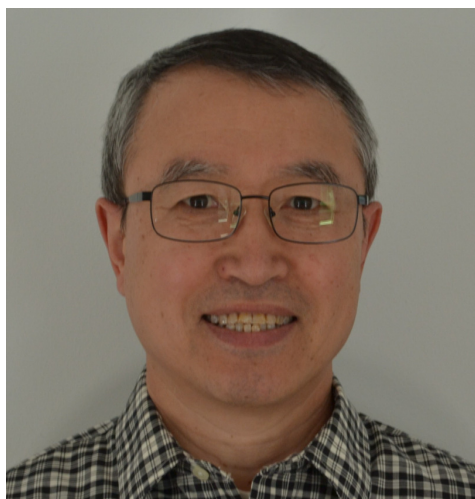


Yanming Du

Ph.D. (organic chemistry)

Professor and Director of Medicinal Chemistry at Baruch S. Blumberg Institute



Yanming Du is professor and Director of Medicinal Chemistry at Baruch S. Blumberg Institute with more than eighteen years of expertise in medicinal chemistry for infectious diseases. Prof. Du's research interest is to modify compounds for increasing their potencies, improving absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion, and toxicity (ADMET) profiles, and achieving in vivo efficacies. In collaboration with Drs. Tim Block and Jinhong Chang, he developed novel imino sugar, nojirimycin, derivatives that demonstrated effective protection against Ebola and Marburg viruses in mice. Further chemical optimization led to a di-butyrate prodrug which showed higher active drug exposure and reduced toxicity in mice.

Yellow fever virus infection is another field that Prof. Du is working on. Teaming up with Dr. Jinhong Chang, he has delivered low nano molar lead compounds that have exhibited complete protection in a hamster model. And to fight against chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection, he has worked together with Drs. Tim Block, Tianlun Zhou, and Ju-Tao Guo resulting in the discovery of orally active liver targeted HBV mRNA degraders and an effective HBV capsid modulator (once a day, dosed orally). From these hit-to-lead, lead optimization, and preclinical development, a number of lead series have been licensed out with one lead compound having completed human phase 1 clinical trial (AB-423).

Prof. Du is co-inventor on 10 issued patents and has co-authored more than 40 scholarly papers. He received young investigator poster 1st place award in 26th International Conference on Antiviral Research (ICAR) meeting (2013) and Johnson & Johnson Vision I Award (2004). He is Adjunct Professor at Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine. Prior to Blumberg Institute, he worked in two biopharmaceutical companies, Fox Chase Chemical Diversity Center and Rib-X Pharmaceuticals, in the fields of anticonvulsants and antibiotics.