



Come join us!

Are you interested in building a network amongst women in chemical biology? We are looking for post-baccalaureate and post-doctoral fellows that would like to be part of the CBL Women In Chemistry.

March Highlight Women's History Month

Meet Dr. Euna Yoo Stadtman Investigator at the CBL

We celebrate Women's History Month 2022 by recognizing Dr. Euna Yoo. She shares her experience as a woman in science, her career, and gives great advice for young investigators. We hope you enjoy learning about Dr. Yoo and join us in celebrating members of the CBL community!

Do you have great news to share with the CBL fellows? Would you like to nominate women scientists for the monthly highlight? Please contact Tania Lopez (tania.lopezsilva@nih.gov) and Sierra Marker (sierra.marker@nih.gov)

Dr. Euna Yoo



I joined the Chemical Biology Laboratory in September of 2019 as a tenure-track investigator. Our research uses synthetic chemistry, biochemical and phenotypic screening, and chemoproteomics to develop chemical probes that specifically detect and perturb key immune signaling pathways. In particular, our research focuses on defining the functional role of immunomodulatory proteases in cancer.

I am from Seoul, South Korea, where I went to undergraduate school at Ewha Woman's University. I did my Ph.D. at the Department of Medicinal Chemistry, the University of Kansas, studying Toll-like receptor agonists as vaccine adjuvants. Then, I went to Stanford University for my postdoctoral training working with Matt Bogoy. At Stanford, I developed novel fluorogenic substrates and inhibitors of the Plasmodium proteasome and serine hydrolases to study their roles in parasite infection and treatment.

1. What is your favorite part about your job?

I love that I get to work with creative and talented people with diverse experiences and backgrounds. I learn something new every day from the interactions I have with my colleagues, collaborators, and fellows. There is also joy in building your team. I've been very lucky to have found excellent and productive fellows to join my team. Although it's a huge responsibility, I find it extremely fulfilling to help create an environment where people with skills and passion can get together and contribute to important discoveries.

2. What are you most proud of from your career?

While I am proud of all the relationships I have built throughout my career, I am most proud of my mentees and their success. Over the years, I have gained not only mentoring experiences but also longtime friends. When I hear that I helped them pursue their dreams and grow as scientists, it's the best feeling.

3. Did you always see yourself in this position? If not, what did you think you would do?

I knew that I would be doing research, but I didn't necessarily see myself in a government PI position. There are many career paths in science, and it took me a while to figure out what I would really like to do. I actually considered working in industry before I applied for this position.

4. What do you enjoy doing outside of research? What are your hobbies/favorite activities?

I like running, although I am not a good runner. I also like hiking, going to museums, and reading fiction.

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5. What was a challenge you faced as a woman in science and how did you overcome it?

I consider myself fortunate regarding the challenges we face as women in science. Still, working in a male-dominated environment, I often felt that I don't belong and I am being granted less respect and authority because of my gender. One of the ways how I overcame this was to build a support network where I could receive encouragement and a sense of validation. Having that support, especially from female mentors and colleagues, helped me to be more confident and speak up when I deserve to be recognized.

6. What extra skill sets did you develop during your postdoctoral research period that helped you in your future endeavors?

My postdoctoral training helped me develop skills in management and networking. By leading collaborative projects and attending meetings, I got to interact with researchers in other disciplines and learn how to exchange ideas and communicate more efficiently.

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7. We are honored to have you as an international faculty in CBL. As we have many international postdocs in CBL, can you share some of your experiences during your transition from a different country to the US?

When you first move to a new country where everything from language, culture, lifestyle, and expectations is different from home, it can be overwhelming to adjust. When I came alone to Kansas where I didn't know anyone, I felt very intimidated. But I was also excited about new opportunities and experiences. I think exploring new surroundings with an open mind is as important as focusing on what brought you here during the transition period. Although it took me some time to feel at home, I was very lucky to have mentors, colleagues, and friends who helped me integrate well into the community. I understand the challenges international fellows face and would like to remind them of the great values that they add to the CBL.

8. Do you have any advice for fellows?

As it is true of many other jobs, I think especially working in science requires sustained enthusiasm and perseverance. I find that having a personal agenda at work and taking a moment to acknowledge small accomplishments I make each day not only keep me focused but also fuel excitement and make me keep going. Be kind to yourself. Don't dwell on your mistakes but rather learn from them and move forward. Try to find something you love to do outside of work as well. We all need something to look forward to after long hours and days of work. I would also say be kind to others. Building good relationships with people around you can help you more than you might expect.