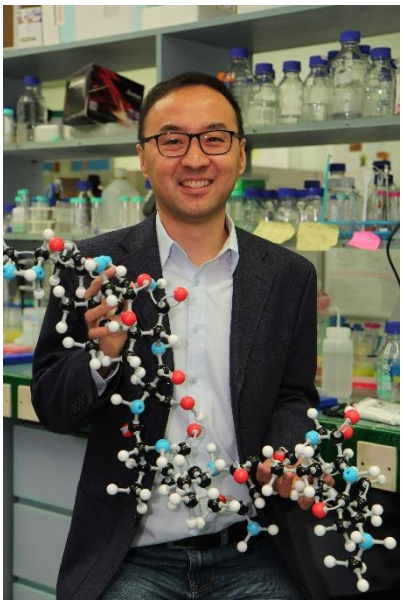
Dr Li Xuechen
Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry
Faculty of Science, HKU
Croucher Senior Research Fellowship 2018-2019



The research of Dr Li Xuechen, Associate Professor at the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, the University of Hong Kong, lies in the interface of synthetic chemistry, medicinal chemistry and biology, spanning from innovative synthetic method development to biological studies and drug discovery, with the ultimate aim to develop novel therapeutics.

At HKU, he has pioneered in the development of several innovative methods to synthesize and modify biomolecules including peptides, proteins and glycans. These methods open up new avenues for studying the biology and medicinal chemistry of biomolecules and provide new possibilities to generate biologics with new functional activities. His Ser/Thr Ligation was selected as the Cutting Edge of Chemistry by Thompson Reuters (2013). One of the exciting and promising areas for exploitation of these methods is to develop novel peptide-based antibiotics. In 2013, Dr Li's team developed the first chemical synthesis of daptomycin using Ser/Thr Ligation. In 2016, his team was one of the first groups in the world to complete the chemical synthesis of teixobactin.

Dr LI obtained his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Nankai University, MSc from University of Alberta and Ph.D. from Harvard University. After that, he did a joint postdoctoral research at Columbia University and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. He joined the HKU Department of Chemistry in 2009.

Awards and Honours

2017 Croucher Senior Research Fellowship 2018-2019
2016 Distinguished Faculty Award, Chinese-American Chemistry & Chemical Biology Professor Association (CAPA)
2015 Asian Core Program Lectureships
2014 Outstanding Young Research Award, the University of Hong Kong
2013 Wuxi PharmaTech Life Science and Chemistry-Scholar Award