



ORAL & CRANIOFACIAL
BIOMEDICINE PHD PROGRAM

NING
CHENG
BS
PHD

When you first meet [Dr. Ning Cheng](#), her warm personality draws you in, and her exuberance for research draws you in even further. Dr. Cheng received her Bachelor of Science in dental medicine in 2010 and her Doctor of Philosophy in prosthodontics in 2015 from Wuhan University in China.

Dr. Cheng, a fifth-year student, works as a research assistant in Dr. Jenny Ting's laboratory in Lineberger Cancer Center. She appreciates the fact that ["we \(students\) are encouraged to choose a thesis mentor in any bioscience related department, with collaborations within and outside of UNC-CH"](#).

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Dr. Cheng's current work is nanotechnology based cancer immunotherapy. The aim of her PhD training is to generate novel cancer treatment modalities to achieve long-term survival and "tumor free" status.

Dr. Cheng believes her research work influences the clinical aspect of dentistry, and that her clinical training has an impact on her research.



"My current work is mainly focused on breast cancer and melanoma. However, the immunotherapeutic modalities could be applied to treat oral and maxillofacial malignancy. My previous clinical training in both general dentistry and implant dentistry shaped my vision of how translational medicine could potentially and eventually benefit patients."

The research Dr. Cheng is conducting uses novel techniques within the laboratory. The collaboration with pharmacy labs generated novel adjuvant loaded liposome nanoparticles and optimized adjuvant loaded microparticles by a novel electrospray technique. This novel drug delivery system was the first to be tested in an advanced breast cancer genetic engineered mouse model (GEM).

Dr. Cheng enjoys various aspects of life in North Carolina. Some of her favorite Chapel Hill activities include exploring new restaurants, grabbing a cup of coffee and a book at Barnes & Noble, and enjoying an ice cream waffle cone at Maple View Farm while watching the sunset. Dr. Cheng spends her spare time at her home in Cary, NC playing with her cat, Luna. Dr. Cheng plans to pursue postdoc training in novel cancer therapeutics and dental residency training.