

I have always been interested in scientific research. Having completed a BSc and MRes in China, I decided to do a PhD abroad in order to do research at the very highest level. Since starting my PhD project, I focus on the molecular pathogenesis of autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD) because it represents a very common and medically important human disease. My study involved investigating the interaction of the two ADPKD proteins, polycystin-1 and polycystin-2. Using a variety of methods I defined and characterised two homodimerisation domains in polycystin-2 which appear to regulate its function in vivo. It was a privilege to present some of my work as an oral presentation and win the prize in the Renal Young Scientists Award session at the Renal Association meeting in 2009. I am really pleased to have this chance to communicate with other researchers and know the latest progression in relevant fields. The Young Renal Scientist Award is not only an honor and bonus but also a great encouragement for me. It made me more confident of my future in this area. Since my PhD, I have continued to work in Professor Ong's group in the University of Sheffield as a Research Associate. Currently, I am following up some important leads from my previous project and continue to investigate the regulation of PKD2 homo- and heterodimerization and trafficking through multiple experimental approaches such as molecular biology, genetics, cell biology, protein biochemistry and electrophysiology. I will continue working in ADPKD area since any knowledge could help in understanding the mechanisms of disease initiation or progression and could have potential for developing effective treatments for patients. Ultimately, I wish to develop into an independent investigator and contribute my effort to the scientific research of medicine.