CRISPR-based biotechnology has revolutionized biomedical research and holds great promise for precision medicine.

When you’re not working, what do you do?
Jogging, cooking, chatting with my parents on the phone, and exploring Ann Arbor with my husband.

What moment in the lab stands out as the most memorable?
I was told that setting up a new lab could be very exciting and daunting at the same time. Luckily, we have had no daunting moments so far, only exciting ones. The most memorable is when the lab members showed me an unexpected phenotype that started to connect a few dots and might open up a new direction for our intellectual pursuits.

Who had the greatest influence on your career path?
Three great mentors: Erik Sontheimer, Ph.D., Craig Mello, Ph.D., and Hank Seifert, Ph.D. I have had the privilege of doing my postdoc with Erik Sontheimer, an extremely supportive, patient and encouraging advisor who would genuinely cheer for my accomplishments. Craig Mello has given me enlightening career advice throughout the years, and his passion for RNA is contagious. Last but not least, Hank Seifert is a very generous collaborator and supportive mentor, without whom my fun journey with Neisseria CRISPR would not have been possible. Being a part-timer in Hank’s lab for three happy years, I learned so much about Neisseria and bacterial genetics.

What's the best advice you've ever received?
“Stop worrying and go for it!”

What are you currently reading?
“Academic Scientists at Work – Navigating the Biomedical Research Career” by Jeremy M. Boss and Susan H. Eckert. This book is an amusing, yet informative, guide for trainees and junior faculty.

What was the best meal you’ve ever had?
All the meals my mom and I cooked together. Living thousands of miles away from my parents (who live in Beijing, China) is not easy. Whenever my parents visit me, or I visit them, the meals we cook together are hands down the most delicious.