

YUE TONG

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London, United Kingdom

EDUCATION

ULB Center for Diabetes Research, Université Libre de Bruxelles <i>PhD of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Science</i>	Brussels, Belgium Sep. 2020 – Sep. 2025
The Second Xiangya Hospital, Central South University <i>Master of Clinical Medicine: Internal Medicine</i>	Hunan, Changsha, China Sep. 2017 – Jun. 2020
Xiangya School of Medicine, Central South University <i>Bachelor of Clinical Medicine</i>	Hunan, Changsha, China Sep. 2012 – Jun. 2017

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Doctoral Fellow <i>ULB Center for Diabetes Research, Université Libre de Bruxelles</i> <i>Fund For Research Training in Industry & Agriculture Fellow, F.R.S - FNRS</i>	Sep. 2020 – Sep. 2025 Brussels, Belgium Brussels, Belgium
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Modeling rare and common forms of diabetes using gene editing and organoids technologies Developed and coordinated 8 disease-specific models using induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC)-derived pancreatic beta-cells, leveraging clinical and multi-omics data. Advance the understanding of how genetic variants contribute to disease pathogenesis, focusing on <i>defective insulin biosynthesis</i>, <i>ER-Golgi stress</i>, and <i>gluco-lipotoxicity</i>.	
Keywords: iPSC; organoids; CRISPR/Cas; monogenic and polygenic diseases; clinical trials; GWAS; eQTL	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Modeling nutrient metabolism in developing pancreatic beta cells: cross-species insights Led the human models segment in a collaborative project investigating iron metabolism in pancreatic beta cells. Conducted cross-species cellular and molecular investigations from iron-level-tethered human and mouse beta cell models to explore iron transportation impact beta cell development, function, and survival.	
Keywords: cross-species model; cell/organ development; nutrient regulation; transcriptomics	
Graduate Research Fellow <i>The Second Xiangya Hospital, Central South University</i>	Sep. 2017 – Jun. 2020 Hunan, Changsha, China
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Distinct secretion pattern of serum proinsulin in different types of diabetes Developed the project experimental design. Oversaw the recruitment of 300 participants, ensuring standardization of records and measurement protocols. Conducted comprehensive data analysis to uncover variations in proinsulin secretion among diabetes subtypes, providing insights into potential biomarkers for disease differentiation.	
Keywords: cross-sectional study; biomarkers; disease subtypes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Immunologic and genetic pathogenesis of autoimmune diabetes Organized the enrollment and follow-up for 1000 autoimmune diabetes patients and their first-degree relatives. Conceptualized and led the development of a diabetes prediction and staging project using neutrophil RNA sequencing and GWAS, advancing the understanding of genetic and immunologic risk factors in diabetes.	
Keywords: cohort study; genomic/transcriptomic profiling; disease prediction autoimmunity	

PUBLICATIONS

1. **Tong Y**, Becker M, Schierloh U, et al. A New Form of Diabetes Caused by *INS* Mutations Defined by Zygosity, Stem Cell and Population Data (Revision with *EMBO Molecular Medicine*)
2. Lytrivi M*, **Tong Y***, Virgilio E*, et al. Diabetes mellitus and the key role of endoplasmic reticulum stress in pancreatic beta cells. *Nat Rev Endocrinol*. 2025 Jun 4. doi: 10.1038/s41574-025-01129-5. Co-first author.
3. Van Mulders A, Willems L, Coenen S; et al., **Tong Y**, et al. A critical role for iron import through the transferrin receptor in developing beta-cells. (Revision with *Nature Communication*)
4. Mandla R, Lorenz K, Yin X, et al., **Tong Y**, et al. Multi-omics characterization of type 2 diabetes associated genetic variation medRxiv [Preprint]. 2024 Jul 15:2024.07.15.24310282

5. Bourgeois S; Van Mulders A; Heremans Y; et al., **Tong Y**, et al. ER stress relief drives beta-cell proliferation (Revision with Diabetologia)
6. Piron A; Szymczak F; Folon L; et al., **Tong Y**, et al. Identification of novel type 1 and type 2 diabetes genes by co-localization of human islet eQTL and GWAS variants with colocRedRibbon. *Cell Genomics*. 2025 Sep 16:101004.
7. Arunagiri A, Alam M, Haataja L, et al., **Yue Tong**, et al. Proinsulin folding and trafficking defects trigger a common pathological disturbance of endoplasmic reticulum homeostasis. *Protein Science*. 2024;33(4):e4949.
8. **Tong Y**, Yang L, Shao F, et al. Distinct secretion pattern of serum proinsulin in different types of diabetes. *Ann Transl Med*. 2020;8(7):452.
9. Xing Y, Lin Q, **Tong Y**, et al. Abnormal Neutrophil Transcriptional Signature May Predict Newly Diagnosed Latent Autoimmune Diabetes in Adults of South China. *Front Endocrinol (Lausanne)*. 2020;11:581902.
10. Hu J, Liu Z, **Tong Y**, et al. Fibroblast Growth Factor 19 Levels Predict Subclinical Atherosclerosis in Men With Type 2 Diabetes. *Front Endocrinol (Lausanne)*. 2020;11:282.

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

ISPAD Standard Travel Grant International Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes (ISPAD)	Oct. 2023
SFD Travel grants for research meetings in diabetes French-Speaking Diabetes Society (SFD)	Oct. 2023
Fund For Research Training in Industry & Agriculture Doctoral Fellowship F.R.S.-FNRS	Oct. 2021
First-prize Academic Scholarship Central South University	Sep. 2017
Third-prize School Scholarship Central South University	Sep. 2013

CONFERENCE TALK AND POSTER

2024-2025 Homozygous and heterozygous *INS* mutations cause divergent clinical and iPSC-derived beta-cell phenotypes, *The International Group on Insulin Secretion meeting of EASD*, Schloss Hohenkammer, Germany & *The 9th Meeting of Study Group on Genetics of Diabetes (SGGD)*, Exeter, UK | Talks

2023 Discovery of a new treatment for a novel form of rare diabetes caused by an insulin gene mutation using patients' iPSC-derived beta-cells, *The European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) 2024 Annual Meeting & The International Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes (ISPAD) 2024 Annual Meeting*, Rotterdam, the Netherlands | Talks

2023 Bedside-inspired diabetes modeling: learn from monogenic diabetes to understand the pathogenic mechanisms of T1D, *19th Immunology of Diabetes Society (IDS) Congress*, Paris, France | Invited talk

2020 Distinct secretion pattern of serum proinsulin in different types of diabetes, *15th Xiangya International Diabetes Immunology Forum & 17th Immunology of Diabetes Society (IDS) Congress*, Beijing, China | Poster

SKILLS

Cell biology: stem cell technologies, cell culture, cell engineering, transfection, RNA-interference, cell&tissue imaging, flow cytometry, magnetic-activated cell sorting, perfusion assay, Seahorse assay

Molecular biology: ELISA, Western Blotting, BCA, PCR, RT/qPCR, CRISPR/Cas genome editing

Bioinformatics: transcriptomics, phylogenetics, data visualization

Clinical Practice: Certificate of Physician Credentials and Certificate of Medical Licensure (China)

Coding language: Bash, R, Python, L^AT_EX

Softwares: SPSS, Graphpad Prism, CellProfiler, ImageJ, Geneious Prime, SnapGene

Language: English (professional proficiency); Chinese-Mandarin (native); Chinese-Cantonese (conversational proficiency); French (conversational proficiency)