

MMI 291 Seminar Series

Current Theme: Interdisciplinary Research
Fall Quarter 2025 – CRN 38614

**Friday Seminar at 12:10-1 p.m.
GBSF Auditorium, Room 1005**

“From Vulnerability to Defense: Insights into the Olfactory Mucosa Barrier”

Research Bio

Qizhi Gong is a professor in the Department of Cell Biology and Human Anatomy at the University of California Davis School of Medicine. Gong obtained her B.S. from Peking University. For her Ph.D. thesis, she studied olfactory system development under the mentorship of Michael Shipley at the University of Cincinnati. She subsequently completed postdoctoral training in *Drosophila* visual system development under Ulrike Gaul at Rockefeller University and in mammalian olfactory system plasticity under Albert Farbman at Northwestern University. Gong joined the faculty at UC Davis in 2001. Her lab utilizes molecular, genomic and tissue techniques to investigate genetic and epigenetic regulatory mechanisms underlying olfactory circuit plasticity and olfactory mucosa – pathogen interactions. The lab is currently investigating SARS-CoV-2 infection induced immune responses in the olfactory mucosa and their impact on neuropathogenesis and potential links to neurodegenerative diseases.

Publications

Lee W, Kim J, Yun JM, Ohn T, **Gong Q** (2020) “MeCP2 regulates gene expression through recognition of H3K27me3”. *Nature Communications* 11 (1), 1-16.

Zedan A, Winters AD, Yu W, Wang S, Ren Y, Takeshita A, **Gong Q** (2023) “Antiviral functions of type I and type III interferons in the olfactory epithelium”. *Biomolecules* 13(12), 1762

Oct.
10



Qizhi Gong, Ph.D.
Professor
Department of Cell Biology and Human
Anatomy
School of Medicine
University of California, Davis

**Oct. 10, 2025
12:10 – 1 p.m.
GBSF Auditorium
Room 1005
In-person presentation**

Medical Microbiology and
Immunology
School of Medicine

Seminar Contact:
Autumn Vega
advega@health.ucdavis.edu

We hope to see you there!