



## USCACA Newsletter

### Highlights from the USCACA Youth Awards and 2026 AACR Travel Awards

#### Advancing Global Cancer Research Collaboration

The **US-China Anti-Cancer Association (USCACA)** continues to play a pivotal role in fostering collaboration in cancer research, education, and clinical translation between the United States and China. Since its founding in 2009 at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting, USCACA has grown into a global network of over 1,000 members across academia, industry, and regulatory agencies.

Through partnerships with organizations such as CACA, CSCO, AACR, and ASCO, USCACA promotes international scientific exchange and accelerates innovation in oncology.

#### Celebrating Excellence: 2025 USCACA Youth Awards

The USCACA Youth Awards recognize exceptional early-career investigators who demonstrate outstanding achievement and leadership in cancer research. Since 2010, USCACA has honored 60 Youth Scholars through this program. The 2025 awardees represent a diverse and highly accomplished group of scientists contributing across multiple areas of oncology.

#### Awardees in China

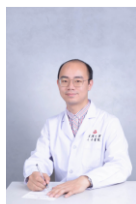


#### 2025 USCACA-AFCR Scholar Awardees

Two awardees in China



**Dr. Zhenhua Chen**  
The First Affiliated Hospital  
Zhejiang University



**Dr. Chen Zhao**  
Wuhan University  
Renmin Hospital



The China-based awardees were honored in August 2025 in Lanzhou, China.

## Awardees in the United States

- **Yang Yi, PhD** – Northwestern University (USCAC-MCE Joint Award)  
Recognized for an exceptional publication record, including numerous first-author papers in high-impact journals such as *Nature Cell Biology*, *Molecular Cell*, and *Cancer Research*.
- **Chang Jiang, PhD** – Moffitt Cancer Center (USCAC-RayBiotech Joint Award)  
Recipient of the NIH K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Award and multiple competitive research grants exceeding \$1 million.
- **Meng Zhang, PhD** – Emory University (USCACA AFCR Joint Award)  
Awarded funding from the Department of Defense Prostate Cancer Research Program and recognized by the Society of Basic Urologic Research.
- **Jianneng Li, PhD** – University of Notre Dame (USCACA TargetMol Joint Award)  
A leader in translational research and an active contributor to national and international grant review panels.

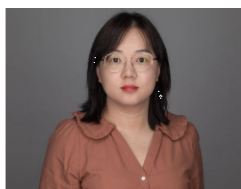


## 2025 USCACA Joint Youth Awards

Four awardees in USA



**Yang Yi, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor**  
Northwestern University



**Chang Jiang, Ph.D.**  
**Assistant Member**  
H. Lee Moffitt Cancer  
Center and



**Meng Zhang, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor,**  
Emory University



**Jianneng Li, Ph.D.**  
**Assistant Professor**  
University of Notre Dame



These awardees represent the next generation of leaders in cancer biology and translational medicine. 2025 USCACA Youth Award recipients recognized at the 2026 Joint Annual Meeting of ACACR and USCACA.

## USCACA Youth Award Ceremony (2026 ACACR/USCACA Meeting)



### 2026 Joint Annual Meeting of ACACR and USCACA

1:30 – 7:30 pm, Saturday, April 18, 2026

MET Lower Auditorium  
T. Denny Sanford Medical Education and Telemedicine Center  
University of California San Diego  
9500 Gilman Dr, La Jolla

Organized by  
Association of Chinese Americans in Cancer Research  
[www.acacr.org](http://www.acacr.org)  
United States Chinese Anti-Cancer Association  
[www.uscaca.org](http://www.uscaca.org)

### Industry Partnerships Supporting Innovation

USCACA collaborates with industry partners such as MedChemExpress (MCE), TargetMol, and RayBiotech to provide critical resources and technologies that support cutting-edge cancer research and translational applications. Three joint awards—USCACA-MCE, USCACA-TargetMol, and USCACA-RayBiotech—were each presented to one recipient, as noted above.



**Disclosure:** Members of the USCACA Executive Committee have no financial relationships with these sponsors. Employees from the sponsoring companies were not involved in the nomination or selection of awardees.

### Supporting Emerging Scientists: AACR 2026 Travel Awards

USCACA remains committed to fostering the development of early-career scientists through travel awards supporting participation in major international conferences.

## 2026 Travel Awardees

- **Fangjia Tong, PhD** (Huiping Liu Lab) – Northwestern University  
Presented research on AI-guided discovery of metastasis drivers and strategies to inhibit tumor dissemination at the 2026 AACR Annual Meeting.
- **Faming Zhao, PhD** (Zheng Xia Lab) – Oregon Health & Science University  
Delivered an oral presentation on single-cell heterogeneity and tumor ecosystem dynamics during prostate cancer progression at the 2026 AACR Annual Meeting.

## USCACA Travel Awardees (AACR 2026)



**Fangjia Tong, Ph.D.**  
Northwestern University



**Faming Zhao Ph.D.**  
Oregon Health & Science University



These presentations highlight the integration of computational approaches, single-cell biology, and translational oncology in addressing key challenges in cancer research.

**Looking Ahead**

Through its awards programs, conferences, and global collaborations, USCACA remains dedicated to:

- Advancing international partnerships in cancer research
- Supporting early-career investigators and future leaders
- Promoting translational innovation and precision oncology
- Bridging academic, clinical, and industry communities

The continued success of USCACA initiatives reflects a shared commitment to improving cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment worldwide.

**For more information, please visit:**

[www.uscaca.org](http://www.uscaca.org)