

# RECIPIENTS OF CBIS 2024 AWARDS

## (Awardee Biographies in Following Pages)

The Chinese Biological Investigators Society (CBIS) is pleased to announce the recipients of this year's Ray Wu Award, Young Investigator Award, and Teaching award.

**Ray Wu Award** was established by the society to honor the late Dr. Ray Wu, who not only had a distinguished scientific career but also nurtured a new generation of Chinese scientists in life sciences through his tireless effort in promoting scientific and educational exchanges between China and the United States. The Award recognizes CBIS members who have made fundamental discoveries in life sciences and/or significant contributions in promoting life sciences in China.

**This year's award recipients are:**

**Dr. Junyin Yuan, Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry  
Chinese Academy of Sciences**

**Dr. Bing Ren, University of California, San Diego**

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**CBIS Young Investigator Award** recognizes CBIS members who are in the early career stages but have already made remarkable contributions in their respective fields.

**This year's award recipients are:**

**Dr. Qing Zhang, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center**

**Dr. Wei Xie, Tsinghua University**

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**CBIS Teaching Award** recognizes a CBIS member who has contributed extraordinarily to education in biomedical sciences, particularly in China.

**This year's award recipient is:**

**Dr. Xin-Hua Feng, Zhejiang University**

# CBIS 2022 AWARDEE BIOGRAPHIES

## Ray Wu Award



### Junying Yuan, Ph.D.

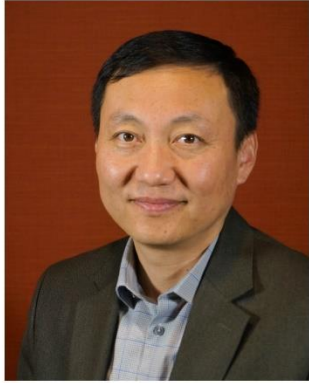
Professor and Director  
Interdisciplinary Research Center on Biology and Chemistry  
Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry  
Chinese Academy of Sciences

E-mail: junying\_yuan@sioc.ac.cn

Junying Yuan received her undergraduate degree from Fudan University, Shanghai, China, in 1982 and her Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Harvard University in 1989. Dr. Yuan carried out her Ph.D. thesis work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the laboratory of H. R. Horvitz. She was first appointed as Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School in 1992, when she became a Principal Investigator of the Cardiovascular Research Center at Massachusetts General Hospital. She joined the Department of Cell Biology in 1996 and was appointed a Professor of Cell Biology at Harvard Medical School in 2000. In 2014, Dr. Yuan was appointed as Elizabeth D. Hay Professor of Cell Biology, a Professorship that honors the late Professor Elizabeth D. Hay, the first female full professor in the history of Harvard Medical School. Dr. Yuan returned to China in 2020 and joined Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry as the Director of Interdisciplinary Research Center on Biology and Chemistry.

Dr. Yuan is a pioneer and an influential leader in the cell death field. Dr. Yuan made transformative discoveries on two major forms of cell death, apoptosis and necroptosis in mammalian cells. Her discovery of mammalian caspases led to a molecular era in apoptosis research. She used chemical biology to demonstrate the existence and significance of a regulated necrosis mechanism, termed necroptosis, in human inflammatory and neurodegenerative diseases and the role of RIPK1 as a key mediator of necroptosis. RIPK1 inhibitors, first discovered and described by Dr. Yuan, have been advanced into human clinical trials for the treatment of human inflammatory and neurodegenerative diseases worldwide. Her 260+ published papers have been highly cited with collective citations of more than 120,000 times (H index 136). Dr. Yuan's accomplishments have been honored by many awards. She is a member of the National Academy of Sciences (US), a foreign member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences.

## Ray Wu Award



### **Bing Ren, Ph.D.**

Director, Center for Epigenomics  
Professor, Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine  
University of California, San Diego

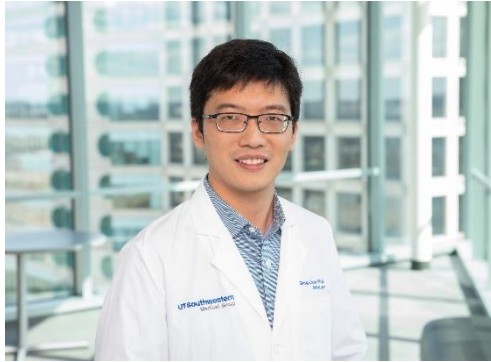
E-mail: [biren@ucsd.edu](mailto:biren@ucsd.edu)

Bing Ren received his B.S. degree in Biophysics in 1991 from the University of Science and Technology of China in Hefei, China, and his Ph.D. degree in Biochemistry in 1998 from Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. After his postdoctoral training at the Whitehead Institute, Ren joined the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research and University of California, San Diego in 2001 as an Assistant Professor. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2007 and Full Professor in 2009. In 2016, he launched the Center for Epigenomics at UC San Diego and has served as its founding director since then.

Ren has dedicated his career to unraveling the complexities of the human genome, focusing on how genes are regulated within different cell types and their implications in human health and disease. His work has led to groundbreaking discoveries, including the mapping of millions of regulatory elements within the human genome, the creation of detailed gene regulation maps for the brain and other vital organs at the single-cell level, and the uncovering of fundamental principles that govern the organization of chromatin in the nucleus. These contributions have significantly deepened our understanding of how genes are controlled and how alterations in this process can lead to diseases.

For his work, Ren was elected as Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2013 and honored by the Chen Award for Distinguished Academic Achievement in Human Genetic and Genomic Research in 2016.

# Young Investigator Award



## Qing Zhang, Ph.D.

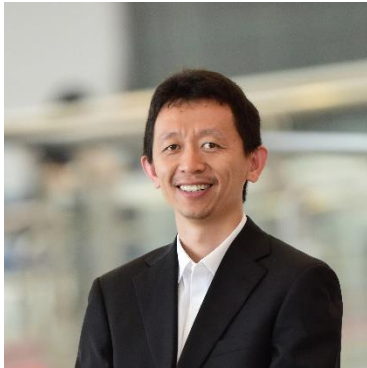
CPRIT Scholar in Cancer Research  
Associate Professor, Department of Pathology  
University of Texas  
Southwestern Medical Center  
E-mail: Qing.Zhang@UTSouthwestern.edu

Dr. Zhang obtained his Bachelor's degree from Wuhan University in China in 2001 followed by a Ph.D study working with Dr. Jennifer Grandis at Department of Pharmacology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine until Late 2005. From 2006 to early 2013, He worked as a postdoctoral fellow (2006-06/2011) and an instructor (07/2011-01/2013) in the lab of Nobel Laureate Dr. William Kaelin Jr. at Dana Farber Cancer Institute on prolyl hydroxylase and oxygen sensing pathway in cancer. He became an assistant professor at Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in Feb of 2013. He was promoted to associate professor with tenure in Feb of 2019 at UNC Chapel Hill and now he is an associate professor with tenure in the Department of Pathology at UT Southwestern Medical Center (UTSW) in Dallas. He has been approved to be promoted to Full Professor at UTSW effectively 09/01/2024. He is currently holding the title of Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) Scholar in Cancer Research.

Zhang has made a number of discoveries to deepen our understanding of oxygen sensing signaling pathway in cancer. These discoveries include identifying new regulatory pathways regulated by tumor suppressor Von Hippel Lindau (VHL) in kidney cancer and potential new therapeutic targets in oxygen sensing signaling in breast cancer.

For his work, Zhang has received numerous honors, including the Kimmel Scholar (2014), Susan G. Komen Career Catalyst Award (2014), the V Scholar (2015), Mary Kay Foundation Award (2017), American Cancer Society Research Scholar Award (2018), CPRIT Rising Star Award (2019) and Outstanding Investigator Award from American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP).

## Young Investigator Award



### **Wei Xie, Ph.D**

Professor & Vice Dean  
School of Life Sciences,  
Tsinghua University

Email: [xiewei121@tsinghua.edu.cn](mailto:xiewei121@tsinghua.edu.cn)

Wei Xie received his B.S. degree in Biological Sciences at Peking University in China in 2003. He completed his Ph.D at UCLA with Michael Grunstein to study the function of histones and histone modifications. He also obtained an M.S. double degree in statistics at UCLA with Ker-Chau Li. He continued research in epigenetics and transcription regulation as a postdoctoral fellow in Bing Ren's lab at UCSD in 2009. He joined Tsinghua University, School of Life Sciences as a Principal Investigator in 2013.

Using interdisciplinary approaches, Xie is dedicated to understanding how the life clock is reset after fertilization in mammalian embryos. His group established a series of ultra-sensitive technologies to analyze chromatin dynamics using hundreds of cells or fewer. By doing so, his team revealed how chromatin accessibility, histone modifications, and 3D chromatin architecture are reprogrammed during early mammalian development. His work also demonstrated how the embryonic program is activated during zygotic genome activation (ZGA) and identified key transcription factors controlling ZGA, OBOX in mouse and TPRX in human. Such epigenetic reprogramming and transcription regulation are essential for successful parental-to-zygotic transition and the ultimate generation of a totipotent embryo, which occurs through regulatory mechanisms that are often distinct from those in somatic cells and embryonic stem cells.

Xie received numerous awards including the HHMI International Research Scholar, New Cornerstone Investigator, Qiushi Excellent Young Scholar Award, NSFC Outstanding Young Scholar, C. C. Tan Life Science Innovation Award, and Xplorer Prize Award.

## Teaching Award



**Xin-Hua Feng, Ph.D.**

Qiushi Chair Professor  
Director, Life Sciences Institute  
AAAS Fellow

Zhejiang University

E-mail: xhfeng@zju.edu.cn

Xin-Hua Feng received his B.S. from Wuhan University, M.S. from the Institute of Genetics at Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Ph.D. degree from the University of Maryland – College Park. Upon receiving his postdoctoral training at the University of California – San Francisco with Rik Derynck, he joined Baylor College of Medicine as an assistant professor in October 1999, and became full professor in 2006. Beginning October 2009, Feng has joined Zhejiang University and become the founding Director of the Life Science Institute.

Feng has made seminal contributions to the field of biological sciences, particularly for research in the areas of TGF- $\beta$  signaling and cellular growth regulation. His discoveries include identifying and elucidating roles of TGF- $\beta$  signal-transducing Smads and signal-terminating phosphatases as well as ubiquitin E3 ligases that dictate the output of TGF- $\beta$  signaling and cell fates in both development and cancer. For his scientific contribution, Feng has received a number of awards or honors, including the elected Fellow of AAAS (2012), 国家特聘专家(2009), and 浙江省特级专家 (2018).

Feng has had a far-reaching impact on biomedical research programs and graduate education at Zhejiang University and beyond. Feng is passionately committed to educating the next generation scientists. The impact of his influence is underscored by not only didactic teaching of undergraduate and graduate students, but also his proactive efforts in recruiting and training talented scientists. Many of the young scientists have since risen to become promising leaders in diverse fields. Recognized for his exceptional work in mentorship and education, Feng has been honored with numerous prestigious awards, including the University Bole Award (2014), the Provincial Bole Award (2015), the Outstanding Academic Guidance Award (2015), the Best Mentor Award (2016), and the Teaching Achievement Awards (2012, 2016 and 2021).