

WEN LI, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

09/2014–06/2017 Ph.D. in Physiology, Nankai University, China

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

12/2024–Present Research Scientist, Stanford University
10/2021–11/2024 Postdoctoral Scholar, Stanford University
09/2018–08/2021 Postdoctoral Scholar, Vanderbilt University

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Publications are listed in reverse chronological order. Wen Li is shown in bold.

1. **Wen Li**, Suman Rimal, Sunil Bhurtel, Lucas Yeung, Benjamin G. Lu, Lea T. Grinberg, Salvatore Spina, Maria Inmaculada Cobos Sillero, William W. Seeley, Su Guo, Bingwei Lu. Tau-induced mitochondrial reverse electron transport drives neurodegeneration. *Neuron*. 2026. doi:10.1016/j.neuron.2026.07.012.
2. Dongyue Liu, Yu Li, Shuai Huang, Yufang Xu, Lei Sun, **Wen Li**, Cahir J. O’Kane, David C. Rubinsztein, Bingwei Lu, Shuangxi Li. IRE1 regulates the proteostasis of TDP-43/TARDBP in ALS/FTD through ribosome-associated quality control. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*. 2026;123(26):e2610001123. doi:10.1073/pnas.2610001123.
3. Ji Geng, Tejinder Pal Khaket, Jie Pan, **Wen Li**, Yan Zhang, Yong Ping, Maria Inmaculada Cobos Sillero, Bingwei Lu. Deregulation of ER-mitochondria contact formation and mitochondrial calcium homeostasis mediated by VDAC in fragile X syndrome. *Developmental Cell*. 2023;58(7):597–615.e10. doi:10.1016/j.devcel.2023.03.002.
4. Suman Rimal, Ishaq Tantray, Y. Li, Tejinder Pal Khaket, Y. Li, Sunil Bhurtel, **Wen Li**, C. Zeng, Bingwei Lu. Reverse electron transfer is activated during aging and contributes to aging and age-related disease. *EMBO Reports*. 2023;24:e55548. doi:10.15252/embr.202255548.
5. **Wen Li**, Lei Chen, Jonathan T. Fleming, Emily Brignola, K. Zavalin, A. Lagrange, T. Rex, S. A. Heiney, Gregory J. Wojaczynski, Javier F. Medina, Chin Chiang. Dendritic inhibition by Shh signaling-dependent stellate cell pool is critical for motor learning. *Journal of Neuroscience*. 2022;42(26):5130–5143. doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.2073-21.2022.
6. Xingjun Wang, Suman Rimal, Ishaq Tantray, Ji Geng, Sunil Bhurtel, Tejinder Pal Khaket, **Wen Li**, Z. Han, Bingwei Lu. Prevention of ribosome collision-induced neuromuscular degeneration by SARS-CoV-2-encoded Nsp1. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*. 2022;119(42):e220322119. doi:10.1073/pnas.220322119.
7. Kai Li, **Wen Li**, Hongqiang Yin, Yuen-Ki Cheong, Guogang Ren, Zhuo Yang. Pretreatment-etidronate alleviates CoCl₂-induced SH-SY5Y cell apoptosis via decreased HIF-1 α and TRPC5 channel proteins. *Neurochemical Research*. 2019;44(2):428–440. doi:10.1007/s11064-018-2696-3.
8. **Wen Li**, Kai Li, Jing Gao, Zhuo Yang. Autophagy is required for human umbilical cord mesenchymal stem cells to improve spatial working memory in APP/PS1 transgenic mouse model. *Stem Cell Research & Therapy*. 2018;9:9. doi:10.1186/s13287-017-0756-2.
9. **Wen Li**, Huijuan Yuan, Yao Yu, Yuen-Ki Cheong, Guogang Ren, Zhuo Yang. Etidronate rescues cognitive deficits through improving synaptic transmission and suppressing apoptosis in 2-vessel occlusion model rats. *Journal of Neurochemistry*. 2017;140(3):476–484. doi:10.1111/jnc.13904.
10. **Wen Li**, Li Wang, Xiaoqian Chu, Huantian Cui, Yuhong Bian. Icaritin combined with human umbilical cord mesenchymal stem cells significantly improve the impaired kidney function in chronic renal failure. *Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry*. 2017;428(1–2):203–212. doi:10.1007/s11010-016-2930-8.
11. Chuyue Zhang, **Wen Li**, Junkai Wen, Zhuo Yang. Autophagy is involved in mouse kidney development and podocyte differentiation regulated by Notch signalling. *Journal of Cellular and Molecular Medicine*. 2017;21(7):1315–1328. doi:10.1111/jcmm.13061. (Co-first author)
12. Huantian Cui, Zhen Liu, Li Wang, Yuhong Bian, **Wen Li**, Huifang Zhou, Xiaoqian Chu, Qingyun Zhao. Icaritin-treated human umbilical cord mesenchymal stem cells decrease chronic liver injury in mice. *Cytotechnology*. 2017;69(1):19–29. doi:10.1007/s10616-016-0034-7.
13. **Wen Li**, Yuen-Ki Cheong, Hui Wang, Guogang Ren, Zhuo Yang. Neuroprotective effects of etidronate and 2,3,3-trisphosphonate against glutamate-induced toxicity in PC12 cells. *Neurochemical Research*. 2016;41(4):844–854. doi:10.1007/s11064-015-1761-4.

14. Xiaochen Zhang, **Wen Li**, Zhuo Yang. Toxicology of nanosized titanium dioxide: an update. Archives of Toxicology. 2015;89(12):2207–2217. doi:10.1007/s00204-015-1594-6.
15. Hui Wang, Na Gao, **Wen Li**, Zhuo Yang, Tao Zhang. Melamine induces autophagy in mesangial cells via enhancing ROS level. Toxicology Mechanisms and Methods. 2015;25(7):581–587. doi:10.3109/15376516.2015.1053655.
16. Yan-Fei Kang, Yang-Wu Fang, Yu-Hao Li, **Wen Li**, Xue-Bo Yin. Nucleus-staining with biomolecule-mimicking nitrogen-doped carbon dots prepared by a fast neutralization heat strategy. Chemical Communications. 2015;51(95):16956–16959. doi:10.1039/C5CC06304C.

SELECTED RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS AND MEDIA COVERAGE

Nature Reviews Neurology — [Research Highlight: “Reverse electron transport connects tauopathy to mitochondrial dysfunction.”](#) 2026.

Science — [News coverage: “Tau protein can sneak into brain cells’ energy factories—and wreak havoc.”](#) 2026.

NIH Research Matters — [“Scientists identify new role for tau protein in brain diseases.”](#) September 8, 2026.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Nov 2016	First Prize Scholarship, Nankai University Merit Student, Nankai University
Nov 2015	Kwang-Hua Scholarship, Kwang-Hua Education Foundation Excellent Student Cadre, Nankai University

PEER REVIEW SERVICE

Reviewer: Brain Research; Cytotechnology; Journal of Molecular Neuroscience