2026 EVENT NEWSLETTER

Cardiovascular Science in Session

November 5, 2026 • University of Illinois Chicago



The Academy of Cardiovascular Research Excellence (ACRE) and the Chinese American Heart Association (CNAHA) welcomed 150 attendees, including regular registrants and invited speakers. The symposium introduced a joint session with CADA, a sponsored panel on the future of cardiovascular medicine, and featured talks from six faculty investigators. ACRE presented two inaugural achievement awards, and CNAHA presented the Bernard Lown Lectureship. The organizers selected 16 abstracts for travel awards and invited six finalists to compete for the Young Investigator Award.



Participants gather for the symposium group photo at UIC.

Newsletter prepared by Hanrui Zhang and Na Li on behalf of the ACRE Multimedia Committee.

MORNING PROGRAM

Career development and collaboration

Career Development Forum

Xiaolei Liu and Mei Xin moderated the morning career forum with panelists Shiyou Chen, Jidong Fu, Pingwen Xu and Youyang Zhao.

Joint CADA and ACRE session

Members of both societies served as speakers and moderators in the first joint session. Pingwen Xu and Haobo Li moderated talks by Yingmei Feng on diabetic cardiomyopathy, Yi Tan on non-mitogenic FGF1 in metabolic disease and chemotherapy-related cardiotoxicity, and Ke Yuan on pericytes and capillary remodeling in pulmonary hypertension.



Molecular Biology Research Building, Room 1017

Shibeikang Panel on Advancing Cardiovascular Medicine

Jingyan Han moderated a discussion with five leaders on gaps and opportunities in cardiovascular research and medicine. The panelists were Hossein Ardehali, Ke Cheng, Xin-liang Ma, Willard W. Sharp and Min Xie.

Opening remarks





ACRE President Zhao Wang (left) and CNAHA President Jidong Fu (right) opened the afternoon scientific program.

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SCIENTIFIC SESSION I

Featured presentations

Two sessions featured three established investigators and three rising-star faculty members. Wuqiang Zhu and Liang Hong moderated both sessions.

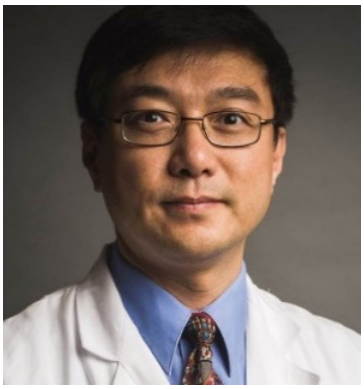
Established investigators



Ying Ge, PhD

University of Wisconsin

Top-down proteomics to link genotype and phenotype in cardiovascular disease



Min Xie, MD, PhD

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Mechanisms and translation in cardiac ischemia–reperfusion injury



Mei Xin, PhD

University of Cincinnati

Hippo signaling in the vasculature

Rising-star faculty



Chen Gao, PhD

University of Cincinnati

Post-transcriptional regulation of cardiac stress and aging



Wei Huang, PhD

University of Cincinnati

Cellular heterogeneity in models of heart failure with preserved ejection fraction



Dan Tong, MD, PhD

UT Southwestern

Stretch-activated PIEZO1 in atrial fibrillation

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HONORS

Awards and lectureship

ACRE congratulates the first recipients of its Mid-Career and Lifetime Achievement Awards, Drs. Mingtao Zhao and Yuqing Eugene Chen. CNAHA presented the Bernard Lown Lectureship, delivered by Dr. Cynthia C. Taub.



ACRE MID-CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Mingtao Zhao, PhD, DVM

Nationwide Children's Hospital and The Ohio State University College of Medicine

Dr. Zhao pioneered patient-specific induced pluripotent stem cell models of congenital heart disease and led the development of a repository representing more than 250 individuals. His trainees have earned fellowships from NIH and the American Heart Association (AHA). Hong Chen moderated the award presentation.



ACRE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Yuqing Eugene Chen, MD, PhD

University of Michigan

Dr. Chen delivered "A Journey in Cardio-Metabolic Medicine: Discovery, Translation, and Patient Impact." His work on PPARs in vascular function and on models of cardiometabolic disease spans basic and translational research. He has mentored generations of physician-scientists and chaired the first two joint ACRE–CNAHA meetings, in 2006 and 2007. Zhao Wang moderated.



CNAHA BERNARD LOWN LECTURESHIP

Cynthia C. Taub, MD, MBA

SUNY Upstate Medical University

Dr. Taub discussed the mechanisms linking left bundle branch block (LBBB) to cardiomyopathy and the implications for treatment. A leader in cardiovascular imaging, she has helped improve standards for echocardiography quality and reporting. Jidong Fu moderated the lectureship.

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SCIENTIFIC SESSION II

Young Investigator Award

The symposium received a large number of abstracts. Six finalists gave eight-minute talks in a lively Young Investigator Award (YIA) competition that covered cardiac metabolism and rhythm, aortic aneurysms and pulmonary arterial hypertension. Bowen Wang and Jianxin Sun moderated.



Scenes from the Young Investigator Award competition.

Award Recipients

First place:

Ting Shu, University of Rochester
Cell-specific roles of phosphodiesterase 1A in aortic aneurysm

Second place:

Yue Yuan, Baylor College of Medicine
MASH-derived osteopontin and atrial arrhythmogenesis

Hanqiu Zhao, Washington University in St. Louis
Single-cell mapping of EPHA4 and neo-arterialization in pulmonary arterial hypertension

Third place:

Wei-Ting Chang, University of California, San Diego
TXNDC5 and endothelial-to-mesenchymal transition in pulmonary arterial hypertension

Mingqi Cai, University of Nebraska Medical Center
NFIA and CHD4 regulation of fatty acid metabolism in postnatal cardiomyocytes

Yiran Li, Fudan University
Hrd1, macrophage efferocytosis and aortic aneurysm/dissection

ABSTRACT AWARDS

Travel award recipients

The symposium selected 16 abstract submissions for travel awards. Congratulations to the recipients and thank you to everyone who shared their research.



Travel award recipients and organizers at the symposium.

Ting Zhou
University of Wisconsin–Madison

Debojyoti Das
University of Rochester Medical Center

Zhenhe Zhang
University of Washington

Wei Sun
University of California, San Diego

Yanghai Zhang
University of Wisconsin–Madison

Kaiyue Zhang
Columbia University

Jianing Gao
Boston Children's Hospital

Zhenguo Wang
University of Michigan

Jing Wang
University of California, Los Angeles

Liuqing Yang
University of Rochester Medical Center

Ke Yuan
Harvard Medical School

Jingjing Pang
Temple University

Shaolei Wang
University of California, Los Angeles

Yongfeng Cai
Baylor College of Medicine

Xinjiang Cai
University of California, Los Angeles

Ruijia Feng
Temple University

AHA Leadership Remarks (alphabetical order)

Eugene Chen, Nipavan Chiamvimonvat, Konstantinos Drosatos, Peter Henke, Joseph Hill, Maria Kontaridis, Xinliang (Xin) Ma, Patricia Kim Phuong Nguyen, Katey Rayner, Sakthivel Sadayappan, Farah Sheikh, Cynthia Taub.

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CLOSING PROGRAM

Closing remarks and dinner

Hong Chen and Jidong Fu closed the scientific program. At MingHin Cuisine in Chicago's Chinatown, the dinner program featured remarks from ACRE, CNAHA and AHA leaders and announcements for the Young Investigator, Travel and Shibeikang Innovation Awards.



Hong Chen
ACRE President-elect



Jidong Fu
CNAHA President (Research)



Na Li
ACRE Board of Directors and Chair of the Organizing Committee



Dinner and awards at MingHin Cuisine, hosted by Zhao Wang, Jidong Fu, Na Li, and Mingtao Zhao.

With thanks

Thank you to our speakers, moderators, abstract presenters, volunteers and attendees, and to local hosts Liang Hong (UIC) and Bowen Wang (Northwestern University).

ACRE organizing task force. Yanhong Guo, Na Li, Hong Lu, Zhao Wang, Yang (Kevin) Xiang and Wuqiang Zhu.

CNAHA organizing task force. Qiying Dai, Jidong Fu, Wei Huang, Jianxin Sun and Mingtao Zhao.

YIA abstract reviewers. Xiao Li, Hong Lu, Weijia Luo, Li Qian, Bowen Wang and Xu Xiao.

YIA judges. Yingjie Chen, Kunzhe Dong, Xinrui Wang, Zhong Wang, Jifeng Zhang and Ting Zhou.

Symposium sponsors. Cardiology Discovery, Chengdu Shibeikang Biomedical Technology, FUJIFILM VisualSonics, RWD Life Science, Vazyme International and IntelixBio.

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