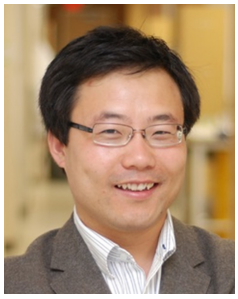
Her work resulted in 23 publications, 8 patents and 2 clinical trials. She joined the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) as an Assistant Professor in January of 2013. Her laboratory at UCLA studies tumor immunology and cancer immunotherapy, with a special focus on stem cell-engineered immunotherapy for cancer. Besides the NIH Director's New Innovator Award, she also received multiple other awards including the TR35 Award, the Forbeck Scholar Award, the CHARVI/HVTN Early Career Investigator Award, the CIRM Basic Biology V Exploratory Concepts Award, the STOP CANCER Research Career Development Award, and the Prostate Cancer Foundation GTSN Challenge Award.

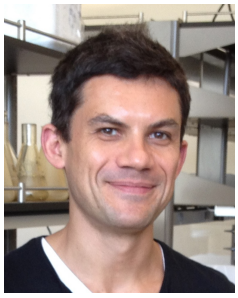
Lijie Grace Zhang, Ph.D.
George Washington University
Project Title: A Novel 3D Bioprinted Smart Vascularized Nano Tissue

Dr. Lijie Grace Zhang is an associate professor in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Department of Biomedical Engineering and Department of Medicine at the George Washington University. Her main research is to integrate 3D bioprinting and nanotechnology for complex tissue and organ regeneration. She obtained her Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering at Brown University with distinction in 2009. After finishing her postdoctoral trainings at Rice University and Harvard Medical School, she joined GW. She has received the Young Innovator in Cellular and Molecular Bioengineering, GW SEAS Outstanding Young Researcher Award, John Haddad Young Investigator Award by American Society for Bone and Mineral Research, Early Career Award from the International Journal of Nanomedicine, and Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement Award by the Oak Ridge Associated Universities Organization, etc.



Weian Zhao, Ph.D.
University of California Irvine
Project Title: Mechano-Sensing Stem Cells to Study, Detect and Treat Cancer Metastases

Weian Zhao is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of California, Irvine. Dr. Zhao completed his B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in Chemistry at Shandong University where he studied polymer, surface and colloidal chemistry. In 2008, he received his Ph.D. degree in Chemistry at McMaster University, where he focused on the use of functional nucleic acid to structure gold nanoparticles to construct well-defined nanostructures and biosensors. Dr. Zhao then completed a Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP) Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Hospital and MIT. Dr. Zhao received the MIT's Technology Review TR35 Award: the world's top 35 innovators under the age of 35 in 2012. Dr. Zhao's current research focuses on the development of novel molecular, nano- and micro-engineered tools for stem cell therapy and regenerative medicine, diagnosis and in vivo imaging, and elucidating stem cell and cancer biology.



Roberto Zoncu, Ph.D.
University of California Berkeley
Project Title: Engineering Organelle Function to Rewire Cancer Cell Metabolism

Roberto Zoncu is an Assistant Professor in the Molecular and Cell Biology Department at the University of California, Berkeley. His research focuses on how organelles known as lysosomes participate in nutrient sensing and metabolic signal transduction, and how disruption of organelle homeostasis contributes to cancer growth. Roberto received his B.S. from the University of Pisa, Italy. He then moved to the U.S. to pursue Ph.D. studies in the laboratory of Pietro De Camilli at Yale University, and completed postdoctoral training under the supervision of David Sabatini at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research. In addition to the Innovator Award, Roberto is the recipient of a Pew-Stewart Scholarship for Cancer Research and an Edward J Mallinckrodt Research Grant.

Chenghang Zong, Ph.D.
Baylor College of Medicine
Project Title: Detecting the Onset of Genome Heterogeneity in Tumor at Single Cell Resolution