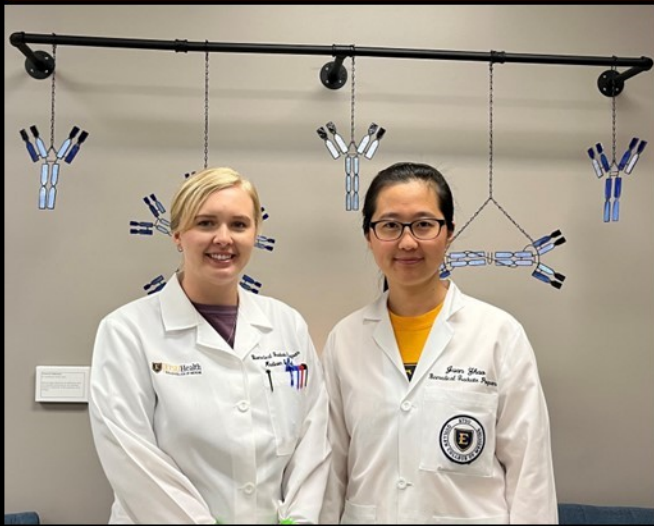




CENTER of EXCELLENCE  
in INFLAMMATION, INFECTIOUS  
DISEASE and IMMUNITY

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Drs. Schank and Zhao Awarded NIH Research Supplement to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research



**Above Left: Dr. Madison Schank; Above  
Right: Dr. Juan Zhao**

Madison Schank, PhD, has been selected to receive support through the Research Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research from the National Institute on Aging. The Diversity Supplement award in the amount of \$276,324 was awarded to Dr. Juan Zhao as an adjunct to her National Institutes of Health R15 grant. Dr. Zhao, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, will mentor Dr. Schank as she completes her research funded by the Diversity Supplement.

The award project title is “Mechanism of telomere attrition and premature T cell aging during HCV infection.” Drs. Schank and Zhao will use this Supplement together with the parent award to elucidate the shared mechanism contributing to T cell premature aging during chronic viral infection. This administrative supplement award will promote the diversity of the research training environment at our institution by contributing to the development of a

disadvantaged female scientist with great promise and desire to become an independent investigator in human infectious disease.

Dr. Schank is a graduate of the University of Virginia’s College at Wise and completed her PhD through the Department of Biomedical Sciences at Quillen College of Medicine. She has earned numerous awards and honors during her academic career and has been an asset to and a productive member of the Yao/Moorman labs during her training. It is with great pleasure that CIIDI welcomes her as a Postdoctoral Research Associate and congratulates her as the trainee of this Diversity Supplement.