

FEBRUARY 2024 | ISSUE 12

BIOMEDICAL GENETICS SECTION

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Section Updates

Meet the People



Ting-Ting Fu, PhD

It's a great pleasure to say "Hi" to each of you! My name is Ting-Ting Fu. I'm a new postdoc of Dr. Lei Hou in the section of Biomedical Genetics.

I graduated from Kunming Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences. And then I worked as a faculty member at Eye & ENT hospital of Fudan University in China for one year. During my PhD study, I had been worked on adaptive evolution of creatures living in extreme environment. Through comparative genomics and transcriptomics, we identified both the common and specific regulatory mechanisms of high-elevation adaptations across species.

Based on my PhD training, I've extended my research to the epigenetic modification of heart regeneration and eye disease using single-cell sequencing data. For my study at BUMC, I would love to investigate the genetic and epigenetic networks underlying Alzheimer's disease and how these critical networks affect the phenotypic shifts across cell types/tissues, and even shape the evolution of brain disease in human.

In passing, I'm new in Boston and have a wide range of hobbies including painting, animations, playing computer games and traveling. I'm also an animal-lover. So please feel free to reach out to me with any research interests and other enjoyments. That would be great help and precious to me!



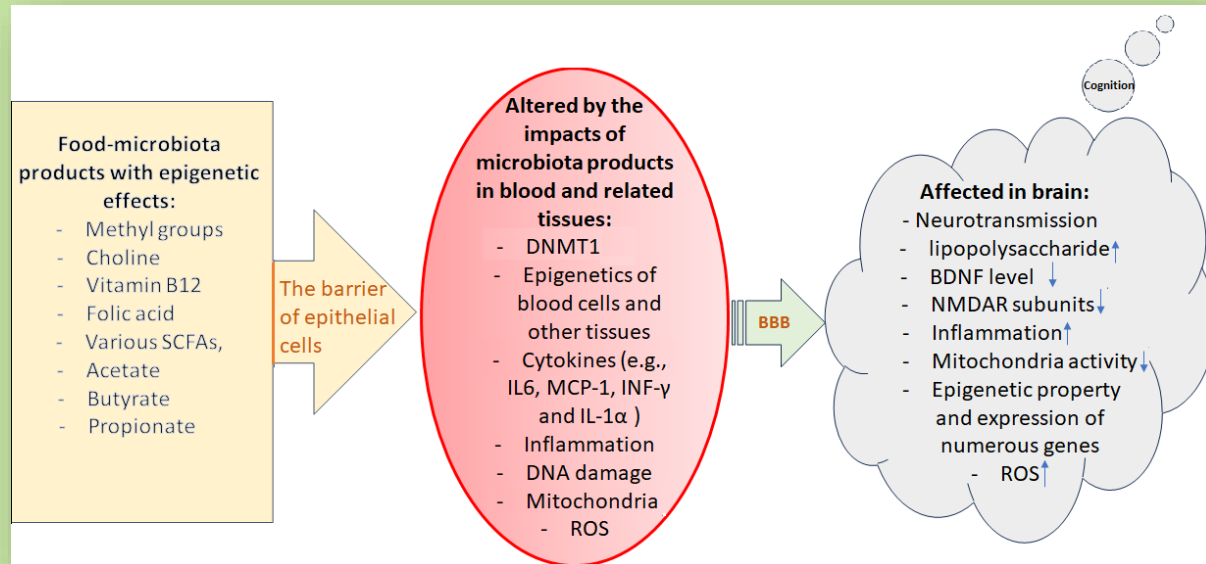
Chinh Doan, MSc

Greetings everyone! I am Chinh. But you can call me Chris Doan. I am a new data analyst working in Xiaoling Lab.

I earned my degree of Pharmacist from University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Following that, I worked as an assistant lecturer in pharmacy at HUTECH, a private university in Viet Nam.

I did my MSc in Bioinformatics/Human Genetics from Virginia Commonwealth University.

After completing my program, I worked as a bioinformatician in a lab at the Stanford Cardiovascular Institute to analyze omics data. Outside of work, I play badminton, tennis, and chess. Glad to know more about people in our session of Biomedical Genetics.



Microbiota-Induced Epigenetic Alterations in Neurodegenerative and Psychiatric Disorders

Dr. Sam Thiagalingam and his colleagues, Drs. Hamid Abdolmaleky and Shabnam Nohesara published review articles and a book chapter providing an in-depth analyses of Epigenetic aberrations related to diet and gut microbiome in neurodegenerative diseases and major psychiatric disorders, as an opportunity to design novel therapies for these ailments.

Nohesara S, Abdolmaleky HM, Zhou JR, Thiagalingam S. 2023. [Microbiota-Induced Epigenetic Alterations in Depressive Disorders Are Targets for Nutritional and Probiotic Therapies](#). *Genes (Basel)*. 2023 Dec 14;14(12):2217. doi: 10.3390/genes14122217. PMID: 38137038

Nohesara S, Abdolmaleky HM, Thiagalingam S, Zhou JR. 2023. [Gut microbiota defined epigenomes of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases reveal novel targets for therapy](#). *Epigenomics*. 2023 Dec 13. doi: 10.2217/epi-2023-0342. PMID: 38088063. <https://www.futuremedicine.com/doi/10.2217/epi-2023-0342>. <https://www.mdpi.com/2073-4425/14/12/2217/pdf>

Nohesara S, Abdolmaleky HM, Thiagalingam S., 2023. [Epigenetic Aberrations in Major Psychiatric Diseases Related to Diet and Gut Microbiome Alterations](#). *Genes (Basel)*. 2023 Jul 24;14(7):1506. doi: 10.3390/genes 14071506. PMID: 37510410. <https://www.mdpi.com/2073-4425/14/7/1506>.

Nohesara S, Abdolmaleky HM, Thiagalingam S., 2023. Epigenetic Aberrations in Mental Disorders are Linked to Diet and Gut Microbiome Alterations, *In Advanced Concepts in Medicine and Medical Research* Vol. 10, Chapter 12: pp128-171. DOI: 10.9734/bpi/acmmr/v10/6925B



Biomedical Genetics Journal Club

Dates & Time: every other Wednesday 2-3PM
The next meeting is scheduled for February 14th.

Location: room E246, Evans building
(Zoom connection is also available)



Biomedical Genetics journal club is a great resource for anyone who is interested in discovering new methods or trying to keep up with the latest technologies. Meetings are led by graduate students within the Biomedical Genetics Section, but everyone is encouraged to attend. We typically discuss topics related ongoing research in the Biomedical Genetics Section. (e.g. sequencing technologies, GWAS, machine learning).

Please email sahelijo@bu.edu for more information on upcoming talks in-person, or if you would like to join by Zoom.



Have you seen the weekly poll located above the water cooler in the Genetics suite kitchen? Come each week to vote on the “Would You Rather” question of the week.

Topic/Question suggestions to Vidriana are welcome!



Holiday Party 2023









**Thank you to all who came to the
Biomedical Genetics Section holiday party in December!**

We hope you enjoyed some tasty food, fun activities, and good company 😊



BUMC News and Events

Changes to the Policy of Principal Investigator (PI) Status

**Boston University
Office of Research**

There have been some updates to expand PI privileges for several categories of faculty and staff and updates to the BU processes to better align with proposal development and submission practices. [Read More.](#)

NIH Simplified Review Framework for Research Grant Applications



NIH grant applications submitted after Jan. 25, 2025, will be reviewed using the **Simplified Review Framework**. NIH expects the simplified framework to better focus the peer review process on the key questions to assess the scientific and technical merit of the proposal, specifically asking if the proposed research project is feasible and valuable. [Read More.](#)

Updated NIH Requirements for Foreign Subaward Agreements

**Boston University
Office of Research**



The NIH has updated its grant policy guidance for foreign subaward agreements ([NOT-OD-23-182](#)). Effective January 1, 2024, agreements for foreign subawards must contain a provision requiring foreign subrecipients to provide access to copies of all lab notebooks, all data, and all documentation that supports the research outcomes as described in the progress report, to the primary recipient (Boston University) with a frequency of no less than once per year, in alignment with the timing requirements for a RPPR submission. [Read More.](#)

NIH Increases Salary Limitation for FY 2024 to \$221,900, effective January 1, 2024



NIH has issued updated guidance regarding the salary limitation for grants and cooperative agreements for FY 2024 reflecting an increase in accordance with the Executive Level II salary level from \$212,100 to \$221,900 effective January 1, 2024. See NIH Guidance [NOT-OD-24-057](#) for detailed information. [Read More.](#)



BUMC Toastmasters Meeting

Do you want to improve your public speaking skills? Toastmasters specializes in banishing nerves and providing constructive and supportive feedback to each other on how to improve our public speaking. Come see for yourself what it looks like to confront your fears and achieve your goals! Feel free to just observe or jump in and join us with some fun table topics! Next meeting is February 1st.



When: every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month

Time: 5:15-6:15pm

Location: Evans 118 (72 E. Concord St.) or email us for the Zoom link.

Contact: Molly Geraghty | BUMCtoastmasters@gmail.com | 781-534-4988

DoM DEIA Week: March 18th – 22nd, 2024



The DoM will hold its first annual Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Week the week of March 18, 2024. In the DoM, we are dedicated to fostering a workplace that values and celebrates diversity, promotes equity, ensures inclusion, and prioritizes accessibility. We firmly believe that our collective differences make us stronger, and we are committed to creating an environment where all individuals, regardless of their background, feel valued, respected, and empowered.

[Read More.](#)

Our Biomedical Genetics Section will be hosting an event this week. More details to follow later.



Register Now!



Inflammation, Immunity and Alzheimer's Disease: From Mechanisms to Potential Therapeutics

Blood and innate immunity in neurodegeneration: Mechanism, imaging, therapeutics



Katerina Akassoglou, MD
University of California San Francisco

Does complement play a role in anti-amyloid antibody-induced vascular side effects in Alzheimer's disease?



Cynthia Lemere, PhD
Harvard Medical School

Microglia: Key regulators of inflammatory signaling cascades during neurodegeneration



Dorothy Schafer, PhD
UMass Chan Medical School

The link between common, chronic viral infections and Alzheimer's disease



Richard Sherva, PhD
Boston University

Targeting chronic peripheral inflammation to reduce risk for age-related neurodegenerative diseases



Malú Tansey, PhD
University of Florida College of Medicine

Discovery and development of novel small molecule candidates for altering the neuroinflammation-synaptic dysfunction axis



Daniel Watterson, PhD
Northwestern University



To register, please [click here](#)

MAY 10, 2024
12:00-4:00 PM EST

American Heart Association®





Resources

Don't Forget-- Submit an *Announcement Request Form* and share your news in the next issue of the Biomedical Genetics Section Newsletter!

Do you have exciting news that you want to share in the next issue of our quarterly Biomedical Genetics Section Newsletter? Submit an [Announcement Request Form](#), located on the Resources page of our [website](#)!

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

