for the session "Sub-stoichiometric Modulation of Proteins & Target Vulnerability", in 2024 ACS Spring national meeting, New Orleans, LA, March 17-21, 2024.
38. "Discovery of selective TRPC3 inhibitors as a potential therapy for CNS disease indications", UTHSC College of Medicine, Department of Physiology, Seminar series, Oct 3, 2024.
39. "Discovery of small molecules targeting tubulin for cancer and TRPC3 for epilepsy", invited speaker, China Pharmaceutical University, Nanjing, China, November 11, 2024.
40. "The discovery and development of next-generation anti-mitotic agents for multidrug-resistant cancer", the 2025 Tu Youyou Award Ceremony and Scholar Salon, as a member of the 2025 Tu Youyou Award Committee, Chicago, IL, Oct 3, 2025.
41. "A next generation of anti-mitotic agents for drug-resistant cancer: the discovery and development", invited seminar speaker, UTHealth, Houston, Department of Chemistry and Molecular Biology seminar programs, TX, October 6, 2025.
42. Invited speaker and panelist, "Cancer Below the Surface: How the Body Speaks through the Mouth", the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry, Office of Continuing Dental Education and 21st Century Initiative Oral Systemic and Population Based for All. Memphis, TN, October 8, 2025.
43. "The discoveries of brain penetrable tubulin inhibitors for breast cancer brain metastasis and selective TRPC3 inhibitors for epilepsy", invited speaker, Center for Diagnostics and Therapeutics (CDT), Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA, December 2-4, 2025.
44. "Anti-mitotic agent SB-216 overcomes taxane resistance and shows efficacy against breast cancer brain metastasis", invited speaker, Recent Advances In Chemical Biology – In Memory Of Koji Nakanishi, The Pioneer In Natural Product Chemistry On The Occasion Of His 100 Year Birthday, the 2025 PacifiChem, The International Chemical Congress of Pacific Basin Societies, Honolulu, HI, December 15-20, 2025.
45. "Discovery of small-molecule modulators to restore calcium homeostasis", Invited seminar speaker, Department of Pharmacology and Chemical Biology, Emory School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, Feb 9-10, 2026.
46. "Discovery of brain-penetrable tubulin inhibitors for cancer and small-molecule modulators to restore calcium homeostasis", Invited seminar speaker, School of Pharmacy, University of Mississippi, March 26, 2026.
47. Invited seminar speaker, University of Kentucky, October 13, 2026, Scheduled.
48. Invited seminar speaker, University of Arizona, February 16, 2027, Scheduled.

SESSION ORGANIZER/CHAIR IN NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS (2026-PRESENT)

1. Chair and Organizer, "Targeting the TRP ion channels in drug discovery and development", selected 90-minute session in the 2025 ASPET annual meeting, Minneapolis, May 2026.
2. Co-Chair, DDD Division Scientific Achievement Award session, 2026 ASPET annual meeting, Minneapolis, May 2026.
3. Co-Chair, Medicinal Chemistry & Molecular Pharmacology session, 2026 Annual Congress of International Drug Discovery Science and Technology, Tokyo, Japan, June 2026.

CONSULTANT:

- Ad hoc consultant, MEDACorp, Leerink Swann LLC, 2006-2014
- Consultant, GTx Inc., 05/2012-10/2013
- Ad hoc consultant, RxBio, Inc., 5/2013-4/2014
- Ad hoc consultant, Oblon, Spivak, McClelland, Maier & Neustadt, L.L.P., 10/2013-12/2013
- Consultant, Kenion Pharmaceuticals, 2014-2017
- Consultant, Veru Inc., 2019-present
- Ad hoc Consultant, Guidepoint, 2023-present

ACADEMIC COMMITTEES AND OFFICES HELD

1. Member - Computing and Telecommunication Committee, 2003 – 2006
2. Member - Webpage Committee, College of Pharmacy, 2001-2003
3. Member - Physical Facility Committee, College of Pharmacy, 2001-2002
4. Member - New Pharmacy Building Planning Committee, College of Pharmacy, 2004-2005
5. Member - Faculty Enrichment Committee, College of Pharmacy, 2005-2015
6. Member – Faculty Search Committee for Medicinal Chemistry, 2009-2010, 2013, 2014
7. Member (Chair, 2011-2012)- Web and Technology Committee, College of Pharmacy, 2005-2012.
8. Chair - NMR Advisory Committee, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, 2010-present
9. Chair – Facility and Space subcommittee, Department of Pharmaceutical Science self-study, 2012.
10. Member - Exam Integration and Writing Committee, 2012-2015
11. Chair – HRMS Advisory Committee, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, 2012-present.
12. Member – New faculty search committee, 2013, 2014
13. Member -- Facilities & Resources Coordinating Committee, 2013—2015
14. Member – Promotion and Tenure Committee, College of Pharmacy, 2011-2014, 2016-present
15. Member – Graduate Education Committee, College of Pharmacy, 2014
16. Member – Faculty Search Committee, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, 2014-2015.
17. Member – Search committee for Chair of Pharmaceutical Sciences, College of Pharmacy, 2015-2017.
18. Member – Various subcommittee for developing new integrated curriculum, 2015-2016
19. Chair – Graduate Education Committee, College of Pharmacy, 2015-present
20. Chair – Faculty Search Committee for an Assistant Professor in Medicinal Chemistry, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, 2016-2017. Led to the successful hire of R21-funded faculty at the Assistant Professor level.
21. Chair – Faculty Search Committee for an Associate/Full Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, 2017-2018. Led to the successful recruitment of an R01-funded faculty at the Associate Professor level.
22. Chair- Graduate Education Committee, College of Pharmacy, 2017-2020
23. Member - Graduate Education Committee, College of Pharmacy, 2020-present
24. Member – Internal Advisory Board for Medicinal Chemistry Core, UTHSC, 2017-present
25. Chair -- Faculty Search Committee for an R01-funded Associate/Full Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, 2018-2019. Led to the successful recruitment of an R01-funded faculty at the rank of Associate Professor.
26. Member – UTHSC Vice Chancellor for Research Cabinet, 2018-2020; 2021-2022
27. Member --UTHSC Operational Strategic Plan for Research Committee, 2020 (for FY2022-FY2027)
28. Chair – UTHSC Medicinal Chemistry Core Internal Advisory Board, 2021-2025.
29. Member --- UTHSC Campus Core Facility Internal Advisory Board member, 2025-present

MENTORING JUNIOR FACULTY

1. Murali M. Yallapu, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, 2018-2019, UTHSC
2. Bhupesh Singla, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, 2022-2026, UHTSC
3. Souvik Banerjee, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, 2024-present, Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU)
4. Roy Sudeshna, Ph.D., Associate Professor, 2024-present, UTHSC College of Pharmacy

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITY

As the inaugural Director of the UTCoP Drug Discovery Center and with support from the administrations, initiated and raised over $30,000 to establish a permanent endowment for the annual "Duane D. Miller Lectureship" in Drug Discovery and Development in 2023, and the associated "Duane D. Miller Graduate Student Award in Drug Discovery" to honor Dr. Duane D. Miller who established the medicinal chemistry program at UTHSC College of

Pharmacy. More information can be found at https://www.uthsc.edu/pharmacy/research/duane-miller-endowment.php

FELLOWS/STUDENTS TRAINED

Research Associate and Postdoctoral Researcher

Previous years:

1. Dr. Jianjun Chen, senior research associate, 2010-2014 (last known: Full Professor at South Medical University, China).
2. Dr. Dajun Chen, postdoctoral researcher, 1/2013-3/2013 (last known: a CRO company, China).
3. Dr. Srinivasa Marepally, postdoctoral researcher, 5/2013-2/2015 (last known: a CRO company in Houston, TX).
4. Dr. Yi Xue, Research Associate, 4/2015-3/2017 (last known: Research Associate at UTHSC).
5. Dr. Hongmei Cui, postdoctoral researcher, 2/2018 to 3/2019 (last known: Full Professor at Lanzhou University, China)
6. Dr. Foyez Mahmud, postdoctoral researcher, 3/2018-10/2019 (last known: postdoc at Rice University).
7. Dr. Sicheng Zhang, postdoctoral researcher, 4/2018-8/2021 (last known: Pharmaceutical company in China)
8. Dr. Deendyal Bhurta, postdoctoral researcher, 1/2024-5/2024 (last known: India)
9. Dr. Kelli Adeleye, postdoctoral researcher, 9/2025-2/2026.

Current postdocs, research associates, and research faculty in the group:

1. Dr. Zhongzhi (Jim) Wu, postdoctoral researcher, 9/2015-10/2017. Assistant Professor, 10/2017-6/2023; Associate Professor, 7/2023-present
2. Dr. Hao Chen, postdoctoral researcher, 10/2016-2020; Research Associate, 2020-2022; Assistant Professor, 2022-present.
3. Dr. Vijay Bonda, postdoctoral researcher, 1/2021-4/2024; Research Associate, 4/2024-present.
4. Dr. Yang Xie, postdoctoral researcher, 1/2022 – 4/2024; Research Associate, 4/2024-present.
5. Dr. Zisong Qi, postdoctoral researcher, 1/2024-present.

Graduate Student:

Previous years' graduate students in the group (last known or current position):

1. Mr. Jinghu Li — 2004-2005 (student transferred to UIC in 2005)
2. Dr. Zhao Wang — 2005-2010 (last known position: AstraZeneca)
3. Dr. Jianjun Chen — 2006-2011 (last known position: Professor at South Medical Univ., China)
4. Ms. Georgina N. Masoud — 2012-2015 (M.S. degree, last known position: Pharmacist in Wisconsin)
5. Dr. Jin Wang — 2010-2015 (last known position: AbbVie, Inc.)
6. Dr. Min Xiao — 2010-2015 (last known position: Computer Scientist)
7. Mr. Xiaolin Wu — 2015-2016 (M.S. degree, last known position: Google, Inc.)
8. Ms Rachel Ann Ness — 2015-2017 PharmD student (last known position: Pharmacist)
9. Dr. Zongtao Lin — 2012-2017, PhD student (last known position: Assistant Professor, Rutgers University)
10. Dr. Qinghui Wang — 2014-2017 PhD student (last known position: UCSF)
11. Mr. Brandon Bumbaca — 2017-2018, MS student.
12. Dr. Kinsie Arnst — 2014-2018, PhD student (last known position: Applicant Scientist at Agilent)
13. Dr. Shanshan Deng — 2016-2020, PhD student (last known position: company in Bay area)
14. Dr. Hanxuan (Luke) Li — 2017-2023, PhD student (last known position: postdoc at UNC Chapel Hill)
15. Dr. Najah Albadari — 2017-2023, PhD student (last known position: Faculty member and Chair in Saudi)
16. Dr. Jiaxing Wang — 2019-2024, PhD student (last known position: postdoc at Columbia University)
17. Dr. Rui Wang — 2019-2024, PhD student (last known position: return to Asia)
18. Dr. Kelli Adeleye — 2020-2025, PhD student (last known position: postdoc in the Li lab)

Current graduate students in the group and Chair of the graduate student thesis committee:

1. Ms. Shelby Wendell — 2022-present, PhD student
2. Mr. Mir Shahriar Kamal — 2023-present, PhD student
3. Ms. Lily Ann Waltz — 2024-present, PhD student
4. Ms. Sara Sultana — 2025-present, PhD student

Serving as a thesis committee member for students in other labs

1. Dr. Bin Fang 2003-2006
2. Mr. Jin Xu 2005-2007
3. Dr. Engy Marhous 2006-2009
4. Dr. Li Chen 2005-2009
5. Dr. Kui Zeng 2005-2010
6. Dr. Josh Brown 2005-2010
7. Dr. Renuka Gupte 2005-2011
8. Dr. Steve Gurley 2005-2010
9. Dr. Ningning Yang 2008-2011
10. Dr. Feng Li 2008-2011
11. Mr. Les Stuart 2008-2010
12. Dr. Chikezie Madu 2008-2012
13. Dr. Jerrod Scarborough 2010-2012
14. Dr. Shan Sun 2009-2015
15. Dr. Bret Koertge 2010-2015
17. Dr. Cheng Tian 2016-2019
18. Dr. Mohammad Arifur Rahman 2016-2019
19. Dr. Pallabita Chowdhury 2017-2020
20. Dr. Sanjana Haque 2016-2020
21. Dr. Elham Hatami 2019-2020
22. Dr. Chidi Zacheaus 2018-2022
23. Dr. Fatemeh Keramatnia 2019-2021
24. Dr. Madison N Sluter 2020-2023
25. Dr. Ruida Hou 2020-2023
26. Dr. Damilola Oluwalana 2021-2024, co-Mentor with Dr. Tiffany Seagroves
27. Dr. Nelufar Yasmen 2022-2024
28. Dr. Jingwen Zhu 2023-2024
29. Mr. Md Abdullah Al Mamun 2024-present, PhD student
30. Ms. Rima Patel 2025-present, PhD student
31. Ms. Juqian Han 2025-present, PhD student
32. Mr. Alexander Jenner 2020-present, PhD student
33. Ms. Aditi Prasad 2026-present, PhD student

Summer Undergraduate or PharmD/PhD Dual Degree Rotation Students, or research volunteers:

1.	Mr. Rodeck Slominski	Emory University	Summer of 2004
2.	Mr. Chris Scheid	College of William and Mary	Summer of 2008
3.	Ms. Ashley Vorenkamp	Louisiana University	Summer of 2010
4.	Ms. Victoria Strong	Tennessee State University	Summer of 2011
5.	Mr. Devaughn Reece	Tennessee Tech University	Summer of 2012
6.	Ms. Whitney Bogus	Tennessee Tech University	Summer of 2013
7.	Ms. Rachel Ness	PharmD/PhD rotation, UTCOP	July of 2013
8.	Ms. Mariatu Sisay	PharmD/PhD rotation, UTCOP	August of 2014
9.	Ms. Stacey M Thomas-Gooch	PharmD/PhD rotation, UTCOP	July of 2021
10.	Ms Sara Sultan	Volunteer researcher	July 2024-July 2025
11.	Ms. Lindsey Morgan	Summer Research Scholar	Summer of 2025
12.	Ms Celina Xu	Summer Researcher	Summer of 2026

Serving as a mentor in the ASPET MentorMatch Program

1.	Abel B. Daartey	St. John's University	2025 ASPET MentorMatch Program
2.	Katelyn Reeb	Drexel Univ College of Medicine	2026 ASPET MentorMatch Program

FELLOWSHIP/AWARD RECEIVED BY STUDENTS AND POSTDOCS IN THE LI GROUP

1. Dr. Zhao Wang (PhD student from 2005-2010), Alma and Hal Reagan Fellowship, $22,000 fellowship plus $1,000 travel/supplies, UTHSC College of Graduate Health Sciences, 2007-2008.

2. Dr. Zhao Wang (PhD student from 2005-2010), Alma and Hal Reagan Fellowship, $22,000 fellowship plus $1,000 travel/supplies, UTHSC College of Graduate Health Sciences, 2008-2009. Dr. Wang successfully renewed this fellowship (a maximum of two years is allowed).
3. Dr. Zhao Wang, Travel Award for AACR national meeting, University of Tennessee HSC, $500, 2009
4. Dr. Zhao Wang, Travel Award for AAPS national meetings, University of Tennessee HSC, $500, 2010
5. Dr. Zhao Wang, Travel Grant, 15th Pan American Society for Pigment Cell Research, 2009
6. Dr. Jianjun Chen (PhD student from 2005-2010), Travel Grant, 15th Pan American Society for Pigment Cell Research, 2009
7. Dr. Jianjun Chen (PhD student from 2005-2010), Travel Award for ACS national meetings, University of Tennessee HSC, $500, 2010
8. Dr. Jin Wang (PhD student from 2010-2015), Alma and Hal Reagan Fellowship, $23,000 fellowship plus student benefits, plus $1,000 travel/supplies, 10/2012-9/2013.
9. Dr. Min Xiao (PhD student from 2010-2016), Robert Magarian Best Oral Presentation Award, 2013 MALTO medicinal chemistry meeting, Little Rock, AR, May 19-22, 2013.
10. Dr. Jin Wang (PhD student from 2010-2015), Alma and Hal Reagan Fellowship, $21,000 fellowship plus $1,000 travel/supplies, successful competitive renewal for an additional year of award (maximum allowable is two years), 10/2013-9/2014.
11. Mr. Qinghui Wang (PhD student from 2014-present), Robert Magarian Best Oral Presentation Award, 2016 MALTO medicinal chemistry meeting, Houston, TX, May 19-22, 2016.
12. Dr. Zongtao Lin (PhD student from 2012-2017), Alma and Hal Reagan Fellowship, $21,000 fellowship plus student benefits, plus $1,000 travel/supplies, 10/2016-9/2017
13. Dr. Qinghui Wang (PhD student from 2014-2017), CGHS travel award, Travel Award for ACS national meetings in San Francisco, University of Tennessee HSC, $500, 2017
14. Dr. Zongtao Lin (PhD student from 2012-2017), "the 2016 Chinese Government Award for Outstanding Self-financed Students Abroad" award, China Scholarship Council, April 2017.
15. Dr. Zongtao Lin (PhD student from 2014-2017), Robert Magarian Best Oral Presentation Award, 2017 MALTO medicinal chemistry meeting, Monroe, LA, May 19-22, 2017.
16. Ms. Kinsie Arnst (PhD student from 2014-present), CGHS travel award, Travel Award for 2018 AACR Annual Meeting in Chicago, University of Tennessee HSC, $500, 2018
17. Ms. Kinsie Arnst (PhD student from 2014-present), Robert Magarian Best Oral Presentation Award, 2018 MALTO medicinal chemistry meeting, Texas, May 22-24, 2018
18. Dr. Kinsie Arnst (PhD student from 2014-2018, defended on 11/21/2018), UTHSC College of Pharmacy Outstanding Graduate Student Award, Dec 18, 2018.
19. Dr. Kinsie Arnst (PhD student 2014-2018), Highlighted Trainee Author award for the July 2019 issue of Molecular Pharmacology. Her paper is also featured as the cover page figure in the issue.
20. Ms. Shanshan Deng (PhD student 2016-present), UTHSC Pharmaceutical Science Program Outstanding Graduate Student Award, Jan 7, 2020.
21. Ms. Shanshan Deng (PhD student, 2016-present), UTHSC Graduate Student Travel Award, 2020.
22. Dr. Shanshan Deng (PhD student, 2016-2020), Outstanding Student Award for Academic Excellence, awarded by the UTHSC Graduate School.
23. Dr. Vijay Kumar (postdoc) win the 4th place prize in oral presentation category during the 2021 UTHSC Annual Postdoc Research Day. In addition, Dr. Kumar is selected as one of the three travel awardees with $1,000 travel award to attend a future ACS annual meeting.
24. Ms Najah Albadari (PhD student), **UTCoP Outstanding Graduate Student Award**, 2022.
25. Ms Rui Wang (PhD student), travel grant of $500 for attending and presenting an abstract at the 2022 AACR annual meeting.
26. Ms. Rui Wang (PhD student), awardee of the **2022 CGHS Outstanding Student in the Pharmaceutical Sciences Program,** College of Graduate Health Science, the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

27. Dr. Vijay Kumar (postdoc) is the awardee for the **2022 Ronald F. Borne Postdoctoral Poster Presentation Award** during the 47th MALTO meeting.
28. Dr. Yang Xie (postdoc) wins the First Prize in the **2023 UTHSC Postdoc Research Day** competition.
29. Ms Kelli Hartmann (PhD student), a travel grant of $500 for attending and presenting an abstract at the 2023 AACR annual meeting.
30. Ms Rui Wang (PhD student), a travel grant of $500 for attending and presenting an abstract at the 2023 AACR annual meeting.
31. Mr. Jiaxing Wang (PhD student), a travel grant of $500 for attending and presenting an abstract at the 2023 ASPET annual meeting.
32. Mr. Jiaxing Wang (PhD student), received the "2023 CGHS Student Success Award" in the 2023 UTHSC Graduate Research Day.
33. Ms. Kelli Hartmann (PhD student), **Robert Magarian Best Oral Presentation Award**, 2023 MALTO medicinal chemistry meeting, Houston, TX, May 22-24, 2023.
34. Ms. Kelli Hartmann (PhD student), **the 2023 Alma and Hal Reagan Fellowship**, 11/2023-10/2024.
35. Dr. Vijay Kumar (Research Associate) is the awardee for the **2024 Ronald F. Borne Postdoctoral Poster Presentation Award** during the 49th MALTO meeting. Also, this is the first time in the MALTO history since this award was established, that this award was awarded to the same researcher, as Vijay was the 2022 awardee as well, although for a different project. 5/2024.
36. Ms. Kelli Hartmann (PhD student), **the 2024 Duane D. Miller Award in Drug Discovery,** 6/2024.
37. Ms. Rui Wang (PhD student), **the 2024 Dean's Award,** UTHSC graduate school, 5/2024.
38. Ms. Kelli Adeleye (PhD student), **the 2024 Alma and Hal Reagan Fellowship**, 11/2024-10/2025
39. Ms. Kelli Adeleye (PhD student), **Independent Research Grant** ($5,000), UTHSC Graduate School, 9/2024-8/2025.
40. Dr. Vijay Boda (Research Associate), **the 2025 Outstanding Postdoctoral Scholar Award**, UTCoP, March 2025.
41. Dr. Vijay Boda (Research Associate), the **2025 Gordon Research Conference Fellowship**.
42. Ms. Shelby Wandell (PhD student), **Dean's travel award** to attend the 2025 AAPS meeting.
43. Ms. Sara Sultana (PhD student), **Third Place for poster presentations**, the 2026 UTHSC Graduate Research Day.
44. Ms. Sara Sultana (PhD student), Mr. Mir Kamal (PhD student), and Dr. Vijay Kumar (Research Associate), are three of the ten awardees who received **Oral Presentation Awards**, the 2026 UTHSC College of Pharmacy Research Showcase.
45. Ms Lily Waltz (PhD student) received the **Bob Magarian Outstanding Podium Presentation Award**, in the 51st MALTO Meeting, May 20-22, Memphis, 2026.
46. Ms Sara Sultana (PhD student) received the **Thomas L. Lemke Outstanding Graduate Student Poster Presentation Award**, in the 51st MALTO Meeting, May 20-22, Memphis, 2026.
47. Dr. Yang Xie (Research Associate) received the **Ronald F. Borne Outstanding Postdoctoral Poster Presentation Award**, in the 51st MALTO Meeting, May 20-22, Memphis, 2026.

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5. **Guan Chen (Medical College of Wisconsin) and Wei Li,** (Co-Guest Editors for a Special Issue), "Targeted Cancer Therapy", **Acta Pharmaceutica Sinica B,** 2018.

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