Xingyu CHEN

Finishing year: 2019

Supervisor: Anna Weinzinger, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Vienna

Co-Supervisor: Thierry Langer, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Vienna

Thesis title: *In silico* investigations of KATP-channels

Current Position and Employer: PostDoc with the topic of enzyme engineering, in the group of Thomas Simonson, the Structural Biology of the Cell Laboratory, Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau, France.

MolTag alumni page:

Xingyu Chen (univie.ac.at)

How would you summarize your thesis results in 3 sentences?

The rare disease Cantú syndrome is caused by gain-of-function mutations in KATP channels. In my thesis, I have investigated the KATP channels using structure-based and multiple computational methods. We gain more insight about the Cantú mutation mechanism. Our computational drug-repurposing strategy provides novel possibilities for development of Cantú treatment options and can be applied to explore novel therapies for other rare diseases.

What was the impact of the MolTag program on your further career?

The interdisciplinary of MolTag gave me different views from other related fields, which makes me adapt to the new job faster. Also, I've learned how to explain my topic in an easy way to the people in other fields.

Did you keep connections with some former colleagues?

Yes.

What did you particularly like about the MolTag program?

We had a lot of chances to attend the conferences we were interested in and the internships/lab rotations. We could invite guest lecturers and attend so many cool guest lectures. We met a lot of people and discussed our topic with them.

What is your recommendation for current MolTag PhD students?

Take the benefit to attend conferences and to internships abroad (maybe after the pandemic), which is not normal in other doctoral programs. Also, take the chance to discuss your topic with other people, which would help a lot to develop the presentation- and discussion skills.