



Department of Chemistry

香港城市大學
City University of Hong Kong

Special Departmental Seminar

By

Dr. ZHUANG Zhe

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Stanford University, USA

***Molecular Glue Discovery Enabled by
Targeted Degron Display***



Date: 17 September 2026 (Thursday)

Time: 2:30 pm – 3:15 pm

**Venue: B5-211 (Blue Zone, 5th Floor)
Yeung Kin Man Academic Building
City University of Hong Kong**



For abstract, please refer to the attached sheet.

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~ All Are Welcome ~

Abstract

Small molecules that induce protein interactions hold tremendous potential as new medicines, as probes for molecular pathways, and as tools for agriculture. Explosive growth of targeted protein degradation drug development has spurred renewed interest in proximity inducing molecules and especially molecular glue degraders. These compounds catalyze destruction of disease-causing proteins by reshaping protein surfaces and promoting cooperative binding between ubiquitylating enzymes and target proteins. Molecular glue discovery for pre-defined targets is a major challenge in contemporary drug discovery. Here I will discuss how we address these important chemical challenges through molecular glue discovery enabled by targeted degron display. By leveraging mechanisms such as electrophilic covalent bonding, electrostatic interactions, or cation- π interactions, I have identified a range of potent molecular glue degraders that recruit previously unligandable ubiquitylating factors for multiple therapeutically relevant epigenetic regulators and kinases. This "chemocentric" approach provides a powerful strategy to discover molecular glues that induce proximity to ubiquitin ligases with similarly desirable properties.

Biography

Zhe Zhuang was born in Zhoushan, China. A small island famous for fishing industry. He received predoctoral training in Prof. Wei-Wei Liao's lab (B.Sc., 2013, Jilin University) and Prof. Zhi-Xiang Yu's lab (2014–2015, Peking University). He did his Ph.D. studies at Scripps Research in Prof. Jin-Quan Yu's lab (2015–2021), with the focus on C–H functionalization of native substrates. He is currently a Postdoctoral Scholar in Prof. Nathanael Gray's lab, with the focus on molecular glue cancer drug discovery.