Dr. Songpeng Zu

School of Basic Medical Sciences, Fudan University, Shanghai, China

Address: 38 Yixueyuan Road, Xuhui District, Shanghai, China, 200032

Email: szu@fudan.edu.cn Lab website: https://zulab.ai

CURRENT POSITION

Assistant Professor, School of Basic Medical Sciences, Fudan University

2025.08 - Now

RESEARCH SUMMARY

I received graduate and postdoctoral training in the areas of bioinformatics and epigenetics. I also had three-year experience on deep learning in the industry. My researches have contributed to:

- Inference of both biological activities and clinical responses of drugs using statistical models and artificial intelligence (Zu et al., 2015; Ding et al., 2016; Ding et al., 2020) .
- Developing statistical models for single-cell sequencing data analysis (Hu and Zu et al., 2020).
- Identification of candidate *cis*-regulatory elements in the adult mouse brain by analyzing large-scale of single-cell epigenomic data(Zu et al., Nature 2023; Liu et al, Nature 2023).

My current interest is using artificial intelligence and sequencing technologies to study gene regulatory programs and drug development.

- Constructing gene regulatory programs using multi-omics single-cell sequencing data.
- Identifying essential *cis*-regulatory elements for neurological disorders with statistical tools.
- AI-driven drug discovery

EDUCATION

Department of Automation, Tsinghua University, Beijing, CHINA	2011.08 - 2017.01
Ph.D. in bioinformatics	
Department of Statistics, Harvard University, USA	2014.03 - 2014.09
Short-term Visiting Scholar	
School of Life Science, Tsinghua University, Beijing, CHINA	2007.08 - 2011.07
B.Sc. in biological sciences	

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

• Postdoctoral Fellow at UCSD

Mentor: Dr. Bing Ren

2021.08 - 2025.07

Large-scale single-cell sequencing data analysis to decipher gene-regulatory programs in the adult mouse brain.

• Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard University

2019.09 - 2021.07

Mentor: Dr. Jun Liu

Developing statistical models for analyzing single-cell sequencing data.

• Graduate at Tsinghua University

2011.07 - 2017.01

Mentor: M.D. Shao Li

Applications of machine learning on compound-protein interactions

• Visiting Scholar at Harvard University

2014.03 - 2014.09

Mentor: Dr. Jun Liu

Bayesian non-parametric algorithm for detecting *cis*-eQTLs.

• Undergraduate at Tsinghua University

2009.09 - 2011.07

Mentors: Dr. Yu Li and M.D. Shao Li

Prediction and validation of the induced autophagy effect on HEK293 cells by a compound from traditional Chinese medicine.

Industrial Experiences

• Senior research engineer on deep learning, Alibaba DAMO Academy, China 2018.12 - 2019.08

• Researcher on recommendation system, HULU Beijing, China 2017.01 - 2018.11

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 1. Songpeng Zu#, Yang Eric Li#, Kangli Wang#, Ethan J. Armand, Sainath Mamde, Maria Luisa Amaral, Yuelai Wang, Andre Chu, Yang Xie, Michael Miller, Jie Xu, Zhaoning Wang, Kai Zhang, Bojing Jia, Xiaomeng Hou, Lin Lin, Qian Yang, Seoyeon Lee, Bin Li, Samantha Kuan, Hanqing Liu, Jingtian Zhou, Antonio Pinto-Duarte, Jacinta Lucero, Julia Osteen, Michael Nunn, Kimberly A. Smith, Bosiljka Tasic, Zizhen Yao, Hongkui Zeng, Zihan Wang, Jingbo Shang, M. Margarita Behrens, Joseph R. Ecker, Allen Wang, Sebastian Preissl, Bing Ren. Single-cell analysis of chromatin accessibility in the adult mouse brain. Nature, 2023, 624, 378-389.
- Zhirui Hu#, Songpeng Zu#, and Jun S. Liu, SIMPLEs: single-cell RNA sequencing imputation and cell clustering methods by modeling gene module variation. NAR genomics and bioinformatics, 2020, 2(4), lqaa077.
- 3. Qingyang Ding, Siyu Hou, **Songpeng Zu**, Yonghui Zhang, Shao Li, VISA: an interactive tool for dissecting chemical features learned by deep neural network QSAR models, *Bioinformatics*, 2020, 36(11), pp3610-3612.
- 4. Zijian Ding, **Songpeng Zu**, and Jin Gu, Evaluating the molecule-based prediction of clinical drug response in cancer. *Bioinformatics*, 2016, 32(19), 2891-2895.
- 5. **Songpeng Zu**, Ting Chen, and Shao Li, Global optimization-based inference of chemogenomic features from drug-target interactions. *Bioinformatics*, 2015, 31(15), 2523-2529.

ORAL PRE-SENTATIONS

- Cell Symposia, The Conceptual Power of Single Cell Biology

 Aug. 29th 30th, 2023

 Comprehensive single-cell analysis of chromatin accessibility in the adult mouse brain
- Neuroscience 2022 Nanosymposium of Epigenomic and Transcriptomic Cell Type Atlas of the Whole Mouse Brain,

 Nov. 11th 16th , 2022

 Comprehensive single-cell analysis of chromatin accessibility in the adult mouse brain

Grants

National Young Talent Program2025.08 - 2028.08Shanghai Young Talent Program2025.08 - 2026.08Harvard Data Science Initiative Postdoctoral Fellow Research Fund2020.03 - 2021.02

AWARDS

- National Scholarship for Graduate Students, China, 2015
- Tsinghua University Scholarship for Overseas Graduate Studies, 2014
- Tsinghua University Excellent Undergraduate Counselor, 2013
- Tsinghua University Zhongying Tang Scholarship, 2008-2010