

Yingzi Yang
Harvard University

Candidate Bio:

Dr. Yang focuses on understanding how cells communicate with each other and their environment in development and diseases. Her research bridges discoveries of fundamental mechanisms with better molecular and cellular understanding of human diseases in the bone and dental craniofacial tissues. Dr. Yang initiated her career as a developmental biologist while a graduate student at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Institute, where she was awarded Ph.D. in Molecular Biology. Dr. Yang completed her postdoctoral training in Molecular Genetics and Developmental Biology at Harvard University. She joined the Genetic Disease Research Branch of the National Human Genome Research Institute as an investigator in 2000 and was chief of the Developmental Genetics Section and a senior investigator since 2006. She moved to Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) as Professor of Developmental Biology in 2015. Her research has been funded by NIAMS, NIDCR, NCI and DoD. Dr. Yang served as the Associate Dean for Translational Research from 2018-2021 and Associate Dean for Research from 2021-2024 at HSDM. She is an AAAS and ASBMR fellow and a recipient of the IADR Scientist Award for Basic Research in Biological Mineralization. She currently serves on the AADOCR scientific information committee and IADR Distinguished Scientist Award Committee.

Candidate Statement:

Dr. Yang is an influential scientist and visionary leader whose research discoveries and service have transformed multiple fields, including developmental biology, craniofacial and skeletal biology, and inherited craniofacial and bone diseases. Dr. Yang's research work has substantially advanced craniofacial research by uncovering fundamental mechanisms and origins of disorders such as craniosynostosis and fibrodysplasia. Through rigorous, mechanism driven studies, Dr. Yang continues to define key cellular and molecular mechanisms that shape craniofacial form and drive diseases, yielding insights that guide both basic understanding of development, and regeneration as well as translational innovation in craniofacial and skeletal diseases. She also excels as a mentor, and a powerful role model of women scientists. A brilliant scientist and selfless leader, Yingzi infuses her work and craniofacial research community with tremendous enthusiasm and energy. I am confident that Yingzi will provide outstanding leadership and service if elected as the Director of the Craniofacial Biology Group.