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*Simultaneous Targeting of Multiple Receptors with Ligand-
Drug Conjugate for Cancer Treatment*

Dr. Liu's research has primarily been focused on the identification and characterization of function and signaling mechanism of novel receptors and enzymes for the discovery and development of therapeutics in the area of cancer and immunology. He led multiple groups successfully in delineating the function and mechanism of many orphan receptors, developing HTS assays, identifying and optimizing drug leads, and delivering clinical candidates. In particular, he led and championed the drug discovery project of tryptophan hydroxylase 1 (TPH1) at Lexicon Pharmaceuticals that led to the discovery and development of a first-in-class, orally active inhibitor of TPH1 (Xermelo®) that was approved by FDA for patients from carcinoid syndrome diarrhea. Since coming to academia, he has led his group to the discovery of R-spondins (RSPO) as ligands of LGR4/5/6 and delineation of signaling mechanisms of LGR4/5/6. Dr. Liu's current research is to continue to investigate the roles and mechanism of RSPO/LGR ligand-receptor system in normal and cancer development with the ultimate goal of validating them as potential drug targets and discovering therapeutic leads.