



2026 CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCE IN SESSION

Jointly organized by ACRE and CNAHA

Program Highlights

Featured Invited Presentations
CNAHA Bernad Lown Lecture
ACRE Achievement Award Lectures
CADA Special Session
Shibeikang Emerging Research Panel

Trainee Opportunities

Career Development Panel
Young Investigator Competition
Travel Awards for Selected Abstracts



REGISTER



VIEW PROGRAM



THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 5, 2026
10 AM – 6 PM, Scientific Program
7 PM – 10 PM, Dinner and Award



University of Illinois Chicago
Molecular Biology Research Building,
Rm 1017
900 S Ashland Ave, Chicago, IL



ACRE

The Academy of Cardiovascular
Research Excellence

CNAHA

Chinese American
Heart Association





Program At-A-Glance

Location: UIC Molecular Biology Research Building, Rm 1017
900 S Ashland Ave, Chicago, Illinois
November 5, 2026

10:00 — 15:00	On-Site Registration & Check-In	
10:00 — 11:00	Career Development Forum (panelist discussion)	
11:00 — 12:00	CADA @ Cardiovascular Science in Session	
12:00 — 12:45	Shibeikang Panel Discussion on Advancing Cardiovascular Medicine	
Scientific Program I	12:50 — 13:00	Opening Remarks
	13:00 — 13:30	ACRE Mid-Career Achievement Award Presentation
	13:30 — 14:15	Featured Presentations
	14:15 — 15:00	Early Career Investigator Presentations
15:00 - 15:30	Coffee Break – Sponsor presentation	
	Group Photo	
Scientific Program II	15:40 — 16:40	Young Investigator Award Competition
Scientific Program III	16:40 — 17:15	ACRE Life-time Achievement Award Presentation
	17:15 — 17:50	CNAHA Bernard Lown Lectureship Presentation
17:50 — 18:00	Closing Remarks	
19:00 — 22:00	Dinner & Award Celebrations MingHin Cuisine (明軒, Chinatown) 2168 S. Archer Ave, Chicago, IL 60616 Phone: (312) 808-1999 Click for Direction (~15 min driving)	



ACRE Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation



Yuqing Eugene Chen
MD, PhD, FAHA
University of Michigan

Dr. Yuqing Eugene Chen is the endowed Frederick Huetwell Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of Michigan, advancing bench-to-bedside research in Metabolic and Cardiovascular Diseases. He cloned the exendin-4 gene, contributing to BYETTA, the first approved GLP-1-based therapy, and established PPARs as regulators of vascular function. He also identified nitro-fatty acids as endogenous PPAR ligands and anti-inflammatory mediators now in Phase II clinical evaluation.

Since 2012, Dr. Chen has directed Michigan's Center for Advanced Models for Translational Sciences and Therapeutics (CAMTraST), which develops genetically engineered rabbit models of human disease. In 2025, CAMTraST received NIH support to establish the nation's only NIH-funded National Center of Rabbit Models for Translational Research.

Dr. Chen also directs Michigan's Surgeon-Scientist Training Program and serves as Vice Chair for Basic and Translational Research in Cardiac Surgery. He has trained more than 80 doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows and mentored 12 surgeon- and physician-scientists who became established investigators. A key contributor to ACRE's early development, he chaired the first two joint ACRE-CNAHA meetings in Chicago (2006) and Orlando (2007).

CNAHA Bernard Lown Lectureship Presentation



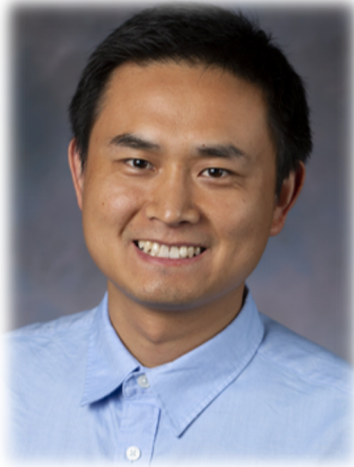
Cynthia C. Taub MD,
MBA, FACC, FASE
Norton College of Medicine

Dr. Cynthia C. Taub is the Edward C. Reifenshtein Chair and Professor of Medicine at SUNY Upstate Medical University. An internationally recognized leader in cardiovascular imaging, she serves on the editorial boards of the Journal of the American Society of Echocardiography, Circulation: Cardiovascular Imaging, and the imaging section of American College of Cardiology. She has led national efforts to improve echocardiographic quality and reporting standards through guideline development and implementation.

Dr. Taub currently serves as President of the American Society of Echocardiography, where she is advancing a vision centered on scientific excellence, innovation, education, global collaboration, and the highest standards of cardiovascular ultrasound. She has won numerous teaching and mentorship awards, including the Richard Popp Excellence in Teaching Award by the American Society of Echocardiography. As a co-PI, she received the Joan and Douglas Zipes Publication of the Year Award in 2025 by the Heart Rhythm Society.



ACRE Mid-career Achievement Award



Mingtao Zhao
PhD, DVM
Nationwide Children's
Hospital

Dr. Mingtao Zhao is a Principal Investigator at Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH) and Associate Professor at the Ohio State University (OSU) College of Medicine. He is the Founding Director of Human iPSC Core and Faculty Director of the Molecular Cellular Medicine Research Affinity Group at NCH's Abigail Wexner Research Institute. His lab pioneered a patient-specific iPSC platform for modeling congenital heart disease (CHD) and discovering novel therapies, with studies published in *Circulation Research*, *Circulation*, and *European Heart Journal*. He has also led development of an iPSC repository representing more than 250 individuals across a spectrum of CHD. His research is supported by NIH, AHA, and Additional Ventures.

Dr. Zhao is a dedicated mentor whose trainees have received NIH F31, F32/T32, and AHA Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships. He has served on the AHA-BCVS Early Career Committee, AHA Inflammation and Heart Failure Committee, and ISHR Mid-Career Investigator Committee. He is an elected Fellow of the American Heart Association (FAHA).

CADA @ Cardiovascular Science in Session



YingMei Feng MD
Professor
Beijing Youan hospital,
Capital Medical University



Yi Tan PhD
Professor
University of Arizona

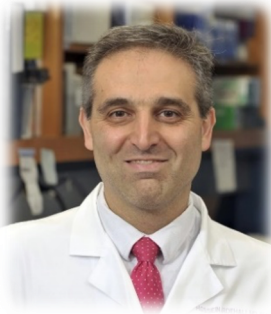


Ke Yuan PhD
Associate Professor
Boston Children's Hospital,
Harvard University



Shibeikang Panel Discussion

Cardiovascular Research and Medicine: What is next?



Hossein Ardehali MD, PhD
Professor
University of Arizona



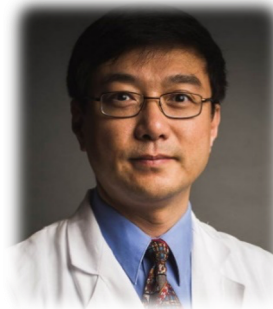
Ke Cheng PhD
Professor
Columbia University



Xin-liang Ma MD, PhD
Professor
Thomas Jefferson
University



Willard W. Sharp MD, PhD
Associate Professor
University of Chicago



Min Xie MD
Professor
University of Alabama at
Birmingham

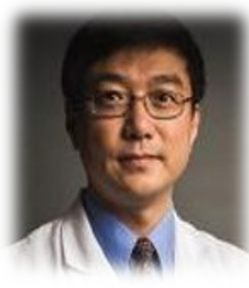


Featured Presentations

Senior Investigators



Ying Ge PhD
Professor
University of Wisconsin



Min Xie MD
Professor
University of Alabama at
Birmingham



Mei Xin PhD
Associate Professor
University of Cincinnati

Rising Stars



Chen Gao PhD
Assistant Professor
University of Cincinnati



Wei Huang PhD
Assistant Professor
University of Cincinnati



Dan Tong MD PhD
Assistant Professor
UT Southwestern



2026 Cardiovascular Science in Session

Final Program

UIC Molecular Biology Research Building, Rm 1017
900 S Ashland Ave Chicago, Illinois
10:00 - 22:00

10:00 - 15:00 On-Site Registration & Check-In

10:00 – 11:00 Career Development Workshop

Moderators	Xiaolei Liu, PhD Mei Xin, PhD	Assistant Professor, Temple University Associate Professor, University of Cincinnati
Panelists	Shiyu Chen, DVM, PhD Jidong Fu, PhD Pingwen Xu, PhD Youyang Zhao, PhD	Professor, University of Missouri Associate Professor, Ohio State University Associate Professor, University of Illinois at Chicago Professor, Northwestern University

11:00 – 12:00 CADA @ ACRE session (15min talk + 5min Q&A)

Moderators	Pingwen Xu, PhD Haobo Li, PhD	Associate Professor, University of Illinois at Chicago Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School
Speakers	Yingmei Feng, MD PhD Yi Tan, PhD Ke Yuan, PhD	Professor, Beijing Youan Hospital, Capital Medical University <i>Alpha-glutarate administration improves diabetic cardiomyopathy in diabetic db/db mice</i> Professor, University of Arizona <i>Non-Mitogenic FGF1: Therapeutic Potential in Metabolic Disease and Chemotherapy-Related Cardiotoxicity</i> Associate Professor, Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard University <i>Rgs5 deficiency in pericytes promotes capillary remodeling in pulmonary hypertension</i>

12:00 – 12:45 Shibeikang Panel Discussion on Advancing Cardiovascular Medicine

Moderator	Jingyan Han, PhD	Associate Professor, Boston University
Panelists	Hossein Ardehali, MD, PhD Ke Cheng, PhD Xin-liang Ma MD, PhD Willard W. Sharp, MD, PhD Min Xie, MD, PhD	Professor, University of Arizona Professor, Columbia University Professor, Thomas Jefferson University Associate Professor, University of Chicago Professor, University of Alabama at Birmingham



12:50 – 13:00 Opening Remarks

<u>Zhao Wang</u> , PhD	President of ACRE
<u>Jidong Fu</u> , PhD	President of CNAHA

Scientific Session I

13:00 – 13:30 ACRE Mid-Career Presentation (25min talk + 5min Q&A)

Moderator	Hong Chen, PhD	Harvard Medical School
Speaker	Mingtao Zhao, PhD	Associate Professor, Nationwide Children's Hospital

13:30 – 14:15 Featured Presentations (12min talk + 3min Q&A)

Moderators:	Wuqiang Zhu, PhD Liang Hong, MD PhD	Mayo Clinic University of Illinois Chicago
13:30 – 13:45	Ying Ge, PhD	Professor, University of Wisconsin <i>Bridging Genotype and Phenotype in Cardiovascular Disease by Top-Down Proteomics</i>
13:45 – 14:00	Min Xie, MD, PhD	Professor, University of Alabama at Birmingham <i>Novel Mechanisms in Cardiac Ischemia/Reperfusion: A Roadmap for Translation</i>
14:00 – 14:15	Mei Xin, PhD	Associate Professor, University of Cincinnati <i>Guiding the Vascular Highway with Hippo Signaling</i>

14:15 – 15:00 Early Career Investigator Presentations (12min talk + 3min Q&A)

Moderators:	Wuqiang Zhu, PhD Liang Hong, MD PhD	Mayo Clinic University of Illinois Chicago
14:15 – 14:30	Chen Gao, PhD	Assistant Professor, University of Cincinnati <i>Post-transcriptional Regulation of Cardiac Stress and Aging</i>
14:30 – 14:45	Wei Huang, PhD	Assistant Professor, University of Cincinnati <i>Cellular Heterogeneity Across HFpEF Models: Toward a Framework for Candidate Cellular Endotypes</i>
14:45 – 15:00	Dan Tong, MD PhD	Assistant Professor, UT Southwestern <i>Stretch-activated PIEZO1 channel drives atrial fibrillation</i>

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee Break & Sponsor Presentations & Group Photo

Moderator	Liya Yin, MD PhD	University of Arizona
	Yajing Wang, MD PhD	Cardiology Discovery
	Ming Chen 陈明, PhD	ShiBeiKang LLC



Scientific Session II

15:40 – 16:40 Young Investigator Award Competition (8min talk + 2min Q&A)

Moderators:	Bowen Wang, PhD Jianxin Sun, PhD	Northwestern University Thomas Jefferson University
15:40 – 15:50	Yue Yuan	Baylor College of Medicine <i>MASH-derived osteopontin drives atrial arrhythmogenesis</i>
15:50 – 16:00	Mingqi Cai	University of Nebraska Medical Center <i>NFIA Recruits CHD4 to Activate Fatty Acid Metabolic Gene Program in Postnatal Cardiomyocytes</i>
16:00 – 16:10	Ting Shu	University of Rochester <i>Divergent roles of Phosphodiesterase 1A in vascular smooth muscle cells and adventitial fibroblasts in aortic aneurysm</i>
16:10 – 16:20	Wei-Ting Chang	University of California, San Diego, La Jolla <i>TXNDC5 Exacerbated Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension in A Positive Feedback Loop Through Endothelial-Mesenchymal Transition</i>
16:20 – 16:30	Yiran Li	Fudan University (Visa pending) <i>The E3 Ubiquitin Ligase Hrd1 Promotes Aortic Aneurysm/Dissection Formation by Regulating Macrophage Efferocytosis.</i>
16:30 – 16:40	Hanqiu Zhao	Washington University in Saint Louis <i>Human Lung Single-Cell Atlas Identifies EPHA4 Control of Neo-Arterialization In PAH</i>

16:40 – 17:15 ACRE Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation (30min talk + 5min Q&A)

Moderator	Zhao Wang, PhD	City of Hope National Medical Center
Speaker	Y. Eugene Chen, MD PhD	Professor, University of Michigan <i>A Journey in Cardio-Metabolic Medicine: Discovery, Translation, and Patient Impact</i>

17:15 – 17:50 CNAHA Bernard Lown Lectureship Presentation (25min talk + 5min Q&A)

Moderator	Jidong Fu, PhD	Ohio State University
Speaker	Cynthia C. Taub, MD	Professor, Norton College of Medicine <i>LBbB and cardiomyopathy: mechanistic insight and therapeutic implications</i>

17:50 – 18:00 Closing Remarks

Hong Chen, PhD (President-elect, ACRE), Harvard Medical School

Jidong Fu, PhD (President, CNAHA), Ohio State University



19:00 – 22:00 Dinner and Award Celebrations

Location: MingHin Cuisine (明軒, Chinatown):
2168 S. Archer Ave, Chicago, IL 60616
Phone: (312) 808-1999
[Click for Direction](#) (~15 min driving from UIC)

Hosts: Zhao Wang, PhD, ACRE President, City of Hope
Jidong Fu, PhD, CNAHA President, Ohio State University
Na Li, PhD, ACRE Board of Directors, Baylor College of Medicine

18:30 - 22:00 **Open Bar** (Drink tickets available from Liang Hong and Jianxin Sun)

19:00 - 22:00 **Dinner**

20:00 - 20:15 **Presidential Address**

Zhao Wang, PhD, ACRE President, City of Hope, Beckman Research Institute
Jidong Fu, PhD, CNAHA President, Ohio State University

20:15 - 20:30 **AHA Leadership Remarks**

Eugene Chen, Nipavan Chiamvimonvat, Konstantinos Drosatos, Joseph Hill, Maria Kontaridis, Xinliang (Xin) Ma, Patricia Kim Phuong Nguyen, Katey Rayner, Sakthivel Sadayappan, Cynthia Taub (Alphabetical order)

20:30 - 20:45 **Award Announcements**

(Young Investigator Award, Travel Award, Shibeikang Innovation Award)

Bowen Wang, PhD, ACRE Education/Award Committee, Northwestern University

Xu Xiao, PhD, ACRE Education/Award Committee, University of Kentucky

Mingtao Zhao, PhD, CNAHA General Secretary, Nationwide Children's Hospital/The Ohio State University

Travel Awardees:

Name	Institution
Ting Zhou	University of Wisconsin–Madison (YIA backup candidate)
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



2026 ACRE-CNAHA Symposium Sponsors



Cardiology Discovery

Cardiology Discovery (CD) is the official journal of the Chinese Society of Cardiology (CSC) of Chinese Medical Association (CMA). It is an English language, peer-reviewed journal that aims to publish high-quality materials on all aspects of cardiovascular medicine and surgery, including original clinical, epidemiological, basic and translational research, health services and outcomes studies, state-of-the-art reviews, technical evaluations, case reports, editorial, perspective, consensus and guideline papers. CD has an international outlook, that is to create a platform of international collaboration and exchange of cutting-edge information on cardiovascular research and education.



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2026 ACRE-CNAHA Symposium Organizing Committee

The organizing task force (alphabetical order)

ACRE: Yanhong Guo, Na Li, Hong Lu, Zhao Wang, Yang (Kevin) Xiang, Wuqiang Zhu

CNAHA: Qing Dai, Jidong Fu, Wei Huang, Jianxin Sun, Mingtao Zhao

Special Acknowledgements

Local Hosts: Liang Hong, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Cardiology
University of Illinois Chicago
Bowen Wang, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, Feinberg School of Medicine,
Northwestern University

YIA Abstract Reviewing Committee: Xiao Li, Bowen Wang, Weijia Luo, Hong Lu, Li Qian, Xu Xiao

YIA Judges: TBA

ACRE Career Development: Xiaolei Liu, Hong Chen

Registration related matters: Ziqing Liu, Yi Tan

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	Xiaochun Long, PhD, Augusta University, GA

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	Wei Huang, PhD, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH
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