Short Bio:

Prof. Yizhi Cai (YC) has an unusual engineering background, gaining a first class degree in Computer Engineering in China, a Master’s in Bioinformatics from the University of Edinburgh, and a PhD in Computational Biology and Genetics from Virginia Tech, USA. YC carried out his postdoc fellowship at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, working on engineering biology and genomes under Prof. Jef Boeke (US National Academy of Sciences member). This interdisciplinary training has enabled him to lead a unique and highly interdisciplinary research group that develops state-of-the-art design, manufacturing and characterisation technologies to engineer synthetic genomes, whilst continuing to pioneer disruptive approaches in synthetic biology. In 2013, YC returned to the UK to start his own research group with a prestigious Chancellor’s Fellowship at the University of Edinburgh. During his 4 year stay in Edinburgh, YC’s leadership helped his group publish over 40 high impact papers (including 7 in Science). Alongside this excellent scientific output during his time in Edinburgh, YC also co-founded the Edinburgh Genome Foundry and was awarded early tenure with a subsequent promotion to Reader. In 2017, YC moved to the University of Manchester to take up a new Chair of Synthetic Genomics. Despite being only 7 years into his independent research career, YC has established himself as a leader in synthetic genomics internationally.

