

# UTSW Cancer Biology

## Student Spotlight

### Yuemeng 'Joyce' Jia in Hao Zhu's Lab

Favorite Place to visit? Santorini and the Dallas Farmers Market



Hometown:  
Beijing  
China

Hobbies:  
Playing  
Tennis  
and  
cooking

- Advice to first years? 1) Learn to be independent but don't be afraid of asking for help when needed. 2) Learn to persevere in the face of failure. If you fail an experiment today, don't be frustrated. Try again tomorrow, (and maybe fail again) 3) Be happy, be positive and enjoy the process.

Journey to Grad School: When I was first admitted to college at the University of Virginia, I was majoring in chemistry and planned to go to graduate school for organic chemistry. However, after spending a year in a synthetic organic chemistry lab, I didn't find research in chemistry interesting me. Then, I joined a molecular biology lab in my second year to study the genetic events associated with cancer development and found it much more intriguing. To help understand the research better, I started to take more and more biology classes, and finally decided to apply for Ph.D. programs in biological sciences. I am hoping to stay in academia in the future.

Research interest? I am interested in epigenetic regulations in tissue regeneration and liver cancer.



Fun Fact: I have done bungee jump in Macau.

