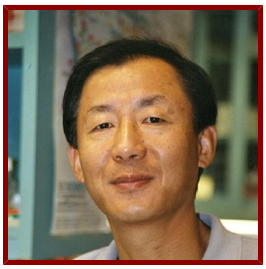
Stanford



# Zijie Sun

Professor of Urology, Emeritus

Urology - Divisions

## Bio

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Emeritus Faculty, Acad Council, Urology - Divisions
- Member, Bio-X
- Member, Maternal & Child Health Research Institute (MCHRI)

### HONORS AND AWARDS

- Best Asian American Faculty Award, Stanford University (2004)
- The FIRST Award, The National Institute of Health (1997-2002)
- Edward Livingston Trudeau Scholar, the American Lung Association (1994-1996)

## Research & Scholarship

### CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

Transcriptional control is a key step in the regulation of eukaryotic gene expression. Our lab focuses on understanding the molecular mechanism of transcription factors that govern the transformation of normal mammalian cells to a neoplastic state. We are especially interested in the biological roles of steroid hormone receptors and their co-regulators in development and oncogenesis. We use targeted conditional and inducible mouse models and other cellular and molecular approaches to uncover gene-expression and genomic and epigenetic alteration that occur during tumor development and progression and to functionally analyze the biological significance of these changes in oncogenic transformation. Our central goals are to identify the factors and signaling pathways that promote prostate cancer initiation and progression to castration resistant prostate cancer (CRPC) in tumor initiating cells in order to develop novel therapeutics to target these tumor cells.

### CLINICAL TRIALS

- Identification and Characterization of Novel Proteins and Genes in Head and Neck Cancer, Recruiting
- In Vitro Activation of Dormant Follicles for Patients with Primary Ovarian Insufficiency, Not Recruiting
- Radiation Therapy in Treating Patients With Extensive Stage Small Cell Lung Cancer, Not Recruiting

## Teaching

### GRADUATE AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Cancer Biology (PhD Program)

# Publications

## PUBLICATIONS

- **ADT and activation of HGF and WNT axes in double-null prostate cancer.** *Nature reviews. Urology*
  Leung, D. H., Adzavon, Y. M., Chu, G., Park, T. J., Nikias, K., Kim, C. W., Liu, C., Sun, Z.
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- **Visualizing androgen signaling and assessing its interaction with canonical Wnt signaling pathways in prostate development, morphogenesis, and regeneration.** *PLoS genetics*
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  2025; 21 (6): e1011756

- **Interactions between androgen and IGF1 axes in prostate tumorigenesis.** *Nature reviews. Urology*
  Adzavon, Y. M., Culig, Z., Sun, Z.
  2024

- **Stromal androgen signaling governs essential niches in supporting prostate development and tumorigenesis.** *Oncogene*
  Rhee, J. W., Adzavon, Y. M., Sun, Z.
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- **Androgen deprivation induces double-null prostate cancer via aberrant nuclear export and ribosomal biogenesis through HGF and Wnt activation.** *Nature communications*
  Kim, W. K., Buckley, A. J., Lee, D. H., Hiroto, A., Nenninger, C. H., Olson, A. W., Wang, J., Li, Z., Vikram, R., Adzavon, Y. M., Yau, T. Y., Bao, Y., Kahn, et al
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- **Cardiovascular Impact of Androgen Deprivation Therapy: from Basic Biology to Clinical Practice.** *Current oncology reports*
  Kim, J., Freeman, K., Ayala, A., Mullen, M., Sun, Z., Rhee, J.
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- **Stromal androgen signaling acts as tumor niches to drive prostatic basal epithelial progenitor-initiated oncogenesis.** *Nature communications*
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- **Zmiz1 is required for mature β-cell function and mass expansion upon high fat feeding.** *Molecular metabolism*
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- **Aberrant androgen action in prostatic progenitor cells induces oncogenesis and tumor development through IGF1 and Wnt axes.** *Nature communications*
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- **Stromal androgen and hedgehog signaling regulates stem cell niches in pubertal prostate development.** *Development (Cambridge, England)*
  Olson, A. W., Le, V., Wang, J., Hiroto, A., Kim, W. K., Lee, D. H., Aldahl, J., Wu, X., Kim, M., Cunha, G. R., You, S., Sun, Z.
  2021

- **Androgen action in cell fate and communication during prostate development at single-cell resolution.** *Development (Cambridge, England)*
  Lee, D. H., Olson, A. W., Wang, J. n., Kim, W. K., Mi, J. n., Zeng, H. n., Le, V. n., Aldahl, J. n., Hiroto, A. n., Wu, X. n., Sun, Z. n.
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- **Androgen receptor with short polyglutamine tract preferably enhances Wnt/β-catenin-mediated prostatic tumorigenesis.** *Oncogene*
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  2020

- **Aberrant activation of hepatocyte growth factor/MET signaling promotes β-catenin-mediated prostatic tumorigenesis.** *The Journal of biological chemistry*

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- **Dual Blockade of c-MET and the Androgen Receptor in Metastatic Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer: A Phase 1 Study of Concurrent Enzalutamide and Crizotinib.** *Clinical cancer research : an official journal of the American Association for Cancer Research*
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- **Androgen action in cell fate and communication during prostate development at single-cell resolution.** *Development (Cambridge, England)*
  Lee, D. H., Olson, A. W., Wang, J. n., Kim, W. K., Mi, J. n., Zeng, H. n., Le, V. n., Aldahl, J. n., Hiroto, A. n., Wu, X. n., Sun, Z. n.
  2020
- **Loss of androgen signaling in mesenchymal sonic hedgehog responsive cells diminishes prostate development, growth, and regeneration.** *PLoS genetics*
  Le, V., He, Y., Aldahl, J., Hooker, E., Yu, E. J., Olson, A., Kim, W. K., Lee, D. H., Wong, M., Sheng, R., Mi, J., Geradts, J., Cunha, et al
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- **The comprehensive role of E-cadherin in maintaining prostatic epithelial integrity during oncogenic transformation and tumor progression.** *PLoS genetics*
  Olson, A., Le, V., Aldahl, J., Yu, E. J., Hooker, E., He, Y., Lee, D. H., Kim, W. K., Cardiff, R. D., Geradts, J., Sun, Z.
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- **Loss of the tumor suppressor, Tp53, enhances the androgen receptor-mediated oncogenic transformation and tumor development in the mouse prostate.** *Oncogene*
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- **Melatonin protects spermatogonia from the stress of chemotherapy and oxidation via eliminating reactive oxidative species.** *Free radical biology & medicine*
  Zhang, X., Xia, Q., Wei, R., Song, H., Mi, J., Lin, Z., Yang, Y., Sun, Z., Zou, K.
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- **A pivotal role of androgen signaling in Notch-responsive cells in prostate development, maturation, and regeneration** *DIFFERENTIATION*
  Aldahl, J., Yu, E., He, Y., Hooker, E., Wong, M., Le, V., Olson, A., Lee, D., Kim, W., Murtaugh, C. L., Cunha, G. R., Sun, Z.
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- **Androgen signaling is essential for development of prostate cancer initiated from prostatic basal cells** *ONCOGENE*
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