2013 GU XIAOCHENG LECTURE

顾孝诚讲座

The 2013 Gu Xiaocheng lecture award is shared by Dr. Boxun Lu and Dr. Nan Liu.



Dr. **Boxun Lu** received his Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology from the University of Pennsylvania, School of Medicine in 2009.His dissertation research in Dr. Dejian Ren's lab was on the neuronal excitability control via the sodium background leak channel. He revealed the molecular identity of the sodium background leak channel that is essential for basal neuronal excitability and rhythmic control, and the major molecular mechanism of neuronal excitability regulation by neuropeptide and extracellular calcium, which are essential for physiological and pathophysiological functions such as pain feeling, sleep and epilepsy. He was a Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow at Novartis Institutes of Biomedical Research, working on genetic targets in a broad spectrum of disease models, including patient fibroblasts, mouse knock-in cell lines, primary mouse neurons, hESC/iPSC derived neurons and in vivo fly models.

Dr. Lu was recruited through the Young Thousand Talent Plan by the Chinese national government to the School of Life Sciences, Fudan University, in 2012. He has established a lab to work on target discovery for neurodegenerative disorders, with a focus on polyQ diseases such as Huntington's disease. He is recognized as an outstanding young scientist with unique experience and talent in pioneering studies of neuronal diseases.



Dr. **Nan Liu** received his Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Pennsylvaniain 2009. Mentored by Dr. Bonini (an Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute), Dr. Liu focused on microRNAs in flies, where he showed a keen insight in revealing a new role in aging and protection from neurodegenerative disease. After completing abrief postdoctoral training with Dr. Bonini, he became a research associate in Dr. Yishi Jin's lab at the University of California, San Diego, working on neurite injury using *C. elegans* as a model.

Dr. Liu was recruited through the Young Thousand Talent Plan by the Chinese national government to the Interdisciplinary Research Center on Biology and Chemistry (the IRCBC), Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, in 2013. He will continue to work on *Drosophila* miRNAs. Since many of miRNAs show features of evolutionary conservations, these

studies will shed light on to our understanding of human aging and age-related neurodegenerative diseases. Dr. Liu is recognized as being technically gifted and capable of rapidly incorporating new findings from the literature into his experiments. He has an outstanding sense of urgency, a strong work ethic, and is an insightful and original thinker.