



Exploring Nutritional Individuality

Nutrition Research Institute welcomes Dr. Huili Wang

HUILI WANG, PH.D., WILL BE A POST-DOCTORAL FELLOW ON THE NORTH CAROLINA RESEARCH CAMPUS IN KANNAPOLIS

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Nutrition Research Institute is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Huili Wang to the Institute's research team.

Wang will focus her research on nutrigenomics, the study of how some nutrients change genes and also how genes, in turn, can impact how effectively a person absorbs nutrients.

Wang's previous research has included cell signaling, genomics and gene mutation as they relate to the development of cancer. As a post-doctoral fellow at the NRI, Wang will study genetic variations and how they affect nutrient requirements. In particular, Wang will look at choline, a nutrient that is essential for liver function and may help fetal brain development.



"My research is focusing on the impact of genetic variation on dietary choline requirement," Wang said. "This research could help to reliably identify individuals most affected by choline deficiency so that a preventative dietary supplementation could be provided."

Wang earned a Ph.D. in cell and molecular biology from Duke University in 2005. Prior to coming to the United States, she studied genetics and biology at universities in China.

"Huili Wang is a gifted genetics researcher who will be studying how our genes influence our dietary requirements for choline," said NRI Director Steven Zeisel, M.D., Ph.D. "We think this work will be of great importance in preventing birth defects because we think some women need diets that are enriched in choline during pregnancy."

The Nutrition Research Institute, located on the North Carolina Research Campus in Kannapolis, is part of UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Public Health. The NRI's research will use genomic and metabolomic methods that are only now available to focus on nutritional individuality—why people's metabolisms differ and why they have different needs for nutrients.

For more information on Dr. Wang or to schedule an interview, please contact Lisa Canada at the [Nutrition Research Institute](#) at 704-250-5012.

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