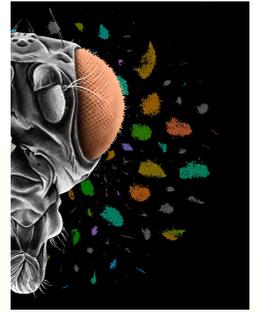




Join the Chen Lab at Temple University!

PhD Position available in Developmental Neurobiology – Fall 2026

Department of Biology, Temple University
(Philadelphia, PA, USA)



Principal Investigator: Dr. **Yu-Chieh David Chen**, newly established lab (since 2025 Aug)

Lab website: ycdavidchen.com



About the Lab

The Chen Lab studies how neuronal circuits are built during development, focusing on the *Drosophila* sensory systems. We combine:

- Genetic tool development (gene-specific split-GAL4 lines)
- Single-cell transcriptomics
- EM connectomics
- Functional imaging and behavioral analysis. Our goal is to uncover the molecular and cellular logic that assembles neural circuits and enables sensory perception. As a founding PhD student, you will play a key role in shaping the lab's research direction, culture, and discoveries.

Research Themes

- Molecular regulation of visual circuit assembly
- Development of gustatory neuron specification and connectivity
- Genetic tool and resource building for the neuroscience community
- Application of genetic tools across multiple *Drosophila* tissues for developmental and functional studies.

Who We Are Looking For

We seek motivated, curious, and collaborative students who are excited about combining molecular genetics, developmental biology, and neuroscience. Prior experience with *Drosophila* genetics, molecular cloning, or confocal microscopy is a plus but not required.

Training & Environment

- Supportive, inclusive, and collaborative lab culture
- Hands-on mentoring and structured training modules
- Opportunities to co-author manuscripts and present at conferences
- Access to the Greater Philadelphia neuroscience community, including Temple, UPenn, CHOP, Drexel, and Thomas Jefferson University.

Location

Temple University – Center City Philadelphia. Located in a vibrant, affordable city with a **big-city vibe**, just a short train ride from **New York City and Washington, D.C.**, and surrounded by top research institutions including Penn, Drexel, and CHOP.

How to Apply

1. Contact Dr. Yu-Chieh David Chen at yu-chieh.chen@temple.edu
2. Include a brief statement of research interests, CV, and 3 contacts info for references
3. Apply formally through the Temple Biology PhD Program: <https://www.temple.edu/academics/degree-programs/biology-phd-st-biol-phd/admissions>

Application Deadline

December 15, 2025 (for Fall 2026 entry)

Join a New Lab

Join a new lab where your ideas and growth matter. Build the next generation of genetic tools and explore how the brain wires itself!