Li’s research deals with traits that can be inherited through generations, yet do not involve alterations in the DNA sequence, an area known as epigenetics. She is primarily interested in how epigenetic mechanisms interact with environmental factors, such as nutrition, and how that interaction may affect development of disease. Specifically, she has examined how certain botanical compounds, called bioactive compounds, could prevent or treat cancer, obesity, pregnancy complications and aging-related maladies.

Based on her findings, Li has written articles that have appeared in leading peer-reviewed journals. Her work has been funded by leading agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, and her contributions have garnered her international recognition in the medical research field.

Numerous organizations have recognized Li, as well. Among other accolades, she received the 2014 Mary Swartz Rose Young Investigator Award, a prestigious national honor given to an investigator for outstanding research on the safety and efficacy of bioactive compounds for human health.

Dr. Rose Li is an assistant professor of obstetrics, gynecology and women’s health in the School of Medicine.