



### **Yao Yao, PhD, FAHA**

Yao Yao is an Associate Professor in the Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Physiology at the Morsani College of Medicine University of South Florida.

Yao earned his Ph.D. degree at Stony Brook University (State University of New York at Stony Brook). For his postdoctoral training, Yao joined the Patricia and John Rosenwald Laboratory of Neurobiology and Genetics at The Rockefeller University. Yao obtained a tenure-track Assistant Professor position at the University of Minnesota and moved to the University of Georgia, where he was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Recently, Yao joined the University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine as a tenured Associate Professor.

Yao's research interest is laminin biology in the CNS. Specifically, Yao studies the turnover and function of laminin in the brain under both physiological and pathological conditions in a cell-specific manner. Using a variety of laminin conditional knockout/knock-in and reporter mouse lines, the Yao lab has established that different cells synthesize distinct laminin isoforms in the CNS, and that different laminin isoforms differentially regulate blood-brain barrier integrity and stroke pathogenesis. They continue to characterize laminin turnover and explore laminin function in various neurological disorders in a cell-specific manner. The goal of their work is to fully understand the biochemistry & function of laminin in the CNS and develop novel therapies for neurological disorders by targeting laminin and/or its downstream signaling molecules.

Yao has published 63 peer-reviewed papers and delivered 74 invited talks. His research is well funded by NIH and other funding agencies. Yao was elected as a Fellow of the American Heart Association (FAHA), and received several awards, including the STaR Young Investigator Award and the ISC Stroke Basic Science Award from the American Heart Association (AHA). Yao is a standing member of the CMBG study section at NIH and serves as an ad hoc reviewer for several other study sections/special emphasis panels at NIH and other funding agencies. Yao also serves as an Associate Editor for several journals in the field, including *Fluids and Barriers of the CNS* and *CNS Neuroscience & Therapeutics*.

Yao is a member of many associations and societies, including ASMB and AHA. He is serving on the ASMB Membership and Diversity/Equity/Inclusion (DEI) Committee and Spring Brain Conference Board and Program Committee. Yao is committed to diversity and eager to serve and give back to the Matrix Biology community.