



## HAOXIN LI

DIRECTOR OF ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY

ADAPSYN BIOSCIENCE INC.

Industry Profile written by Ally Bos



### EDUCATION

Haoxin's adventurous spirit led him halfway across the world from China to attend UNB in Saint John, NB in pursuance of a BSc in Marine Biology. It did not take long; however, for Haoxin to realize marine biology was not for him rather, he preferred the problem-solving aspects of natural products chemistry, thus completely altering his educational trajectory. In his final year of his undergraduate degree, Haoxin joined the Natural Products Research Group (NPRG) to complete his Honours under the supervision of Drs. Christopher Gray and John Johnson, graduating in 2010 with a BSc in General Biology. In 2015, Haoxin obtained his PhD from UNB in Natural Products Chemistry and Pharmacognosy where his research with the NPRG focussed on anti-mycobacterial natural products from traditionally used medicinal plants and their associated fungal endophytes. Previous networking led Haoxin to join Dr. Nathan Magarvey's group at McMaster University as a post-doctoral fellow from mid 2015 until the end of 2017 where he co-developed a computational platform to systematically link bacterial natural products to their biosynthetic gene clusters.

### WORK EXPERIENCE

In November 2017, Haoxin joined the newly founded biotechnology start-up company, Adapsyn Bioscience Inc. Adapsyn developed a proprietary platform that combines genomic and metabolomic data to identify, isolate novel bioactive microbial natural products for their therapeutic potentials. A collaboration with Pfizer in 2018 provided the opportunity to isolate and identify novel natural products from Pfizer's collection of bacterial strains. Haoxin's position as natural products chemist meant he oversaw all fractionation and purification procedures, as well as structure elucidation of isolated compounds.

In January 2021, Haoxin was promoted to director of analytical chemistry at Adapsyn Bioscience Inc. Haoxin is really excited about his new role and the increased responsibility and planning that it entails. This new position will allow Haoxin to continue to focus on what interests him (problem-solving) while affording him the opportunity to learn and hone his skills.

### BIGGEST CHALLENGE

Haoxin feels the greatest challenge he has faced throughout his work experience is that of time management. This is especially true of his new role at Adapsyn, which he says can be stressful at times, especially while also trying to juggle personal responsibilities. However, he is confident the benefits of doing something you thoroughly enjoy far outweighs any of its related stressors.

## **ADVICE TO STUDENTS**

Haoxin's main piece of advice to current graduate students: network! Haoxin suggests that students take full advantage of all networking opportunities provided to them by attending conferences and reaching out through social platforms such as ResearchGate, LinkedIn etc. He says that by making connections in these ways has multiple benefits that can lead to collaboration efforts and more importantly, future careers.