



Maridulu Budyari Gumal

Working together for good health and wellbeing

Dr Jiao Jiao Li

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BIO: Dr Li is a biomedical engineer and UTS Senior Lecturer with expertise in discovery research, medtech translation, and STEM leadership. A current Rebecca L Cooper Medical Research Foundation AI & Val Rosenstrauss Fellow, she leads a multidisciplinary research program in regenerative medicine for chronic diseases. Her research leadership, innovation, impact, and engagement have attracted >30 awards. Dr Li is a key member of the Innovation & Industry team and advocates for capacity building in early-mid career researchers, community engagement, interdisciplinary collaboration, and STEM diversity and inclusion.

During a past NHMRC Early Career Fellowship, Dr Li contributed to the invention and preclinical validation of new biomaterials. She also played a key role in the past ARC Training Centre for Innovative BioEngineering. As Co-Deputy Director, she helped drive industry partnerships to progress new discoveries towards translation, including biomedical devices and orthopaedic implants.

Dr Li's current research bridges stem cell biology, biomaterials, nanotechnology, computer science, and biofabrication, to develop new stem cell-based therapeutics that can be customised and effectively delivered to patients. One of her program foci is to develop translation-ready products that can transform our understanding and treatment of joint diseases affecting 600 million people globally.

Beyond research, Dr Li contributes to developing a nationally collaborative, inclusive, and diverse STEM culture to advance Australia's translation capability. She serves as a Board Director of Science & Technology Australia and Chair of its Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, as well as a Board Director of the Australian Institute of Policy and Science. She volunteers as a STEM ambassador for schools and communicates with thousands of community members each year.

KEY AWARDS & HONOURS: 2024 Australian Museum Eureka Prize for Emerging Leader in Science
2023 Metcalf Prize for Stem Cell Research
2022 Young Investigator Award, Tissue Engineering & Regenerative Medicine International Society (1 of 2 in Asia-Pacific)
2022 Premier's Prize for NSW Early Career Researcher of the Year (Physical Sciences)
2022 NSW Young Tall Poppy Scientist of the Year
2021-22 Superstar of STEM, Science and Technology Australia