PEDIATRIC RESEARCH CENTER NEWSLETTER

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UTHealth The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston | McGovern Medical School

NIH DEADLINES

April 5 SBIR/STTR Grants- R43, R44, R41, R42 New, re newal, resubmission, revision
April 12 Conference Grants- R13 new, renewal resubmis sion, revision
May 7 AIDS AND AIDS RELATED GRANTS- All mecha nisms listed above new, renewal, resubmission, revision
June 5 RESEARCH GRANTS- R01 (Investigator– initiated basic and applied research)
June 12 CAREER DEVELOPMENT—K series new
June 16 Research Grants- R21 (Exploratory/ development) new
June 25 Academic Research Enhancement Award AREA- R15 new, renewal, resubmission, revision
July 5 Research Grants– R01 (Investigator– initiated basic and applied research) renewal, resubmis sion, revision
July 12 Career Development—K series renewal, resub mission, revision
July 16 Research Grants—R21 (Exploratory/ developmental) new
August 12 Conference Grants– R13 new, renewal, re submission, revision

PUBLICATIONS

Mukhopadhyay, N., Masison Bishop, M., Chorpra, P., Hetmanski, J.B., Taub, M.A., Moreno, L.M., Valencia-Ramirez, L.C., Restrepo, C., Wehby, G.L., **Hecht, J.T.,** Frederic Deleyiannis, F., Butali, A., Weinberg, S.M., Beaty, T.H., Murray, J.C., Leslie, E.J., Feingold, E.,Marazita, M.L.: Whole genome sequencing of orofacial cleft trios from theGabriella Miller Kids First Pediatric Research Consortium identifies a new locus on chromosome 21. Hum Genet. 2020 Feb;139(2):215-226. doi: 10.1007/ s00439-019-02099– 1. Eup 2019 Dec 17. PMID:31729121 PMCID: PMC6981325

Maili, L., Letra, A., Silva, R., Buchanan E.P.Mulliken, J.B., Greives, M.R., Teichgraeber, J.F., Blackwell, S.J.,Ummer, R., Weber, R., Chiquet, B., Blanton, S.H.,**Hecht, J.T.:** PBXWNT-P63-IRF6 pathway in nonsyndromic cleft lip and palate. Birth Defects Res. 2020 Feb 1;112(3):234-244. doi: 10.1002/bdr2.1630. Epub 2019 Dec 11. PMID:31825181

Neiswanger, K., Mukhopadhyay, N., Rajagopalan, S., Leslie, E.J., Sanchez, C.A., **Hecht, J.T.,** Orioli, I.M., Poletta, F.A., de Salamanc,a J.E., Weinberg, S.M., Marazita, M.L.: Individuals with nonsyndromic

TALES OF COVID-19

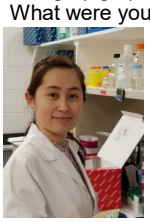
Hecht-I have been on home-work duty for 6 weeks I was quarantined for 2 weeks returning from the Craniofacial Gordon Conference. At first it was hard, but since we now have relatively good communication—it is better. It has been a time to review and reflect and to be productive. Not going to let COVID keep us down!!!

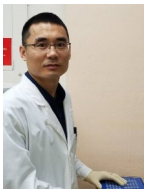
Posey-Working from home has been very productive for me since I have several manuscripts to write. Wake up, throw load of laundry in, have coffee and work in pj's for a while. Then transfer clothes to dryer, get dressed and work more—No commute!!!

Rachel-In late February, we welcomed our son, Julian. Although "back at work" while caring for our newborn and our three year old is a challenging adventure, I realize that this is unique time to be together as a family

Researcher Conversations: A different perspective from Lidan and Xiangli Liu, visiting scientists in the Alcorn Lab

Lidan and Xiangli are a married couple that sought to gain research experience in a year-long stint as Visiting Scientists in our department.
Lidan (left) is an anesthesiologist at the Shengjing Hospital of China Medical University.
Xiangli (right) is a thoracic surgeon at the First Hospital of China Medical University.
What were your expectations, if any, of doing research in the Department of Pediatrics in Joe's laboratory?





Lidan: I wanted to have some experimental training such as western analysis, real-time qRT-PCR, immunostaining and so on. I also wanted to complete a scientific research project under the guidance of Dr. Alcorn.
Xiangli: Besides mastering basic experimental methods such as immunohistochemistry, western blot, PCR and ELISA, I wanted to learn some advanced experimental techniques and advanced scientific research concepts.

What is similar between your experiences here compared to China? What is most different?
Lidan: In China I was mainly involved in pediatric anesthesia, studying the effects of sevoflurane (or isoflurane) on the central nervous system in children. There is some overlap with Joe's research, the main difference being that the equipment was more advanced and more efficient.
Xiangli: As we all know, basic research is the driving force for medical progress; science and technology have no boundaries. Both the United States and China attach equal importance to scientific research and hope that more achievements can be translated into benefits for patients. In terms of scientific research, the United States has more advanced equipment than China.

What was most surprising about performing research here? What is most disappointing?
Lidan: Before I came to the US, I was very nervous because of language and habit differences. But when we met Joe, I found that these anxieties were unnecessary. He was amiable in life and meticulous in scientific research. He is like our father, he is not only a teacher but also a friend. He not only teaches us experimental methods, but also inspires my innovative thinking in scientific research.
Xiangli: We were lucky enough to meet an amiable boss like Joe. We enjoyed working with him every day and learned many practical experimental skills and methods. The most important thing is to be able to have the article published with oneself as the first author. Nothing too disappointing has happened.

What was most surprising about living in the US? What is most disappointing?
Lidan: America has a better natural environment and a lower cost of living than China. The only bad thing is insecurity, because there are too many shootings.*Xiangli:* In the US, we enjoyed blue skies, clean air, and safe, pollution-free food, but we are disappointed by inconvenient public transportation and frequent shootings. *(Editor Note: maybe there is a troubling trend in Houston)*

Did you learn anything here that you will take back with you and adopt in China?
Lidan: After returning to China, I will continue to maintain Joe's rigorous style of scientific research and I hope to have the opportunity to conduct international cooperative research in the field of pediatrics.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Dr. S.S. Hashmi New Vice Chair of Diversity & Inculsion

Wang -1R01DE029014 - NIH/NIDCR, Project: Molecular Regulatory Mechanism of Cranial Neural Crest Development $1,187,500

Wang - R01HL142704 - NIH/NHLBI, Project: Genetic Dissection of Cardiac Conduction System Homeostasis and Regeneration

Postdoc Fellow Dr. Sherry Xiaolei Zhao gave a Podium talk at 42nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Craniofacial Genetics and Development Biology (SCGDB) and won award from the Society for Developmental Biology (SDB)

Dr. Hecht gave a podium talk - "New approaches to identifying NSCLP genetic variation" at the Craniofacial Morphogenesis and Tissue Regeneration Gordon Research Conference, Lucca, Italy