Qi Long Lu, MD, PhD

Director, McColl-Lockwood Laboratory Senior Scientist, Cannon Muscular Dystrophy Lab



"Qi Lu is one of the true innovators in the world of muscular dystrophy research, but his pioneering work on gene therapy has implications that go way beyond neuromuscular disease. His passion and intellect are an inspiration for other scientists and a source of hope for patients around the world."

Dr. James McDeavitt
Chief Academic Officer
Carolinas HealthCare System

Qi Lu has been published in the following scientific journals

- Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA
- Molecular Therapy
- Nature Medicine
- Discovery Medicine
- Gene Therapy
- Neuromuscular Disorders
- Journal of Pathology
- Journal of Virology
- Journal of Cell Biology
- Journal of Cell Science



A Muscular Dystrophy Expert

Qi Long Lu, MD, PhD, a leading expert in the use of gene therapy to assist muscular dystrophy patients, is one of the principal investigators in a five-year study funded by the National Institutes of Health.

This \$7.9 million research grant, announced in 2011, includes the first-ever natural history study of Becker muscular dystrophy, a milder form of MD that is, like other variations, caused by mutations in the dystrophin gene.

The NIH study also focuses on personalized drug development for Duchenne patients. It is being coordinated by a consortium of academic laboratories that includes Carolinas HealthCare System in Charlotte NC, Children's National Medical Center in Washington DC and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Cutting Edge Researcher

Dr. Lu is recognized internationally for his collaboration on a diverse range of innovative research projects. In addition to having prior backing from NIH, his past studies have been supported by the U.S. Army Medical Research Office, the U.K. Department of Health, the Muscular Dystrophy Association and the Foundation to Eradicate Duchenne.

In 2010 Dr. Lu organized and hosted a second international conference for scientists studying the underlying causes of limb girdle muscular dystrophy. Under Dr. Lu's guiding hand, this working group helps independent scientists to develop and refine their research agendas, while enhancing cooperation in the global search for effective therapeutics. A third conference is planned for 2012.

In 2008, Dr. Lu's findings on Duchenne were published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA*. This article summarized a pioneering medical approach based on "gene manipulation therapy," which uses a process called "exon skipping" to help Duchenne patients preserve muscle cells and muscle function.

A True Leader in Science

Dr. Lu was recruited from the Royal College of Medicine in London in 2004 to head up a multi-talented team of scientists and technicians at the McColl-Lockwood Laboratory, launched that year with the aid of a \$10 million grant. His degrees from Shanghai Medical University include an M.D. in 1973 and a master's degree in medical science in1986. He also earned a Ph.D. in pathology from the University of London in 1992.

In sum, his leadership and influence extend well beyond U.S. boundaries to Europe and Asia, where he plays a leading role in a number of productive research consortia. Dr. Lu is also a prolific writer who has co-authored more than three dozen articles for peer-reviewed scientific journals in gene and molecular therapy, pathology and other specialties.