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For 40 years working in the field of thoracic surgery, he has mainly focused on esophageal diseases. He led the task of National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC). He was invited to participate in AJCC conducted Worldwide Esophageal Cancer Collaboration (WECC) project to define the 7<sup>th</sup> Edition (2009) and 8<sup>th</sup> Edition (2016) of TNM staging system for esophageal cancer. To date, he has over 300 publications, including more than 150 SCI papers.