

Dr. Soo Kyung Lee

Chief Scientific Officer | FOXG1 Research Foundation

In 2000, Dr. Soo-Kyung Lee received her PhD from Chonnam National University in Gwangju, South Korea, then completed her postdoctoral training at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in San Diego, California under Professor Sam Pfaff. After establishing her own lab at Baylor College of Medicine, Soo was named a Pew Scholar.



Soo has made significant contributions to advancing our understanding of brain development. When Soo's daughter, Yuna, was born in January 2010 with FOXG1 syndrome, Soo's life purpose became solving the condition. In 2019, Soo relocated to the Department of Biological Sciences at the University at Buffalo (UB), where she currently holds two endowed positions: Empire Innovation Professorship and the inaugural Om P. Bahl Endowed Professorship.

The Lee Lab at UB has successfully developed a comprehensive panel of mouse models that mimic the conditions of FOXG1 syndrome. Using these mouse models, new therapeutic strategies and various treatment options can be uncovered, including a recent success in AAV9-dependent viral gene therapy.

Soo has secured approximately \$3M in yearly funding from federal agencies, such as the FRF, the UB and the Simon Foundation Autism Research Initiative (SFARI), with the latter as part of the 2022 Genomics of ASD: Pathways to Genetic Therapies grant.

KEY MEDIA

- [Spectrum News](#) - The Most Personalized Medicine
- [New York Times](#): Infinitesimal Odds - Scientist Finds Her Child's Rare Illness Stems from the Gene She Studies
- [New York Times](#): Her Daughter's Diagnosis Made Her Work as a Scientist Personal (*video*)
- [The Buffalo News](#): A Daughter's Disease Brings Researchers to Buffalo for answers
- [UBNow](#): FOXG1 symposium advances science, gives hope to families battling rare disease
- [UBNow](#): For two UB Scientists, love means studying their daughters rare disease (*article*)
- [The Naked Scientists](#)

KEY PUBLICATIONS

- [Behavioral Phenotypes of Foxg1 Heterozygous Mice](#)
- [The histone demethylase Kdm6b regulates subtype diversification of mouse spinal motor neurons during development](#)
- [FOXG1 orchestrates neocortical organization and cortico-cortical connections \(*video*\)](#)
- [Retinoid signaling and Neurogenin2 function are coupled for the specification of spinal motor neurons through a chromatin modifier CBP.S.](#)
- [A regulatory network to segregate spinal neuronal subtypes.](#)