
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 — 16:00	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	Group photo and Travel Award announcement	
	Coffee Break – Sponsor presentation	
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 (明轩, 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

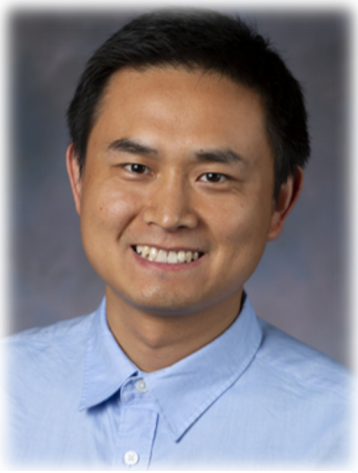


Cynthia C. Taub MD, MBA, FACC, FASE
Norton College of Medicine

Dr. Cynthia C. Taub is the Edward C. Reifenstein 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



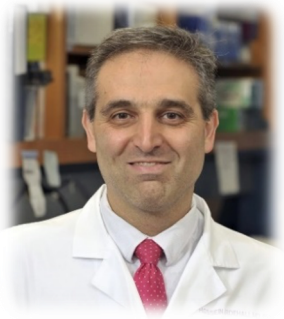
Yi Tan PhD
Professor
University of Arizona



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

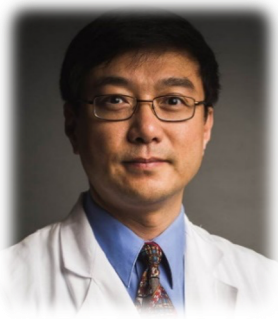
Thomas Jefferson University



Willard W. Sharp MD, PhD

Associate Professor

University of Chicago



Min Xie MD

Professor

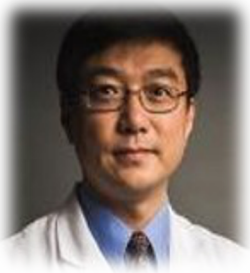
University of Alabama at Birmingham

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

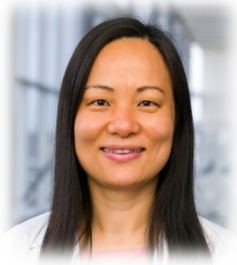
Rising Stars



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

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

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

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

Moderator	Jingyan Han, PhD	Associate Professor, Boston University
Panelists	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, PhD	Professor, University of Alabama at Birmingham

12:50 – 13:00 **Opening Remarks**

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

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

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

15:00 – 15:10 **Group photo and Travel Award announcement**

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

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 *A Journey in Cardio-Metabolic Medicine: Discovery, Translation, and Patient Impact*

17:15 – 17:50 CNAHA Bernard Lown Lectureship Presentation (30min talk + 5min Q&A)

Moderator	Jidong Fu, PhD	Ohio State University
Speaker	Cynthia C. Taub, MD	Professor, Norton College of Medicine *LBBB and cardiomyopathy: mechanistic insight and therapeutic implications*

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 (明轩, 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
Mingtao Zhao, PhD, Nationwide Children's Hospital

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

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** (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

20:30 - 20:45 **Award Announcements**
(Young Investigator Award, Travel Award, Shibeikang Innovation Award)

Bowen Wang, PhD, ACRE Education/Award Committee, Northwestern University
Jianxin Sun, PhD, CNAHA Membership Director, Thomas Jefferson University
Liya Yin, MD, PhD, ACRE Board of Directors, University of Arizona College of Medicine - Phoenix

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 Sponsors

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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: Qiying 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	Baylor College of Medicine
Hong Lu	University of Kentucky
Weijia Luo	Augusta University
Li Qian	University of North Carolina
Bowen Wang	Northwestern University
Xu Xiao	University of Kentucky

YIA Judges

Yingjie Chen	University of Mississippi Medical Center
Kunzhe Dong	Augusta University
Xinrui Wang	SUNY Upstate Medical University
Zhong Wang	University of Michigan
Jifeng Zhang	University of Michigan
Ting Zhou	University of Wisconsin

ACRE Career Development

Xiaolei Liu	Temple University
Hong Chen	Harvard Medical School

Registration related matters

Ziqing Liu	Medical College of Wisconsin
Yi Tan	University of Arizona

Individual Donation

Hong Chen	Harvard Medical School
Nipavan Chiamvimonvat	University of Arizona
Tzung Hsiai	University of California, Los Angeles
Haobo Li	Harvard Medical School
Na Li	Baylor College of Medicine
Rongxue Wu	The Ohio State University
Peng Yao	University of Rochester
Wuqiang Zhu	Mayo Clinic in Arizona

Academy of Cardiovascular Research Excellence (ACRE) Board

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Membership Chair	Yajing Wang, MD, PhD, University of Alabama, AL Xiaochun Long, PhD, Augusta University, GA

Chinese American Heart Association (CNAHA) Board

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President (Clinical)	Lei Gao, MD, PhD, St. Anne Hospital, WA
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Membership Director	Jianxin Sun, PhD, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA
General Secretary	Mingtao Zhao, PhD, Nationwide Children's Hospital/The Ohio State University, OH

Travel Award Recipients:

Name	Institution
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	Bayolr College of Medicine
Xinjiang Cai	University of California, Los Angeles
Ruijia Feng	Temple University

General Presenters:

Name	Institution
Dan Shan	Temple University
Wenjuan Mu	University of Michigan
Qi Zheng	Washington University in St. Louis
Liyuan Zhu	University of Kentucky
Yin Yu	Shanghai Jiao Tong University
Yutao Hua	University of Alabama at Birmingham
Yu-Wen Chen	University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC)
Fenrong Li	University of South Carolina
Lihao He	University of Alabama at Birmingham
Xiaodan Hui	The University of Arizona
Jun Zhou	University of Michigan
Tony Boualoy	Ohio State University
Yuxin Chu	University of Alabama at Birmingham