Yulong Li for Maurice Manning Prize Lectureship

Dr. Yulong Li has revolutionized the study of neuropeptide dynamics by engineering genetically encoded fluorescent sensors for neuropeptides, including oxytocin, vasopressin, PACAP and somatostatin, sharing them freely with the international community, directly mirroring Maurice Manning's unparalleled legacy of donating over 3,000 peptide samples to 800+ investigators worldwide.

The Manning Parallel

Professor Maurice Manning's most remarkable legacy is not his 250 publications or 33 years of NIH funding, but his unparalleled generosity: over 3,000 peptide samples donated to more than 800 investigators worldwide, resulting in over 2,000 publications by others. Manning gave away the tools that enabled a generation of scientists to make discoveries he would never directly participate in. He did this quietly, without fanfare, because he believed that science advances fastest when we share.

In Professor Yulong Li, we find the same philosophy carried into the 21st century—using molecular engineering rather than peptide synthesis, but with the same spirit of open, generous, unconditional sharing.

Scientific Innovation

Professor Li's laboratory at Peking University has developed a series of **GRAB (GPCR Activation-Based) sensors** for oxytocin, vasopressin, somatostatin, and other neuropeptides—allowing, for the first time, real-time visualization of neuropeptide release and diffusion in living animals. These sensors have transformed the field, enabling investigators worldwide to ask previously impossible questions about neuropeptide dynamics.

Generosity

His laboratory has distributed GRAB sensors to **hundreds of laboratories across the world**, providing detailed protocols, technical support, and open collaboration. The resulting publications—already numbering in the hundreds—are enabling discoveries across neuroscience, from social behavior to stress to appetite regulation.