



Keynote Presenter – Feng Shao, PhD

Dr. Feng Shao is an investigator and deputy director at National Institute of Biological Sciences, Beijing, China. Dr. Shao's research spans from bacterial pathogenesis to innate immunity and to pyroptotic cell death. His group has identified several cytosolic pattern recognition receptors, including caspase-11/4/5 for LPS. He has also identified Gasdermin-D (GSDMD) whose cleavage by caspase-1/4/5/11 determines pyroptosis, critical for septic shock. Dr. Shao's research further establishes a Gasdermin family of pore-forming factors, thereby re-defining pyroptosis as Gasdermin-mediated programmed necrosis. Among the family, Gasdermin-E (GSDME) is activated by caspase-3, playing important contributions to the adverse effect of chemotherapy drugs. Dr. Shao's work has been well recognized by numerous awards including the HHMI International Early Career Award and the Irving Sigal Young Investigator Award from the Protein Society. He is an elected member of the Chinese Academy of Science, an associate member of EMBO, and a fellow of American Academy of Microbiology.