



**ASCN Mini-Symposium**

**&**

**Career Workshop 2026**

**December 12, 2026**

**Houston, TX**



**Organized by**

**American Society For Chinese  
Neuroscientists (ASCN)**

**<https://www.sfnchinese.org/>**



## Welcome Message

On behalf of the ASCN Board, we are delighted to welcome you to the **ASCN Mini-Symposium & Career Workshop 2026** in Houston, Texas.

The ASCN is a global non-profit organization dedicated to advancing neuroscience research, fostering scientific collaboration, and supporting the professional development of neuroscientists worldwide. Through scientific exchange and mentorship, we strive to build a vibrant community that connects trainees, early-career investigators, and leaders across academia and industry.

This year's Mini-Symposium & Career Workshop brings together established mentors and ASCN Fellowship awardees for a day of scientific presentations, career development, and networking. The program features research talks by featured mentors highlighting advances across diverse areas of neuroscience, followed by talks from ASCN fellows showcasing their research. The career workshop offers opportunities for trainees and early-career researchers to gain valuable mentorship, practical career advice, and insights into academic career paths in neuroscience. ASCN Fellowship Award in Honor of Professor Jane Wu recognizes exceptional early-career neuroscientists of their scientific excellence and leadership potential.

We hope this event inspires our new generation of neuroscientist, fosters their professional growth, and builds lasting connections within our community. We wish you an engaging, rewarding, and memorable experience at the ASCN Mini Symposium & Career Workshop 2026 in Houston!

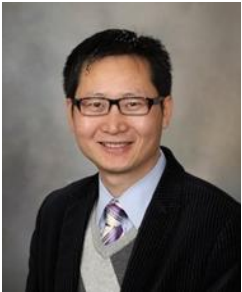
### The ASCN Board Officers

Long-Jun Wu (*UTHealth Houston*) | Zhiping Pang (*Rutgers University*) | Yang Yang (*Purdue University*)  
Junfang Wu (*University of Maryland*) | Xinyun Lu (*Augusta University*) | Yongjie Yang (*Tufts University*)



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## ASCN mentors



**Long-Jun Wu, Ph.D**

C. Harold and Lorine G. Wallace  
Distinguished University Chair

Professor and Founding Director

IMM-Center for Neuroimmunology  
and Glial Biology

***University of Texas Health Science  
Center at Houston***



**Zhiping Pang, Ph.D**

Henry Rutgers Chair Professor

Director, Center of NeuroMetabolism

Child Health Institute of New Jersey

***Rutgers University***



**Yang Yang, Ph.D**

Jack and Barbara McCoy  
Associate Professor

Borch Department of Medicinal  
Chemistry and Molecular  
Pharmacology

***Purdue University***



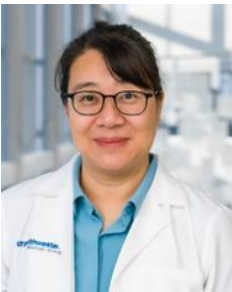
**Xinyun Lu, M.D., Ph.D**

MCG GRA Eminent Scholar Chair in  
Translational Neuroscience

Professor and Chair

Department of Neuroscience &  
Regenerative Medicine

***Augusta University***



**Judy Liu, M.D., Ph.D**

Miller Family Distinguished University  
Chair in Neurological Disease

Associate Professor

Department of Neurology

***UT Southwestern***



**Riqiang Yan, Ph.D**

Professor and Chair

Department of Neuroscience

***University of Connecticut***



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## **ASCN Fellowship Award in Honor of Professor Jane Wu**



**Professor Jane Wu** is an internationally respected neuroscientist and dedicated mentor whose career has profoundly advanced both neuroscience research and the Chinese neuroscience community. The ASCN Fellowship Award in Honor of Professor Jane Wu recognizes exceptional early-career neuroscientists who demonstrate scientific excellence, innovation, and leadership potential. By celebrating emerging talent in Professor Wu's name, this award reflects ASCN's commitment to fostering the next generation of neuroscience leaders and strengthening our global scientific community through excellence, collaboration, and mentorship.



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| <b>December 12, 2026 (Saturday)</b><br>Intercontinental Houston, 6750 Main Street Houston, TX 77030 |                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00-9:00 am                                                                                        | Registration and Breakfast                     |
| 9:00-9:05 am                                                                                        | Opening Remarks                                |
|                                                                                                     | Dr. Long-Jun Wu, ASCN President                |
| 9:10-10:10 am                                                                                       | Session 1: Mentor Talks                        |
| (10min/talk)                                                                                        | Chair: Dr. Long-Jun Wu                         |
| 10:10-10:30 am                                                                                      | Coffee Break                                   |
| 10:30-11:50 am                                                                                      | Session 2: ASCN Fellow Talks                   |
| (10min/talk)                                                                                        | Chair: Dr. Yang Yang                           |
| 11:50-12:00 pm                                                                                      | Sponsor Presentation: Transvista               |
| 12:15-1:30 pm                                                                                       | Lunch (buffet will be provided)                |
| 1:30-2:40 pm                                                                                        | Session 3: ASCN Fellow Talks                   |
| (10min/talk)                                                                                        | Chair: Dr. Judy Liu                            |
| 2:40-2:50 pm                                                                                        | Sponsor Presentation: Southern Model Organisms |
| 2:50-3:30 pm                                                                                        | Coffee Break                                   |
| 3:30-4:30 pm                                                                                        | Session 4: Career Panel Discussion             |
|                                                                                                     | Chairs: Drs. Xinyun Lu and Riqiang Yan         |
| 4:30-5:00 pm                                                                                        | Session 5: Small Group Discussions             |
| 5:00-5:05 pm                                                                                        | Closing Remarks                                |
|                                                                                                     | Dr. Zhiping Pang, Vice President of ASCN       |
| 5:10-5:40 pm                                                                                        | Travel to Chinatown                            |
| 6:00-6:30 pm                                                                                        | Award Presentation                             |
|                                                                                                     | Drs. Long-Jun Wu and Zhiping Pang              |
| 6:30 -10:00 pm                                                                                      | Dinner                                         |



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## Thank you to our sponsors



**TRANSVISTA**

**TRANSVISTA** ([www.transvista.com](http://www.transvista.com)) pioneers in the development of miniature two-photon microscopes (Nature Method, 2017; Nature Method 2021; Nature Method, 2023; Nature Method, 2025. recognized as Nature Methods "Method of the Year 2018"), which enables high-quality calcium imaging in freely behaving mice. Designed for versatility, TRANSVISTA's miniature multiphoton microscopes support multi-color excitation, deep brain imaging, high resolution imaging, simultaneous optogenetics and more, making them ideal for studying neural dynamics at the cellular and circuit levels.



**Southern Model Organisms** is a trusted partner in genetic mouse model development and preclinical CRO services with over two decades of proven scientific expertise. The company offers a diverse catalog including over 18,000 off-the-shelf mouse models and over 23,000 genetically engineered models integral to thousands of breakthrough studies across oncology, immunology, and metabolic research. In addition to model development, Southern Model Organisms provides specialized CRO services to generate the necessary high-precision data when evaluating therapeutic candidates with confidence. With deep expertise in genetic engineering, advanced animal model development, and translational pharmacology, Southern Model Organisms helps accelerate biomedical discovery and therapeutic development from early research through preclinical evaluation.