

Jia-Ray Yu, PhD



Associate Professor of Pathology
Division of Cellular and Molecular Pathogenesis
Department of Pathology
Member of Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center
Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine
Office: 804-628-1291
Email: yuj12@vcu.edu

Education

Postdoctoral Training

2021 Howard Hughes Medical Institute and New York University School of Medicine
(Mentor: Danny Reinberg)

Graduate Education

2015 PhD in Genetics, Stony Brook University and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
(Mentor: Linda Van Aelst)

Awards

2025 National Institute of General Medical Science, Maximizing Investigators' Research Award (MIRA) (R35GM160046)
2023 Children's Cancer Foundation Award
2022 CURE Childhood Cancer Research Award
2022 Emerging Scientist Award, Childhood Cancer Research Fund
2022 The integrated Translational Health Research Institute of Virginia (iTHRIV) Award

Virginia Commonwealth University & Medical Center Appointments

Present

2025 Associate Professor, Department of Pathology
2025 Member, Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center

Professional Organizations

2025 The Epigenetic Society
2022 American Association of Cancer Research

Professional Service (current)

2025 External Reviewer, Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation
2025 External Reviewer, FWO Review College, Belgium Government

Recent Invited Presentations

2025 Frontiers in 3D Genomics Conference, South Korea
2025 Seminar Series, Seoul National University Cancer Center, South Korea
2025 Departmental Seminar Series, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Maryland Baltimore, USA
2025 Department of Biochemistry, University of Washington School of Medicine, USA
2025 Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of British Columbia, Canada

Recent Publications

Peer Reviewed Publications

Hsu CI, Yeh E, Chen CC, **Yu JR**. Protocol for Reconstituting Enzymatic Activities for Ultra Large Histone Methyltransferases NSD1 and SETD2 Using a Baculovirus Expression System. STAR Protocols. 2025 Jul 18;6(3):103963.

Hsu CI, Mei S, Demmerle J, Ruttenberg SM, Sahn M, **Yu JR**. Paraspeckle Protein NONO Regulates Active Chromatin by Allosterically Stimulating NSD1. Cell Reports 2025 Sep 23;44(9):116247.

Yu JR, LeRoy G, Bready D, Frenster DF, Saldaña-Meyer R, Jin Y, Descostes N, Stafford JM, Plakantonakis DG, Reinberg D. The H3K36me2 writer-reader dependency in H3K27M-DIPG. Science Advances. 2021 Jul 14;7(29):eabg7444.

Yu JR*, Lee CH*, Oksuz O*, Stafford JM, Reinberg D. PRC2 is high maintenance. Genes & Development. 2019 Aug 1;33(15-16):903-935. (Review) *Equal contribution.