

# USF NEXUS INITIATIVE 2018 AWARD RECIPIENT

## **Tony Tan**

*Role of Collectivism, Individualism, and Social Sensitivity Alleles in the Etiology of Anxiety-Related Behaviors*

This project aims to understand whether a drastic increase in individualism due to decades of unprecedented economic growth contributes to increase in anxiety disorders among Chinese youth. Although about 70% of the Chinese population carry the “risk” variant gene that regulates emotions, the rate of anxiety in China is very low. It is theorized that collectivism keeps the genetic risk at bay. The goal of this study is to understand whether a weakened sense of collectivism will expose Chinese youth’s genetic risk. Genetic and behavioral data will be gathered from Chinese youth in collaboration with Dr. Jun Li of Beijing Normal University.

## ***Partnerships:***

**Jun Li**, M.D., Ph.D., Professor

State Key Laboratory of Cognitive Neuroscience and Learning, Beijing Normal University (Beijing, China)



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