

# Lijuan Ma



**Title :** Assistant professor

**Department:** Dr. Neher's Biophysics Laboratory for Innovative Drug Discovery/State Key Laboratory of Quality Research in Chinese Medicines

**Email:** ljma@must.edu.mo

**Tel:** (853) 88973537

**Office:** I01-119

**Mailing address:** Macau University of Science and Technology, I01-119, Avenida Wai Long, Taipa,

Macau

Dr. Lijuan Ma obtained her PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Sun Yat-sen University, working on DNA replication mechanism and related cancer therapy. After two years continuing research on mitosis cell cycle regulation, she joined Dr. Gerald R. Smith lab at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center for her postdoc training to study another specific cell cycle, meiosis. Currently, her research focus on two aspects: 1. Age-related aneuploidy in human eggs and its related decline in female fertility and early miscarriage. 2. aneuploidy and cancer. Taking advantage of yeast traceable genetic system and powerful molecular tools, we are identifying drugs from TCM to interfere aneuploidy eggs formation thus to reduce the rate of early miscarriage. On the other hand, aneuploidy in somatic cells is the most prevalent genetic alteration in human cancer. Aneuploidy is a valuable cancer therapeutic target.

## **Teaching Activities:**

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Experiments; Microbiology and Immunology; Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacy III—Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapy

## **Research Interests:**

1. anticancer drugs from TCM
2. age-related aneuploidy and miscarriage
3. molecular mechanism of meiosis

## **Education:**

2003-2009    phD, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Sun Yat-sen  
                  University, Guangzhou, China  
1999-2003    Bachelor, Biological Science, Shanxi Normal University, Shanxi,  
China

**Research Experience:**

2017-present  Assistant Professor, Macau University of Science and  
                  Technology, Macau, China  
2011-2017    Postdoc, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle,  
USA  
2009-2011    Visiting Scholar, Hong Kong University of Science and  
                  Technology, Hong Kong, China

**Publications (\*corresponding author):**

1. Chen X, Li J, Zhang R, Zhang Y, Wang X, Leung EL, **Ma L**, Wong VKW\*,  
Liu L\*, Neher E\*, Yu H\*. Suppression of PD-L1 release from small  
extracellular vesicles promotes systemic anti-tumor immunity by targeting  
ORAI1 calcium channels. *Journal of Extracellular Vesicles*, 2022.  
(Accepted)
2. Chen G, Zhu X, Li J, Zhang Y, Wang X, Zhang R, Qin X, Chen X, Wang J,  
Liao W, Wu Z, Lu L, Wu W, Yu H\*, **Ma L**\*. Celastrol inhibits lung cancer  
growth by triggering histone acetylation and acting synergically with  
HDAC inhibitors. *Pharmacol Res.* 2022 Oct 3:106487.
3. Leung EL\*, Huang J, Zhang J, Zhang J, Wang M, Zhu Y, Meng Z, Yu H,  
Neher E, **Ma L**\*, Yao X\*. Novel Anticancer Strategy by Targeting the Gut  
Microbial Neurotransmitter Signaling to Overcome Immunotherapy  
Resistance. *Antioxid Redox Signal.* 2022, Nov 1. doi:  
10.1089/ars.2021.0243. Online ahead of print.
4. Wang X, Liu Z, **Ma L**, Yu H. Ferroptosis and its emerging role in tumor.  
*Biophysics Reports*, 2021, 7(4): 280-294.

5. Li J, Zhang Y, Chen X, **Ma L**, Li P\*, Yu H\*. Protein phase separation and its role in chromatin organization and diseases. *Biomed Pharmacother.* 2021 Jun;138:111520
6. **Lijuan Ma**, Kyle R. Fowler, Cristina Martín-Castellanos and Gerald R. Smith. Functional organization of protein determinants of meiotic DNA break hotspots. *Scientific Reports*, 2017 May 3;7(1):1393
7. **Lijuan Ma**, Neta Milman, Mridula Nambiar and Gerald R. Smith. Two separable functions of Ctp1 in the early steps of meiotic DNA double-strand break repair. *Nucleic Acids Research*, 2015 43(15): 7349-7359
8. **Lijuan Ma**, Yuanliang Zhai, Daorong Feng, Tsz-choi Chan, Yongjun Lu, Xinrong Fu, Jiafeng Wang, Yanhong Chen, Jianna Li, Ke Xu, and Chun Liang. Identification of Novel Factors Involved in or Regulating Initiation of DNA Replication by a Phenotypic Screen in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. *Cell Cycle*, 2010 9(21): 4399-410

