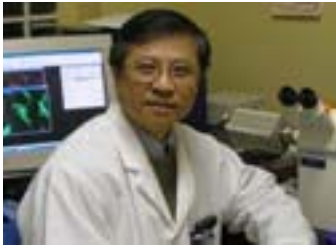


Dr. Qun Lu Biography



Upon completion of his doctorate in cell biology and neuroscience at Emory University School of Medicine, Dr. Qun Lu pursued a research fellowship at Harvard Medical School as well as at the affiliated Brigham and Women's Hospital, where he was promoted to Instructor in Medicine (Division of Neurology) in 1997. His research led to the discovery of the roles of mitogen-activated protein kinase in balancing cell-cell versus cell-matrix interactions (Lu et al., 1998), followed by the cloning of full length human *δ-catenin/CTNND2* and the identification of its interactions with cell-cell junction (Lu et al., 1999). In 2000, Dr. Lu joined the faculty at The Brody School of Medicine of East Carolina University, where he is Associate Professor with tenure. Since 2006, he is a full member of Leo Jenkins Cancer Center and is currently also a full member of Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Lu's recent research led to (1) the discovery of Rho GTPase signaling in neuroprotection following chemotherapy drug induced neuropathy in animal model, (2) the demonstration of δ -catenin involvement in neuronal polarity and synaptic plasticity, and (3) the identification of δ -catenin function in cancer. Funded by NIH/National Cancer Institute, NIH/National Institute on Aging, and the Department of Defense, Dr. Lu co-discovered the potential application of neural protein expression in cancers of peripheral tissues, including δ -catenin in prostate cancer (Lu et al., 2005). The finding may lead to development of potential novel cancer biomarkers. Dr. Lu currently holds a U.S. patent on this technology and has co-discovered δ -catenin single nucleotide polymorphism and gene mutations in cancer, which has a patent pending status (Wang et al., 2009). An internationally recognized authority in δ -catenin field, Dr. Lu has published 25 peer-reviewed articles since joining East Carolina University and has been invited for a number of presentations nationally and internationally. In the past five years, Dr. Lu trained 3 PhD students with one student as a recipient of William R. Valentine, Jr., Memorial Graduate Student Award for Outstanding Graduate Research. Besides serving as an ad hoc grant reviewer for the past eight years, Dr. Lu has served on local, national, and international advisory committees, including the most recent fundamental role of helping to establish the Harriet and John Wooten Laboratory for Alzheimer's Disease and Neurodegenerative Research here at East Carolina University.