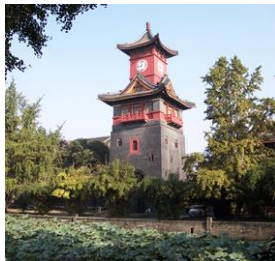




Office of Faculty Development

Pathology & Immunology

Dr. Chang Liu was born in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, China. [The city](#) is one of the most important economic and cultural centers in western China, and it is recognized by UNESCO as a [city of gastronomy](#). His father was an engineer and mother an administrator in a food factory. Chang had a carefree childhood and then suddenly became an industrious student in his teens. There were major social changes in China in the 1990s accompanied by globalization, economic restructuring, and unemployment. Chang single-mindedly focused on perfecting his grades, and he qualified for direct college admission with the [Gaokao](#) (Chinese SAT) exempted. He chose to go to the [West China University of Medical Sciences](#), a top medical school in China founded by Christian missionary groups in 1910 (see the clock tower in the picture). While a hardworking medical student, Chang watched many foreign movies to better his English, and there was no question in his mind that he would travel far and see the world. His first summer job was in a xenotransplant immunology lab that worked on porcine livers. At that time, he



also admired Dr. Jeff Lichtman, a developmental biologist at Washington University after reading his beautiful work on the neuromuscular junction. Chang had no idea that he would be in St. Louis one day for an entirely different version of his dream.

Chang spent the last two years of his medical school (eight years total) in [Peking Union Medical College](#) in Beijing. He almost stayed as an endocrinology resident after graduation but decided to accept the scholarship from [Oregon Health & Science University](#) to pursue his PhD degree. He embraced the wholesome lifestyle in the Marquam Hill of Portland, doing experiments tirelessly on the third floor of [Vollum Institute](#), or hiking in the forest with audiobooks playing in his ears. He made life-long friends there and checked off his to-dos in six unhurried years – a more scientific mind, publications, cultural competencies, USMLEs, etc. He wasn't exactly sure what residency to do next. Clinical Pathology was an impulsive decision which he would choose again today without hesitation. Miraculously, Chang entered the renowned residency program at Washington University. He was nourished there and happily found his calling in transfusion medicine and histocompatibility. He was drawn to these subspecialties like to Bach's fugues – low-key yet with sophisticated details, structured yet frequently surprising. Since joining the faculty at Washington University, Chang's clinical and translational research has aimed at innovating human leukocyte antigen (HLA) testing, understanding HLA-disease associations, and developing novel therapies for antibody-mediated graft rejection.

Chang enjoys painting, calligraphy, chess, and ping pong (as if there is enough time). He is married to Dr. Shuang Song, a medical school classmate, who had her own odyssey through Berkeley (PhD), residency in St. Luke's Hospital, fellowship at Washington University, and now a rheumatologist with SSM. They appreciate the unassuming natural beauty in St. Louis and the distinct four seasons here in contrast to the monotonous west coast. They have an eight-year-old son, Frank, who is a second grader at Ralph Captain Elementary School and a passionate chess player, and a one-year-old daughter, Julia, who appears to be quite athletic and may start to walk on her own at any moment.

