

## TcSUH InTheNews

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### TcSUH Scholarship Recipients Announced for Fall 2022 - Spring 2023

**Houston, TX** – The Scholarship Committee for the Texas Center for Superconductivity at the University of Houston (TcSUH) is pleased to announce TcSUH scholarship recipients for the 2022-2023 academic year. Students will be honored and presented with certificates at a reception in the Fall.

The C. W. Chu Scholarships were established in recognition of the outstanding research of Professor Paul C. W. Chu and are awarded to talented students associated with TcSUH. Two awards are being made for the 2022-2023 academic year.



**Mr. Zhongxin Liang** became a Ph.D. candidate in the department of Physics in the Fall of 2018 after receiving his B.Sc. in Macromolecular Materials and Engineering from Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, China. He joined the research group of Professor Zhifeng Ren and hit the ground running, actively working with a focus on thermoelectric materials, device performance, and stability.

Zhongxin's research includes  $Mg_3Sb_2$ -based thermoelectric material, stability, contacts, and devices; high-performance and reliable p-type Zintl compounds; and new thermoelectric material for low-grade heat recovery and cooling applications. He has published five papers as a first or co-first author and two book chapters as the co-first author. He has three manuscripts in preparation as the co-first author.

**Mr. Congcong Xu** came to UH in the Fall of 2018, joining the Ph.D. program in physics. He received a master's degree in materials science and engineering from the Frontier Institute of Science and Technology from Xi'an Jiaotong University in Xi'an, China. He has been actively working in the lab of Dr. Zhifeng Ren, focusing on the large-scale synthesis of  $Mg_3Sb_2$  based materials and other materials.

Congcong has studied thermoelectric material synthesis methods, thermal stability enhancement strategies, and module fabrication, leading to seven publications and three oral presentations. He was the first author on three papers and co-author on two.

Like many TcSUH-affiliated graduate students, Zhongxin and Congcong chose to study at the University of Houston because of the reputation of the outstanding work conducted by its researchers.

