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His research interests are present-day crustal deformation studies using GPS data; rate, amount and timing of tectonic deformation of the Tibetan Plateau; geological processes of Cenozoic mountain buildings; tectonic geomorphology; active tectonics and seismic hazard assessments; interactions between tectonic deformation and climate change.

His well-known scientific contributions in the relevant field include contemporary deformation of the Tibetan Plateau constrained from GPS measurements, upward and outward growth of the Tibetan Plateau, and seismogenic structures and mechanism of the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake.