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Cancer Center

[Make an Appointment](#)
[Back](#)

[Find a Physician](#)
[Cancer Treatment](#)
[Biostatistics](#)
[Learn About Cancer & Treatment](#)

ABOUT US

[Our mission, vision & core values](#)

[Leadership](#)

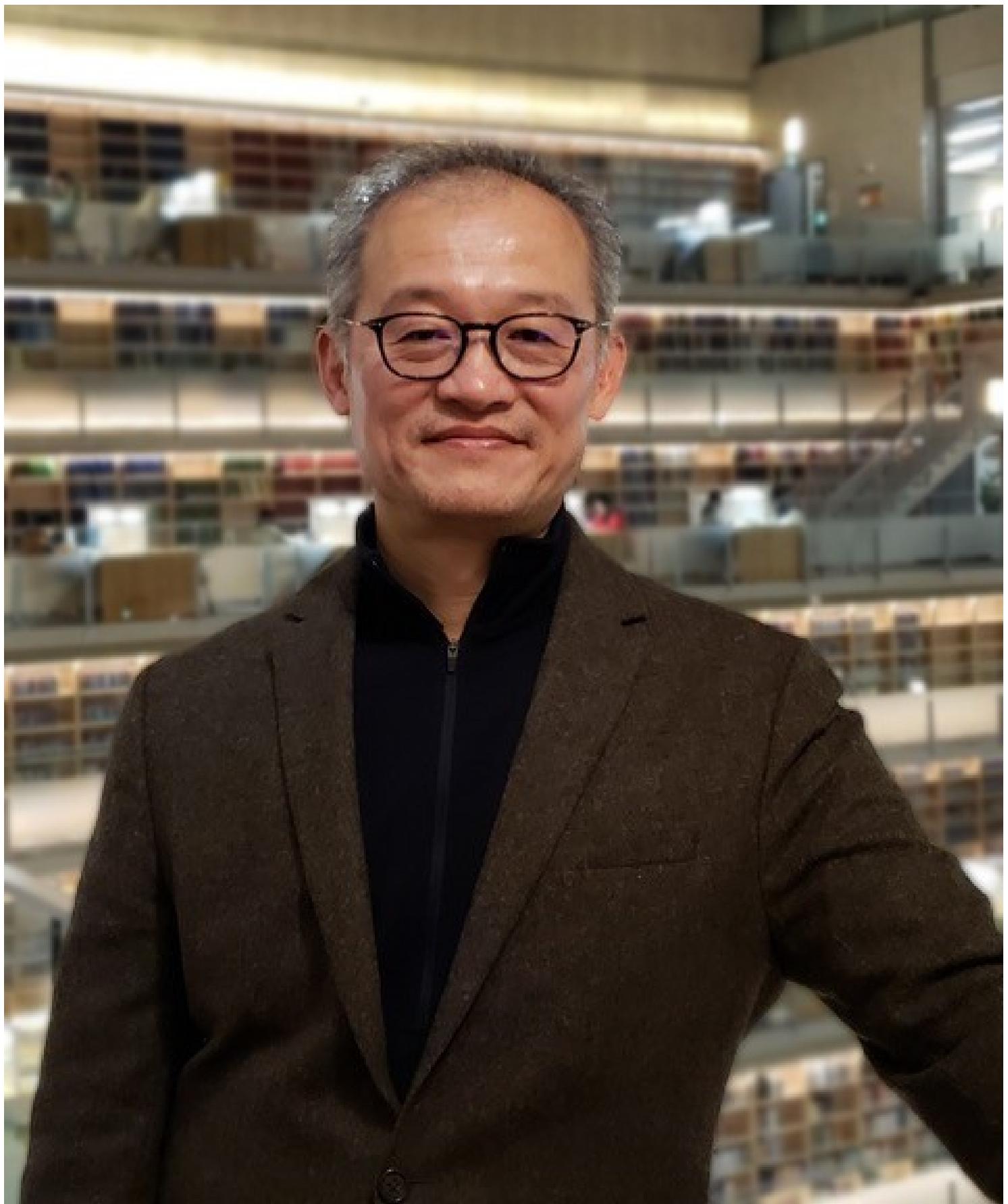
[History](#)

[Inclusion & belonging](#)

[Annual report](#)

[Give to MSK](#)

[FOR THE MEDIA](#)



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Education

Columbia University

Current Research Interests

My latest research covers two main areas: 1) Large Language Models (LLMs) as assessment tools for Patient Reported Outcomes; and 2) Bayesian nonparametric methods for personalized symptom management. My colleagues and I use zero-shot learning, prompt engineering, and concept induction to code PROs using verbatim free-text data from patients. We aim to show that LLMs are comparable to conventional PRO assessments, but LLMs are more patient-centered, more engaging, and more dynamic. They adjust the questions based on the patient's responses. This research arose from my contributions to PRO-CTCAE, the current gold standard for patient-reported treatment-related adverse AE assessment in National Cancer Institute (NCI)-sponsored clinical trials and in many routine care contexts. This research has the potential to transform the way we measure and utilize PROs in clinical practice and research, ultimately leading to better patient care and improved quality of life.

The second main area is in applying Bayesian nonparametric (BNP) methods to identify groups of patients who exhibit treatment response heterogeneity. We have applied BNP to examine tailored psychological support for terminally-ill cancer patients and precision symptom management for cancer survivors. These represent my continuing efforts on catalyzing the development of new approaches and methodologies to solve practical problems.

Publications

Selected peer-reviewed publications:

Li Y, Schofield E, Gönen M. (2019). A tutorial on Dirichlet Process mixture modeling. *Journal of Mathematical Psychology*;91:128-44. doi: 10.1016/j.jmp.2019.04.004; PMCID: PMC6583910.

Li Y. Inferring meaningful change in quality of life with posterior predictive distribution: an alternative to standard error of measurement. *Qual Life Res*. 2023 May;32(5):1391-1400. doi: 10.1007/s11136-022-03239-3. Epub 2022 Sep 9. PMID: 36083421; PMCID: PMC10202216.

Cracchiolo JR, Li Y, Lui ML, Carlsson SV, Matulewicz RS, Ostroff JS. Impact of smoking status on engagement in remote symptom monitoring after oncologic surgery: implications for symptom management and readmission rates. *Cancer*. 2025, 131(3): e35708. doi: 10.1002/cncr.35708. PMID: 39840908.

Atkinson TM, Petrov A, Lynch KA, George LS, Cracchiolo JR, Daly B, Fessele KL, Flory JH, Mao JJ, Li Y. Using GPT-4o to interpret patient-reported outcomes without training. *J Natl Cancer Inst*. 2025 Feb 3: djaf016. doi: 10.1093/jnci/djaf016. PMID: 39898790.

[Visit PubMed for a full listing of Yuelin Li's journal articles](#)

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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.

Yuelin Li discloses the following relationships and financial interests:

No disclosures meeting criteria for time period

The information published here is a complement to other publicly reported data and is for a specific annual disclosure period. There may be differences between information on this and other public sites as a result of different reporting periods and/or the various ways relationships and financial interests are categorized by organizations that publish such data.

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 .

[View all disclosures \(<https://www.mskcc.org/disclosures>\)](https://www.mskcc.org/disclosures)

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