Finding Solutions When Antibiotics Don't Work

Ferric Fang
Professor, Laboratory Medicine and Microbiology

CURRENT RESEARCH

Fundamental research paired with clinical practice leads to breakthroughs in the creation of effective antibiotics

The first patient Dr. Ferric Fang cared for as a young medical student at the Massachusetts General Hospital was an elderly man with a Salmonella infection. His death despite Dr. Fang's team's best efforts left a large impression on Dr. Fang's later work as a provider. As a physician-researcher at the University of Washington School of Medicine, Dr. Fang has dedicated his career to studying how host immune cells kill bacteria and how pathogenic bacteria evade killing. Considering himself a clinician first and a researcher second, Dr. Fang performs patient-centered research that helps him to understand how to improve outcomes for patients with infections. His particular focus on infections caused by Salmonella and methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) ensures that his research will have a high impact.

At the University of Washington, Dr. Fang's primary responsibility is to oversee the clinical microbiology laboratory. In the laboratory he is able to analyze every culture and use this information to guide patient care. The daily work of the clinical laboratory makes a true difference in patients' lives. In addition, his work in the laboratory provides a constant reminder that bacteria have become increasingly resistant to antibiotics. With the supply of new antibiotics dwindling, some bacterial infections have even become untreatable. The basic research he performs as the leader of one of the world's top research labs studying nitric oxide and infection will help to provide a foundation for new approaches to treating infections.

Current research includes:

- Nitric Oxide: The central focus of Dr. Fang's lab is a molecule called nitric oxide, which is produced by host...

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AFFILIATION

University of Washington

EDUCATION

- A.B. magna cum laude, 1979 , Harvard University
- M.D., 1983 , Harvard Medical School
- Postdoctoral Training, 1992 , University of California, San Diego

AWARDS

- American Society for Clinical Investigation, elected 1998
- American Academy of Microbiology, elected 2007
- Association of American Physicians, elected 2013
- Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, elected 2014
- ASM Distinguished Lecturer, 2015-2017

RESEARCH AREAS

Life Science, Infectious

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support the continued research of Dr. Ferric Fang, of the University of Washington School of Medicine, as he develops a novel conceptual framework to understand how antibiotics work alongside host immunity. A donation of $50K can support the work of a student or post-doctoral researcher in the Fang Laboratory, while donations of any size can help to provide essential equipment and supplies. By choosing to donate, you will be contributing to fundamental research that can lead to the development of more effective antibiotics.