

Qi, Runyu

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EDUCATION

M.S. in Material Science and Engineering
with Computational Science and Engineering Concentration
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, IL, United States

Aug.2023 - Dec.2024

B.E. in Material Science and Engineering
Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

Sept.2019 - Jun.2023

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Computational and Experimental Analysis of Retrotransposons

Advisor: Dr. Yejing Ge (UT MDACC)

July. 2024 - Dec. 2024

- Conducted bioinformatics analyses, including RNAseq, ChIPseq, and ATACseq, to explore retrotransposon function and compared results with lab data.
- Established and improved pipelines, automated scripts, and optimized workflows for high-performance computing clusters.
- Performed wet lab tasks such as cell culture, RNA extraction, and qPCR, enhancing technical skills in both computational and experimental biology.

Deep Learning for Pathway Prediction and GPCRs MD Simulation

Advisor: Dr. Diwakar Shukla (UIUC)

Jan. 2024 - Present

- Conducted research on allosteric modulation in the Smoothed (SMO) GPCR signaling pathway, integrating computational models with molecular dynamics (MD) simulations to study dynamic behaviors.
- Adapted and re-implemented the Neural Relational Inference for Molecular Dynamics (NRI-MD) model to handle larger, more complex molecular structures, overcoming challenges with outdated Python code.
- Trained and optimized the model on a GPU cluster for efficient processing of complex datasets, enhancing skills in deep learning, molecular biology, and computational techniques.

Metabolic Glycan Engineering & Nanoparticle-Based mRNA Delivery Systems

Advisor: Dr. Hua Wang (UIUC)

Sept. 2023 - Present

- Engineered metabolic labeling of human Mesenchymal Stem Cells (hMSCs) using azido-sugar and optimized DBCO-molecule conjugation for efficient mRNA nanoparticle delivery.
- Synthesized poly-peptide-based ionizable nanoparticle systems incorporating guanidine-azide molecules, characterized through H-NMR, and evaluated different DBCO-poly-L-lysine conjugations for improved mRNA delivery.
- Fabricated porous alginate hydrogels for dendritic cell recruitment, optimizing porogen bead size via nebulization and validating hydrogels for in situ immune cell modulation.

Surface-Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy and Electrochemical Detection of Energetic Materials

Advisor: Dr. Yunhan Ling (Tsinghua Univ.)

Jan. 2023 - Jun. 2023

- Developed low-cost, high-performance detection devices for trace detection of energetic molecules using surface-enhanced Raman spectroscopy (SERS) and electrochemical methods.

- Synthesized nanostructured gold and gold-silver composite SERS substrates, employing surface modification and molecular imprinting to improve detection sensitivity.
- Achieved TNT detection at a low concentration (10^{-6} M) and specific quantitative detection of methylene blue and perchlorate. .
- Characterized substrates using scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and assessed performance through electrochemical and Raman spectroscopy measurements.

*See more on my [homepage](#).

PRESENTATIONS

A Review on PDMS-based Electronic Skin and Self-healing Property

Advisor: Dr. Lilian Hsiao (NC State)

Jul. 2022 - Aug. 2022

- Conducted an extensive literature review on PDMS and electronic skins, analyzing over 10 research papers. Synthesized findings into an academic poster and delivered a successful video presentation.

AWARDS

The Tsinghua University School Scholarship	2022
The second prize, 3rd Virtual Simulation Creative Design Competition	2022
The first prize, 5th Tsinghua Univ. 3D Printing Skills Competition	2021
The Tsinghua University School Scholarship	2021
The second prize, 4th Tsinghua Univ. 3D Printing Skills Competition	2020
National third prize, 32th Chinese Chemistry Olympiad	2018
National third prize, 27th China National Biology Olympiad	2018

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

Member, Tau Beta Pi - Illinois Alpha, UIUC	Apr. 2024
Captain, Student Network Service Work-study Team, Tsinghua Univ.	Mar. 2021 - Jun. 2023
President, Future Sci-tech Interests Club, Tsinghua Univ.	Sept. 2022 - Jun. 2023
Volunteer, Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, Beijing	Feb. 2022 - Mar. 2022