



**Prof. Chun Li**

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#### BACKGROUND

Dr. Chun Li is a professor in the Department of Cancer Systems Imaging at MDACC. Dr. Li earned his doctorate in chemistry at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. His undergraduate degree was obtained from Peking University, Beijing, China. Research in Dr. Li's laboratory is primarily focused on two areas: 1) Develop targeted imaging probes for noninvasive characterization of molecular events associated with tumor progression and regression. Multiple imaging modalities, including PET, SPETC, MRI and optical imaging are used to acquire complementary data for tumor detection and the monitoring of treatment responses. 2) Develop novel drug-delivery systems for selective delivery of diagnostic and therapeutic agents to the disease sites. The long-term goal of Dr. Li's laboratory is to apply the "seek and treat" strategy in the development of targeted imaging/ therapeutic (theranostic) agents.

# Modulation of Tumor Stroma to Sensitize Radiation Therapy and Immunotherapy

## Abstract

Resistance to radiation therapy and immunotherapy to a large extent is mediated by hypoxic and immunosuppressive tumor microenvironment. We have taken multiple approaches to tackle these limitations with the goal to overcome these resistance mechanisms in solid tumors. In the first approach, we have developed a polymeric micellar co-delivery system to modulation tumor stroma to enhance immune checkpoint blockade therapy in PDAC. In the second approach, we have synthesized a poly(L-glutamic acid)-drug conjugate to target tumor associated macrophages to enhanced radiation therapy. In the third approach, we used a local ablation technique to ablate tumors to increase blood perfusion and antitumor immunotherapy. These and other approaches towards enhancing current antitumor treatments will be discussed during my presentation.

**Academia C<sup>2</sup>TN**

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