

## News and Events

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### **Dr. Miao Zhang is awarded a grant (\$50,000) titled “Structural insights for drug discovery targeting SK2/3 channels for SCA” from National Ataxia Foundation**

SK channels play important roles in physiological and pathophysiological conditions. These channels have been linked with the symptom of spinocerebellar ataxia. A tremendous amount of effort has been devoted to developing drugs targeting SK channels. Dr. Zhang has discovered the binding pocket for the subtype selective modulators of SK2/SK3 channels. With this discovery, the computer based drug discovery targeting SK2/SK3 channels has become possible, which will inevitably facilitate drug discovery targeting SK2/SK3 channels. Motivated by the binding pocket we identified, he is now aiming at the discovery of the new generation of compounds targeting SK2/SK3 channels selectively. He will combine computer based approaches and experimental techniques to work towards this goal. These new compounds themselves can serve as the candidates in preclinical and clinical researches for new therapeutic approaches towards spinocerebellar ataxia. These compounds can also serve as pharmacological tools for studying of SK channels in Purkinje cells during ataxia development.