Dr. Honglin Luo
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“The dual nature of enteroviruses: from heart disease to oncolytic virotherapy”

Dr. Luo’s research focuses on the studies of virus-host interactions and the mechanisms of enteroviral pathogenesis, specifically, enterovirus-induced viral myocarditis and cardiomyopathy, an important cause of cardiovascular mortality worldwide, particularly in children. She studies how enterovirus utilizes the host cellular machinery, in particular, the protein quality control system including molecular chaperones and the ubiquitin-proteasome and autophagy degradation pathways, to support its infection and to induce cardiac damage. Since her recent discoveries that enterovirus-induced pathology remarkably resembles the molecular phenotype of neurodegenerative diseases, including amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, she has extended her research to understand the possible role of enteroviral infection in the development of neurodegenerative diseases. Finally, Dr. Luo is also seeking the possibility to modify and develop enterovirus as a therapeutic tool for lung cancer treatment.

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