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STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY PROGRAM

The Christopher Lima Lab

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Christopher D. Lima, PhD

Member and Chair, Structural Biology Program, SKI; Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute;
Alfred P. Sloan Chair

Professor

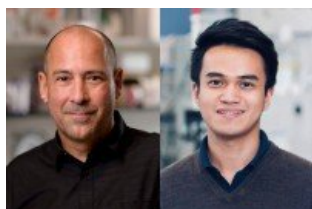
We are a research laboratory that studies fundamental structural, biochemical, and functional attributes for macromolecules involved in post-translational protein modification by ubiquitin and ubiquitin-like proteins such as SUMO, and pathways that contribute to co- and post-transcriptional RNA maturation, processing and decay. We pursue biochemical approaches to reconstitute key intermediates or complexes in these pathways and combine them with single particle cryo-EM and x-ray crystallography in conjunction with genetics and biochemistry to elucidate structure/activity relationships.

[View Lab Overview \(https://www.sloankettering.edu/research-areas/labs/christopher-lima/overview\)](https://www.sloankettering.edu/research-areas/labs/christopher-lima/overview)

Research Projects

- [Post-Translational Protein Modification by Ubiquitin-like Proteins](#)
- [RNA Decay](#)
- [Other Interests](#)

Featured News



[With Cryo-EM, SKI Scientists Determine Structure of Key Factor in RNA Quality Control](#)

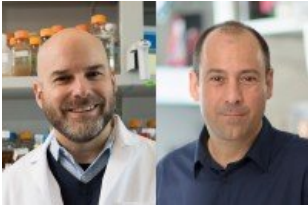
Called NEXT, the factor plays an important role in handing over RNA to the exosome for destruction.



IN THE CLINIC

[MSK Antibody Test Will Aid Understanding of Immune Response to COVID-19 Virus](#)

An antibody test developed at MSK could shed light on the immune response to the COVID-19 virus.



[Two Sloan Kettering Institute Scientists Elected to Esteemed National Academy of Sciences](#)

Membership is a widely accepted mark of excellence in science and considered one of the highest honors a scientist can receive.

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Publications Highlights

[Bio/Publications at ORCID: 0000-0002-9163-6092](#)

[Kochańczyk, T., Hann, Z.S., Lux, M.C., Delos Reyes, A.M.V., Ji, C., Tan, D.S., and Lima, C.D. Structural basis for transthiolation intermediates in the ubiquitin pathway. *Nature* \(2024\) doi: 10.1038/s41586-024-07828-9](#)

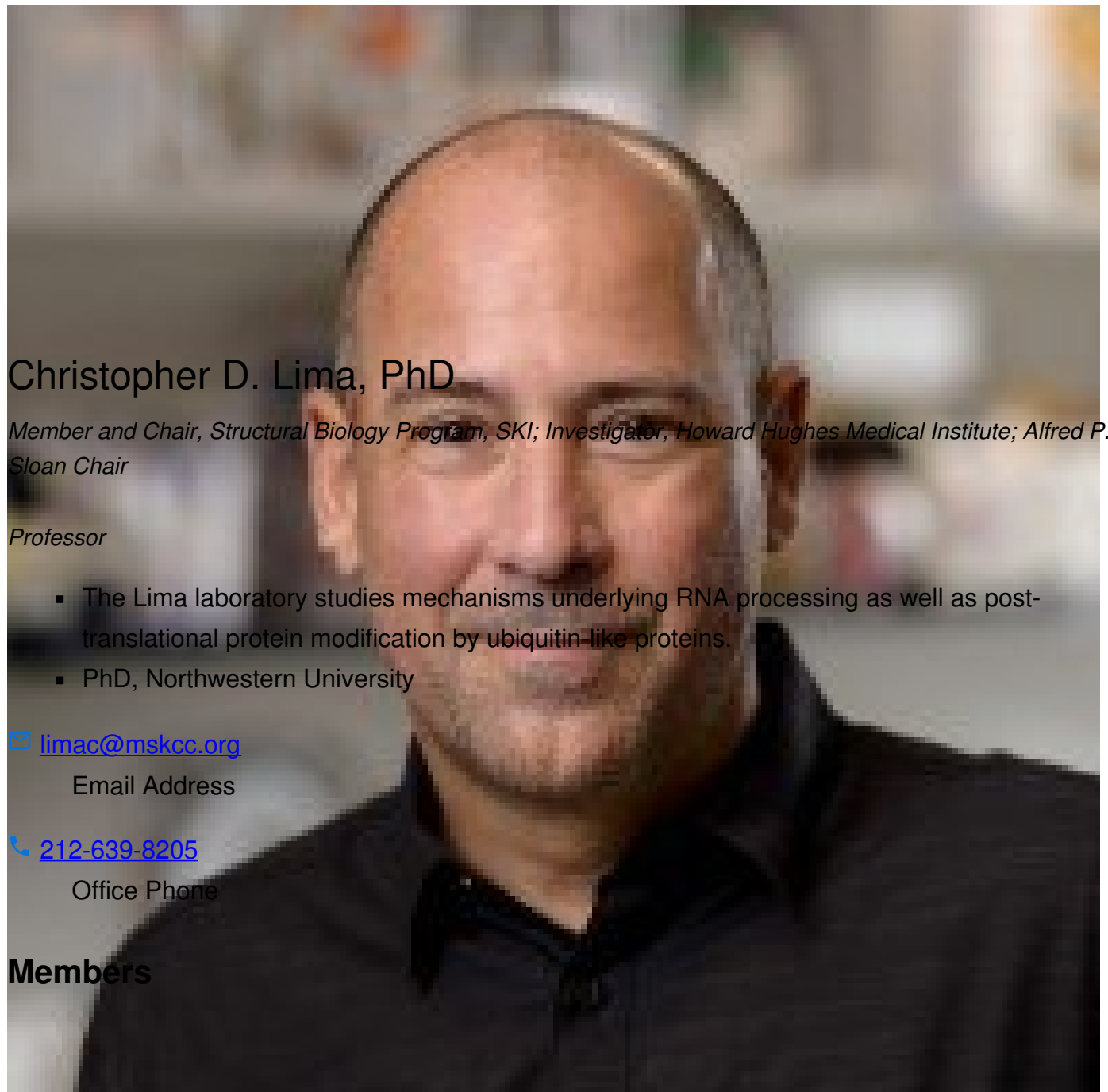
[Puno, M.R., Lima, C.D. Structural basis for RNA surveillance by the human nuclear exosome targeting \(NEXT\) complex. *Cell* 185, 2132-2147 \(2022\) doi: 10.1016/j.cell.2022.04.016](#)

[Das, M., Zattas, D., Zinder, J.C., Wasmuth, E.V., Henri, J., Lima, C.D. Substrate discrimination and quality control require each catalytic activity of TRAMP and the nuclear RNA exosome. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.* 118:e2024846118. \(2021\) \[PMID: 33782132\]](#)

[Hann, Z.S., Ji, C., Olsen, S.K., Lu, X., Lux, M.C., Tan, D.S., Lima, C.D. Structural basis for adenylation and thioester bond formation in the ubiquitin E1. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.* 116, 15475-15484. \(2019\) \[PMID: 31235585\]](#)

[View All Publications](#)

People



Christopher D. Lima, PhD

Member and Chair, Structural Biology Program, SKI; Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute; Alfred P. Sloan Chair

Professor

- The Lima laboratory studies mechanisms underlying RNA processing as well as post-translational protein modification by ubiquitin-like proteins.
- PhD, Northwestern University

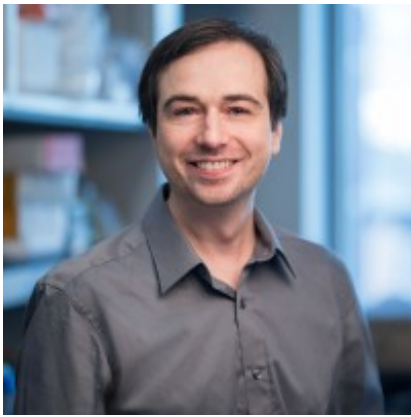
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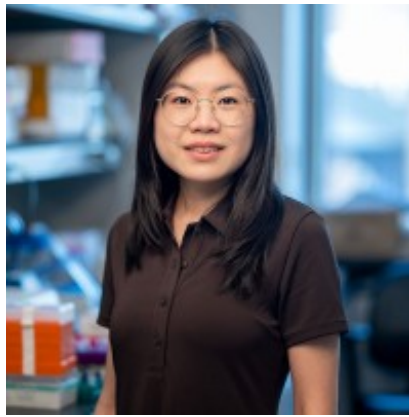
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Members



Vladimir Baytshtok
Research Fellow
Marcel Diallo
Research Fellow



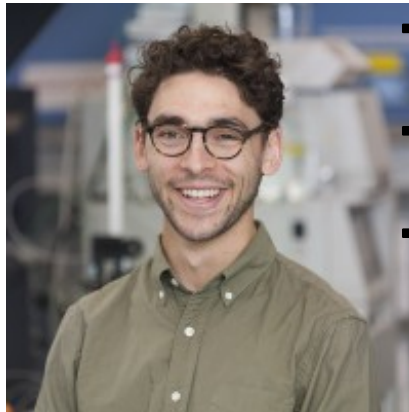
Yu-Hui (Vivian) Chiu
Graduate Student

Lab
Alumni

Lab Affiliations

Achievements

- Member, National Academy of Sciences (2020)
- Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2017)
- Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute (2013)
- Louise and Allston Boyer Young Investigator in Basic Research, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (2006)
- Scholar, Rita Allen Foundation (2003-2006)



Michael Fishman
Research Fellow



Anatasia Gangadin
Assistant to the Chair



Tomasz Kochanczyk
Research Fellow

Lab News & Events

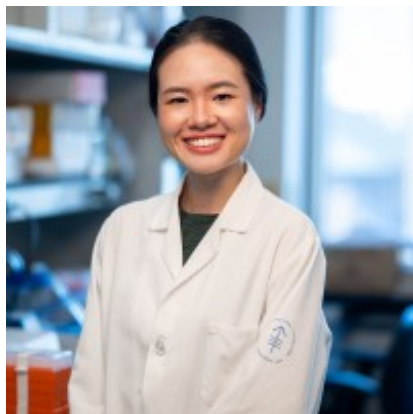
Open Positions

To learn more about available postdoctoral opportunities, please visit our [Career Center](#)

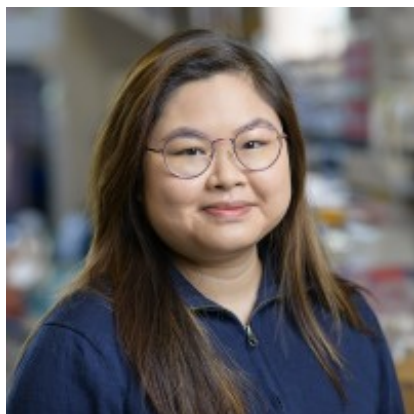
To learn more about compensation and benefits for postdoctoral researchers at MSK, please visit [Resources for Postdocs](#)



Abigail Lemmon
Graduate Student



Jiacheng 'Coco' Liu
Graduate Student



Ha An Nguyen
Research Fellow



Joshua Peter
Research Fellow



Lucas Repeta
Graduate Student



Christopher D. Lima
Member; Chair, Structural
Biology Program, SKI; Alfred P.
Sloan Chair

Career Opportunities

Applicants who are interested in working on mechanisms involved in post-translational protein modification or RNA capping and decay processes are always encouraged to apply for Postdoctoral Fellow positions in the lab.

[Apply](#)

[now \(https://www.sloankettering.edu/research-areas/labs/christopher-lima/career-opportunities\)](https://www.sloankettering.edu/research-areas/labs/christopher-lima/career-opportunities)

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Disclosures

Members of the MSK Community often work with pharmaceutical, device, biotechnology, and life sciences companies, and other organizations outside of MSK, to find safe and effective cancer treatments, to improve patient care, and to educate the health care community. These activities outside of MSK further our mission, provide productive collaborations, and promote the practical application of scientific discoveries.

MSK requires doctors, faculty members, and leaders to report (“disclose”) the relationships and financial interests they have with external entities. As a commitment to transparency with our community, we make that information available to the public. Not all disclosed interests and relationships present conflicts of interest. MSK reviews all disclosed interests and relationships to assess whether a conflict of interest exists and whether formal COI management is needed.

Christopher D. Lima discloses the following relationships and financial interests:

- Biogen Idec
Equity
- Cornell Research Foundation
Intellectual Property Rights
- GE Healthcare
Equity
- GE Vernova
Equity
- General Electric
Equity

- Reina Bio, Inc.
Professional Services and Activities
- Vertex Pharmaceuticals
Equity

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This page and data include information for a specific MSK annual disclosure period (January 1, 2024 through disclosure submission in spring 2025). This data reflects interests that may or may not still exist. This data is updated annually.

Learn more about MSK's COI policies [here](#) . For questions regarding MSK's COI-related policies and procedures, email MSK's Compliance Office at ecoi@mskcc.org .

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