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The application of positron emission tomography neuroimaging probes

Molecular imaging, such as positron emission tomography (PET), has been widely used in medical research and drug discovery. We have developed new imaging tools and applied them in clinical research and drug discovery. In this presentation, I will discuss the development and application of molecular neuroimaging techniques for brain research. In the past few years, we have developed the first generation of epigenetic PET probes for HDACs and bromodomains. The first probe for class I HDAC imaging has successfully advanced to human imaging studies and shows promising results so far. With these tools, we know the epigenetic changes in patients for the first time, and we also developed a series of new epigenetic inhibitors. Our work is a unique example of the multidisciplinary research, including molecular imaging, medicinal chemistry, clinical research, and drug discovery. I will talk about how to develop new PET imaging probes and recent research advances from my lab.

Biography

Changning Wang has a unique and broad background in molecular imaging, medicinal chemistry, pharmaceutical sciences, and neuroscience. After finishing my doctoral study from Case Western Reserve University, he joined Martinos Biomedical Imaging Center as a trainee in Harvard/MGH Nuclear Medicine Training Program, later as an Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School. He developed the first and only-to-date PET imaging probes for epigenetic research, and he is leading the project of [clinical imaging in several patient groups with this probe. He is also working on developing new PET neuroimaging probes and using these tools for new drug discovery.

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