



Zhongrui Li, The 2017-18 Chevron-Xenel Ph.D. Gateway Fellow at International House, UC Berkeley



Zhongrui Li was born and grew up in Sichuan Province in southwest China which is the hometown of the giant panda and is well known for its spicy cuisine. He moved to the eastern coast of China, Zhejiang Province, to pursue his Bachelor's degree in Pharmacy. Since then, he started to take part in scientific research and his research focused on the screening and characterization of natural antioxidants from marine organisms. He moved to the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and obtained his Master of Philosophy degree there and has been enjoying the cultural and food diversities, as well as different dialects.

In Zhongrui's M.Phil. study, he engaged himself in the reveal of biosynthetic events in colibactin pathway and made breakthroughs in the understanding of chemical structure and biosynthesis of this enigmatic secondary metabolite, which provided new insights into the molecular basis and mode of action of this colorectal cancer-linked human gut bacterial genotoxin. These findings were published in the prestigious scientific journal *Nature Chemical Biology*.

He became increasingly interested in interdisciplinary researches of chemistry, biology and engineering as his knowledge of these fields cumulates. Cutting-edge sciences are being studied at UC Berkeley, and fundamental and innovative discoveries made here are changing the world every day. Zhongrui is looking forward to pursuing his Ph.D. degree in Chemical Engineering, doing thrilling research at UC Berkeley, and using his knowledge to solve some of the most imperative issues associated with human health and sustainable bioenergy.

“People from around the globe bring their diverse cultures to UC Berkeley, and the International House is the miniature of UC Berkeley. It's cool to be staying at I-House where people with kaleidoscopic cultures and backgrounds can share their own stories. I also would like to be a bond linking Eastern and Western cultures, Science and Art.”



The Chevron-Xenel Ph.D. Gateway Fellowship was established in 2006 by Chevron Corporation and Xenel International USA, with the goal of bettering the relationship between East and West. This fellowship supports residency at International House to an eligible first year doctoral student from preferred country and academic area with demonstrated financial need.