



Universiteit  
Leiden

The Netherlands

**The use of 3D skin equivalents mimicking skin cancers:  
unraveling the heterogeneity of cancer-associated  
fibroblasts and validating therapeutic efficacy**

Wu, S.

**Citation**

Wu, S. (2026, March 12). *The use of 3D skin equivalents mimicking skin cancers: unraveling the heterogeneity of cancer-associated fibroblasts and validating therapeutic efficacy*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/4296712>

Version: Publisher's Version

License: [Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/4296712>

**Note:** To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

# **Appendices**

**List of abbreviations**

**List of publications**

**Curriculum Vitae**

**Acknowledgments**

## List of abbreviations:

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Full Term</b>
<b>3D</b>	Three-dimensional
<b>Ab</b>	Antibody
<b>ACAN</b>	Aggrecan
<b>AEC</b>	3-amino-9-ethylcarbazole
<b>AFI</b>	Average Fluorescence Intensity
<b>ANOVA</b>	Analysis of Variation
<b>apCAF</b>	Antigen-presenting Cancer-Associated Fibroblast
<b>ASPN</b>	Asporin
<b>BCC</b>	Basal Cell Carcinoma
<b>BM</b>	Basement Membrane
<b>BLIMP</b>	B Lymphocyte–Induced Maturation Protein
<b>CAF</b>	Cancer-Associated Fibroblast
<b>CAV1</b>	Caveolin-1
<b>CASP</b>	Caspase
<b>C-C3</b>	Cleaved Caspase 3
<b>CCL</b>	C-C Motif Chemokine Ligand
<b>CCRL1</b>	C-C Motif Chemokine Receptor-Like 1
<b>CD</b>	Cluster of Differentiation
<b>CDH2</b>	Cadherin-2
<b>CDKN2A</b>	Cyclin-Dependent Kinase Inhibitor 2A
<b>CLEC3B</b>	C-Type Lectin Domain Family 3 Member B
<b>CLU</b>	Clusterin
<b>CM</b>	Conditioned Media
<b>CNN1</b>	Calponin-1
<b>COL</b>	Collagen
<b>COX</b>	Cyclooxygenase
<b>CRP</b>	Carboplatin
<b>CSPG4</b>	Chondroitin Sulfate Proteoglycan 4
<b>CTGF</b>	Connective Tissue Growth Factor
<b>CTLA4</b>	Cytotoxic T-Lymphocyte–Associated Protein 4
<b>CXCL</b>	C-X-C Motif Chemokine Ligand
<b>CXCR</b>	C-X-C Motif Chemokine Receptor

<b>DAPI</b>	4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole
<b>DCFDA</b>	Dichlorodihydrofluorescein D iacetate
<b>DCN</b>	Decorin
<b>DED</b>	De-Epidermized Dermis
<b>DEG</b>	Differentially Expressed Gene
<b>DEJ</b>	Dermal-Epidermal Junction
<b>DiD</b>	1,1'-dioctadecyl-3,3',3'-tetramethylindodicarbocyanine
<b>DLK1</b>	Delta-Like Non-Canonical Notch Ligand 1
<b>DMEM</b>	Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium
<b>DMF</b>	Dimethylformamide
<b>DOX</b>	Doxorubicin
<b>ECM</b>	Extracellular Matrix
<b>EMT</b>	Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition
<b>ENG</b>	Endoglin
<b>FACS</b>	Fluorescence-Activated Cell Sorting
<b>FAK</b>	Focal Adhesion Kinase
<b>FAP</b>	Fibroblast Activation Protein
<b>FASL</b>	Fas Ligand
<b>FBS</b>	Fetal Bovine Serum
<b>FSC</b>	Forward Scatter
<b>FSP1</b>	Fibroblast-Specific Protein-1
<b>FTM</b>	Full-Thickness Model
<b>FZD7</b>	Frizzled Class Receptor 7
<b>GEMM</b>	Genetically Engineered Mouse Model
<b>GM-CSF</b>	Granulocyte-Macrophage Colony-Stimulating Factor
<b>GPR77</b>	G Protein-Coupled Receptor 77
<b>HA</b>	Hyaluronic Acid
<b>HDAC</b>	Histone Deacetylase Inhibitor
<b>HE</b>	Hematoxylin and Eosin
<b>hBD</b>	Human Beta-Defensin
<b>HES1</b>	HES Family bHLH Transcription Factor 1
<b>HGF</b>	Hepatocyte Growth Factor
<b>HLA</b>	Human Leukocyte Antigen
<b>HNSCC</b>	Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma

<b>HOPX</b>	HOP Homeobox
<b>HPRT</b>	Hypoxanthine-Guanine Phosphoribosyltransferase
<b>HSE</b>	Human Skin Equivalent
<b>HV</b>	Healthy Vulvar
<b>HVF</b>	Healthy Vulvar Fibroblast
<b>HVKC</b>	Healthy Vulvar Epidermal Keratinocyte
<b>IC50</b>	Half Maximal Inhibitory Concentration
<b>ICD</b>	Immunogenic Cell Death
<b>IDO</b>	Indoleamine 2,3-Dioxygenase
<b>IF</b>	Immunofluorescence
<b>IGFBP7</b>	Insulin-Like Growth Factor Binding Protein 7
<b>IHC</b>	Immunohistochemistry
<b>IL</b>	Interleukin
<b>IMC</b>	Imaging Mass Cytometry
<b>imtCAF</b>	Immortalized Cancer-Associated Fibroblast
<b>INHBA</b>	Inhibin Subunit Beta A
<b>INV</b>	Involucrin
<b>ITG</b>	Integrin
<b>JAK</b>	Janus Kinase
<b>K</b>	Keratin
<b>KANK4</b>	KN Motif and Ankyrin Repeat Domain-Containing Protein 4
<b>KC</b>	Keratinocyte
<b>KEGG</b>	Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes
<b>KGF</b>	Keratinocyte Growth Factor
<b>LAMβ3</b>	Laminin Subunit Beta-3
<b>LOX</b>	Lysyl Oxidase
<b>LRIG1</b>	Leucine-Rich Repeats and Immunoglobulin-Like Domains 1
<b>LRRC15</b>	Leucine-Rich Repeat Containing 15
<b>LUM</b>	Lumican
<b>Ly6C</b>	Lymphocyte Antigen 6 Complex, Locus C
<b>MAP</b>	Mitogen-Activated Protein
<b>MC</b>	Melanocyte
<b>MCAM</b>	Melanoma Cell Adhesion Molecule
<b>MDSC</b>	Myeloid-Derived Suppressor Cell

<b>MEOX</b>	Mesenchyme Homeobox
<b>MGP</b>	Matrix Gla Protein
<b>MHC</b>	Major Histocompatibility Complex
<b>MITF</b>	Microphthalmia-Associated Transcription Factor
<b>MMP</b>	Metalloproteinase
<b>MOI</b>	Multiplicity of Infection
<b>mTOR</b>	mammalian Target of Rapamycin
<b>MYH11</b>	Myosin Heavy Chain 11
<b>NF</b>	Normal Fibroblast
<b>NFκB</b>	Nuclear Factor Kappa B
<b>NHEK</b>	Normal human epidermal keratinocyte
<b>NHS</b>	Normal Human Serum
<b>NK</b>	Natural Killer
<b>NP</b>	Nanoparticle
<b>NSCLC</b>	Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer
<b>NTN1</b>	Netrin-1
<b>OS</b>	Overall Survival
<b>P/S</b>	Penicillin/Streptomycin
<b>PANC</b>	Pan-keratin
<b>PDI</b>	Polydispersity Index
<b>PDGFα</b>	Platelet-Derived Growth Factor Alpha
<b>PD1</b>	Programmed Cell Death Protein 1
<b>PDL</b>	Programmed Death Ligand
<b>PDPN</b>	Podoplanin
<b>PEDF</b>	Pigment Epithelium–Derived Factor
<b>PEG</b>	Polyethylene Glycol
<b>PF</b>	Papillary fibroblast
<b>PI</b>	Propidium Iodide
<b>PI3K</b>	Phosphoinositide 3-Kinase
<b>PLGA</b>	Poly(lactic-co-glycolic acid)
<b>PMA</b>	Phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate
<b>POSTN</b>	Periostin
<b>PPARγ</b>	Peroxisome Proliferator-Activated Receptor Gamma
<b>PSC</b>	Pancreatic Stellate Cell

<b>PSG1</b>	Pregnancy-Specific Glycoprotein 1
<b>PTGES2</b>	Prostaglandin E Synthase 2
<b>PTX</b>	Paclitaxel
<b>PVDF</b>	Polyvinylidene Difluoride
<b>PVA</b>	Polyvinyl Alcohol
<b>RGS5</b>	Regulator of G Protein Signaling 5
<b>RHE</b>	Reconstructed Human Epidermis
<b>RIPA</b>	Radioimmunoprecipitation Assay
<b>RF</b>	Reticular fibroblast
<b>ROCK</b>	Rho-Associated Coiled-Coil Containing Protein Kinase
<b>ROS</b>	Reactive Oxygen Species
<b>RPS29</b>	Ribosomal Protein S29
<b>SA-<math>\beta</math>-Gal</b>	Senescence-Associated Beta-Galactosidase
<b>SAHA</b>	Suberoylanilide Hydroxamic Acid (Vorinostat)
<b>SAP</b>	Superabsorbent Polymer
<b>SASP</b>	Senescence-Associated Secretory Phenotype
<b>SCA1</b>	Stem Cell Antigen-1
<b>SC</b>	Single-Cell
<b>SD</b>	Standard Deviation
<b>SDHA</b>	Succinate Dehydrogenase Complex Subunit A
<b>SKCM</b>	Cutaneous Melanoma
<b>SMO</b>	Smoothed, Frizzled Class Receptor
<b>SOX10</b>	SRY-Box Transcription Factor 10
<b>SPARC</b>	Secreted Protein Acidic and Rich in Cysteine
<b>SPP1</b>	Secreted Phosphoprotein 1
<b>SPRR2A</b>	Small Proline-Rich Protein 2A
<b>STAT</b>	Signal Transducer and Activator of Transcription
<b>TAGLN</b>	Transgelin
<b>TAEC</b>	Tumor-Associated Endothelial Cell
<b>TAM</b>	Tumor-Associated Macrophage
<b>TAN</b>	Tumor-Associated Neutrophil
<b>TBP</b>	TATA-Box Binding Protein
<b>TGF<math>\beta</math></b>	Transforming Growth Factor-Beta
<b>TGM2</b>	Transglutaminase-2

<b>TEM</b>	Transmission Electron Microscopy
<b>TIMP</b>	Tissue Inhibitor of Metalloproteinase
<b>TMEM200A</b>	Transmembrane Protein 200A
<b>TME</b>	Tumor Microenvironment
<b>TNC</b>	Tenascin-C
<b>TNFRSF</b>	Tumor Necrosis Factor Receptor Superfamily
<b>Treg</b>	Regulatory T
<b>TSP1</b>	Thrombospondin-1
<b>TYR</b>	Tyrosinase
<b>uPA</b>	Urokinase-Type Plasminogen Activator
<b>UV (R)</b>	Ultraviolet (Radiation)
<b>VCAM</b>	Vascular Cell Adhesion Molecule
<b>VCAN</b>	Versican
<b>VEGF</b>	Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor
<b>VIM</b>	Vimentin
<b>VPA</b>	Valproic Acid
<b>vSCC</b>	Vulvar Squamous Cell Carcinoma
<b>VWA5A</b>	Von Willebrand Factor A Domain–Containing Protein 5A
<b>ZEB</b>	Zinc Finger E-Box–Binding
<b>ZNF410</b>	Zinc Finger Protein 410

## List of publications

### Leading projects:

1. **Shidi Wu**, Rui Fang, Marion H. Rietveld, Jeroen R.G. Torremans, Yang Liu, Zili Gu, Jan N. Bouwes Bavinck, Maarten H. Vermeer and Abdoelwaheb El Ghalbzouri. Identification of Small-Molecule Inhibitors Targeting Different Signaling Pathways in Cancer-Associated Fibroblast Reprogramming under Tumor-Stroma Interaction. *J Invest Dermatol.* 2025 Jan;145(1):65-76.e13.
2. Yuanyuan He\*, **Shidi Wu\***, Marion Rietveld, Maarten Vermeer, Luis J Cruz, Christina Eich and Abdoelwaheb El Ghalbzouri. Application of Doxorubicin-Loaded PLGA Nanoparticles Targeting Both Tumor Cells and Cancer-Associated Fibroblasts on 3D Human Skin Equivalents Mimicking Melanoma and Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma. *Biomater Adv.* 2024 Jun;160:213831. (co-first authorship)
3. **Shidi Wu\***, Bertine W. Huisman\*, Marion H. Rietveld, Robert Rissmann, Maarten H. Vermeer, Mariette I. E. van Poelgeest and Abdoelwaheb El Ghalbzouri. The Development of in vitro Organotypic 3D Vulvar Models to Study Tumor-Stroma Interaction and Drug Efficacy. *Cell Oncol.* 2024 Jun;47(3):883-896. (co-first authorship)
4. Fangqi Chen\*, **Shidi Wu\***, Jinshan Zhan, Yifan Jin, Xiuyun Xuan, Juanmei Cao, Ting Wu, Yan Liang, Xiaoqian Zhao, Zhiyan Li, Yuqing Wang, Li Chen, Yanqiu Li, Abdoelwaheb El Ghalbzouri and Changzheng Huang. IL-22-Induced Ubiquitin-specific Protease 15 Promotes Proliferation and Inflammation of Keratinocytes via Stabilization of SCCA2. *J Invest Dermatol.* 2024 Jan;144(1):63-72.e4. (co-first authorship)
5. **Shidi Wu**, Marion Rietveld, Marieke Hogervorst, Frank de Gruijl, Sjoerd van der Burg, Maarten Vermeer, Remco van Doorn, Marij Welters and Abdoelwaheb El Ghalbzouri. Human Papillary and Reticular Fibroblasts Show Distinct Functions on Tumor Behavior in 3D-Organotypic Cultures Mimicking Melanoma and HNSCC. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2022 Oct 1;23(19):11651.
6. Ting Wu\*, **Shidi Wu\***, Ling-yun Zhang, Hai-hua Ye, Ye-hong Mao, Xin Lian, Juan Tao, Chang-zheng Huang, Jing-si Zeng. Pathogen analysis of superficial mucocutaneous mycosis in Central China from 2007-2018. *Curr Med Sci.* 2022 Apr;42(2):434-438. (co-first authorship)

7. **Wu S**, Zhao M, Sun Y, Xie M, Wu T, Le K, Xu M, Huang C. The potential of Diosgenin in treating psoriasis: Studies from HaCaT keratinocytes and imiquimod-induced murine model. *Life Sci.* 2020. 241C (2020) 117115.

**Collaborative projects:**

1. Ye Zeng<sup>#\*</sup>, Gangyin Zhao<sup>#</sup>, **Shidi Wu**, Bochuan, Hu, Gabriel Forn-Cuní, Renzo Knol, Abdoelwaheb El Ghalbzouri, Ewa Snaar-Jagalska<sup>\*</sup>, and Alexander Kros<sup>\*</sup>. CD44-Targeted Lipid Nanoparticles for Enhanced CRISPR-Cas9 Delivery in Cancer Gene Editing. *J Controlled Release.* 2026. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jconrel.2025.114598>

2. Tim van Groningen, **Shidi Wu**, Joel Ruegger, Roderick Sliker, Arend Boogaard, Inger Kreuger, Sanne de Haan, Elisa Arlotti, Oren Lapid, Aart Jochemsen, Sarantos Kostidis, Marieke van de Ven, Natalie Proost, Serge Zander, Peter de Keizer, Martin Giera, Abdoel El Ghalbzouri, Elena Sanchez Lopez, Mario van der Stelt, Remco van Doorn<sup>\*</sup>. Elimination of senescent cells through ferroptosis as a treatment strategy for congenital melanocytic nevus. (Submitted)

## **Curriculum Vitae**

Shidi Wu was born on September 13, 1994, in Hubei Province, China. During his three years of high school education at the No.2 Senior High School of Huangshi, Hubei Province (HSEZ), he developed a strong interest in the natural science subjects, especially in Biology. Thereafter, he started his medical studies and obtained his Bachelor's degree in Medicine from Hubei University of Medicine in June 2017, graduating with the highest honors. During his undergraduate studies, he spent six months in Sydney, Australia, where he participated in a fundamental research project on Doxorubicin-induced cardiotoxicity at the Bosch Institute, The University of Sydney, under the supervision of Dr. Donna Lai. In his final year of hospital internship, he developed a strong interest in Dermatology.

Following his graduation, he continued his medical studies as a Master student in Dermatology and Venereology at Tongji Medical School, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, in Wuhan, China, from September 2017 to June 2020. Under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Changzheng Huang, his research focused on identifying novel pharmacological compounds for treating psoriasis and investigating ubiquitination in the progression of the disease.

In December 2020, Shidi began his PhD at Leiden University Medical Center in the Netherlands, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Maarten Vermeer and Dr. Abdoelwaheb El Ghalbzouri in the Department of Dermatology. His doctoral research focused on developing advanced 3D skin models to investigate tumor-stroma interactions and evaluate therapeutic efficacy.

Currently, Shidi is continuing his research as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the same group, focusing on skin model valorization as part of the NGID grant initiative. His work aims to bridge the gap between fundamental research and clinical applications by advancing the development of innovative 3D skin models for dermatological research and the validation of therapeutic interventions.

## Acknowledgments

Completing my PhD has been a journey filled with challenges, growth, and unforgettable experiences. This achievement would not have been possible without the guidance, support, and encouragement of many individuals, to whom I extend my deepest gratitude.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to my supervisors, Prof. Dr. Maarten Vermeer and Dr. Abdoelwaheb El Ghalbzouri. Your unwavering support, insightful discussions, and constructive feedback have been invaluable throughout my PhD. Maarten, your vast knowledge and scientific rigor have significantly shaped my research approach and critical thinking. Abdoel, your encouragement and guidance in the field of skin biology and 3D tissue engineering have been truly inspiring and largely shaped my future scientific interests. Most importantly, thank you for being both a mentor and a friend. I appreciate your belief in me and the environment you created in which I could grow both scientifically and personally.

I am also grateful to all my lab members in the Department of Dermatology at LUMC. The collaborative and supportive atmosphere in the lab made even the most challenging moments manageable. Your technical support, stimulating discussions, and the shared laughter during experiments have made my time in the lab a memorable experience.

A special word of thanks to my collaborators, whose expertise and contributions have greatly enriched my research. I sincerely appreciate your time, resources, and valuable insights that have helped bring this project to completion.

To all my friends, both near and far, thank you for being my pillars of support. Your companionship, laughter, the venting sessions, and moments of joy have made this PhD journey so much more meaningful. Whether it was sharing a coffee break, offering words of encouragement, or simply being there when I needed a break, I am genuinely grateful for your presence in my life. To my dearest boyfriend Marcel, your love, patience, and constant encouragement have been my source of strength during the most difficult times. Thank you for always being there, for celebrating my achievements, and for lifting me up when I needed it the most. I love you.

Finally, to my parents, my eternal safe harbor, words cannot express my gratitude for your unconditional love and support. You have always believed in me and encouraged me to follow my dreams, no matter how far they took me. Your sacrifices and unwavering faith in me have been my greatest motivation. 致所有至明和至暗的时刻，致你们所给予我的全部，

致我们与彼此的温柔连结，致爱与永恒。(Translation: To every moment, luminous and shadowed alike to all that you have bestowed upon me; to the tender connections that bind us to one another; to love, and to the everlasting.)

This PhD thesis is not just my accomplishment but a reflection of the collective support, inspiration, and kindness I have received from all of you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.