

Yihao Li, PhD

How long have you been at DFCI?

4 years and 8 months

In which lab/department do you work?

I am working in Myles Brown lab, Medical Oncology Department

From where did you receive your graduate degree?

I obtained my PhD at Leiden University Medical Center, the Netherlands

Why did you choose this area of study?

During my PhD training, I studied the mechanisms regulating TGF-beta and WNT signaling in breast cancer. These research experiences have built up my strong interest on identifying new vulnerabilities for advanced breast cancer and understanding the mechanisms underlying the breast cancer therapeutic resistance.

What is the focus of your current research?

My current research focuses on investigating the epigenetic mechanism governing the limited clinical efficacy of FGFR inhibitors in triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC). In addition, I also seek to identify the novel mechanism regulating aberrant mammary epithelial cell proliferation and oncogenic transformation.

How do you envision your career trajectory? How has working at Dana-Farber enhanced your career?

I wish I could be an independent scientist after my postdoc training. I have been so fortunate to have a great mentor and colleagues at Dana-Farber. At DFCI, I have received intensive support for my research by implementing training programs and meetings across fundamental research to clinical application. I have had great opportunities to learn cutting-edge technologies from leading scientists and core facilities. In addition, I have been motivated by the internal recognition and award.

What DFCI resources have been the most beneficial to you during your postdoc?

I have benefited greatly from DFCI resources including shared research platforms, grant application support, internal collaborations, as well as the advice of top scientists.

When you're not doing science, where might we find you? (i.e., any outside activities or hobbies you enjoy?)

At my leisure, I enjoy time with my little daughter. I have a passion for fishkeeping; I might run a tropical fish store if not doing science. I used to play basketball and love traveling; I hope I can get back after the pandemic.

