



美洲華人生物科學學會



Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America

December, 2007

NEWSLETTER

Volume 22 Issue 4

From the Presidents' Desks.....

A DEPARTING NOTE TO OUR MEMBERS:

Dr. Robert Yu's term as the 16th President of SCBA will begin on January 1, 2008. Please send your best wishes to Bob as he is to lead this organization to a new frontier of opportunities and challenges. Right now, he is busily pre-occupied with his preparation for the 12th SCBA International Symposium to be held in 2009 in Taipei.

I will be stepping down at the end of this year after 2 years of service to SCBA where I have served in different capacities for the last 20 years. I am thrilled to have the honor to serve you during my tenure as your President and I must admit that I have learned my fair share in working with this terrific organization. I wish to thank all the Council members for their support, particularly to **Mien-Chie Hung (past President)**, **Joseph Li (Executive Director)** and **Reen Wu (Treasurer)** with whom I have the fortune to work closely over the last 2 years.

As you know, most of our former Presidents have not "retired" from SCBA. They are taking a break and you can always contact them or me whenever you feel the urge to do so. Again, I wish Bob all the bests in his continued efforts to make SCBA a better organization.

Very Sincerely,

~ Ken Fong, SCBA President
(2006-07)



A GREETING NOTE TO OUR MEMBERS:

I am deeply honored to have your trust in giving me this opportunity to serve as your President. The Society for Chinese Bioscientists in America (SCBA) is a professional society that has greatly influenced the scientific careers of many bioscientists. Activities of SCBA, through its biennial

meetings and regional meetings, not only offer outstanding scientific programs, but more importantly, professional and personal friendship that is not commonly found in any other professional societies. It is therefore with deep gratitude that I accept this opportunity to serve, and to repay the Society for what it has offered me for so many years. As President, I resolve to respond to the following challenges:

- To remain as a vital and forward-looking Society, we must actively recruit young, talented and vibrant bioscientists and to expand our membership base. We must provide professional and educational services to our members.
- To remain engaged in all fronts of biological and biomedical sciences, we must communicate and build strong bonds with other professional societies in our discipline.
- To preserve the fiscal strength of our Society, we must continue strong management and prudent resource allocation, and improve its administrative efficiency in serving the membership.
- To push the cutting edge of scientific inquiries, it is incumbent upon the Society to pay particular attention to new areas of research, particularly in functional genomics and gene expression, proteomics and bioinformatics. Other areas of emphasis include the search of the molecular and chemical basis of diseases, such as cancer, infectious diseases, neurodegenerative disorders, and to seek novel strategies for disease diagnosis and therapy.
- To affirm our commitment to educational services in all levels and take initiatives in supporting educational effort among the Chinese communities in Americas and throughout the world.
- Finally, I wish to reaffirm our status as a professional society that supports scientific research based on the merit of the research itself and not upon political, national, racial, religious, or gender criteria of the members.



SCBA has opened my eyes to a wide vista and imbued me with the strength and desire to serve with the best of my ability. My challenge for the future of SCBA is to muster the wisdom and creativity of all our members to meet the objectives, and to preserve the uniqueness of contributions of Chinese biological and biomedical

scientists in the years to come.

Very Sincerely,

~ *Robert Yu, SCBA President (2008-09)*

A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear SCBA Council Members,

On behalf of SCBA members and colleagues, we like to express our sincerest appreciation and gratitude to all the members of the SCBA Council for the wonderful and professional job and volunteer service to our society for the last two years. Thanks to their significant leadership and contribution that has enabled our Society to take a giant step forward.

Kenneth Fong, [President](#)
Xiao-Fan Wang, [Secretary](#)
Reen Wu, [Treasurer](#)

Councilors:

Mien-Chie Hung,
De-Maw Chuang,
Jun-Ying Yuan,
Yang Shi
James Ou,

Nomination Committee:

Yun Bo Shi
Tse Hua Tan
Tzyy-Chouu Wu,
Haifan Lin,
Jim Hu

Membership Committee

Yi Sun,
Patrick Sung,
Zhou (Sunny) Songyang,
Yi Rao,
Savio L.C. Woo



Headquarter Secretaries

Ms. Delores Francis
Ms. JoAnn Starks

~ *Joseph Li*

SCBA Executive Director

REPORT ON THE SCBA/BIOPHARM GREATER PHILADELPHIA AREA WORKSHOP MEETING ON OCTOBER 27, 2007

About 50 academic and industrial scientists attended the SCBA/BioPharm Greater Philadelphia Area Neural and Cardiovascular Biology Workshop held on October 27, 2007 from 9 to 5 p.m. at the Temple University, School of Podiatric Medicine, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. **Dr. Nae Dun** (Temple University) and **Dr. Jay Liu** (AstraZeneca) served as co-chair for the meeting.

Dr. Horace Loh (University of Minnesota and Founding President of the SCBA) gave an energizing keynote address entitled "*Our Search for the Ideal Analgesic*". Building on their discovery some years ago of partial agonist activity of naloxone on a mutated mu-opioid receptor (MORS196A), they went on to show that naloxone can induce analgesic activity in the homozygous MORS196A transgenic mice but not in the wild type mice. Moreover, naloxone can elicit analgesic response with little tolerance and dependence in mice injected with an adeno-associated virus containing MORS196A in the dorsal horn of the spinal cord. These findings support the idea that local expression of MORS196A in spinal cord and systemic administration of naloxone could provide a safe and efficacious management of chronic pain. During the discussion, it was mentioned that naloxone has been reported in early 2007 to act as a potent analgesic in a transgenic mouse model of sickle cell anemia and in wild type mice pretreated with CC chemokine ligand 5 (RANTES), suggesting that chemokine CCR5/CCR1 receptors may be involved in analgesia produced by naloxone (PNAS 104:6061). These findings provide further impetus to evaluate the potential of using naloxone in the chronic treatment of pain.

Dr. Lee-Yuan Liu-Chen (Temple University) described her laboratory's systematic efforts in delineating the biochemical mechanisms underlying the **cellular trafficking of human kappa opioid receptors (hKOR)**. Their findings indicate that ubiquitinated hKOR following agonist treatment contains predominantly Lys63-linked polyubiquitin chains and ubiquitination of the hKOR is involved in agonist-induced down-regulation.

Dr. Guopin Feng (Duke University) described three approaches his laboratory used to study **brain neural circuits**. First, by labeling single neurons in the brain with green fluorescent proteins (GFP), they can perform long-term time-lapse imaging of the structure and dynamics of neuronal connectivity in vivo. Second, they developed a technique

(SLICK) that allows inducible genetic manipulations within fluorescently labeled single neurons in mice. SLICK combines the cre recombinase system for conditional genetic manipulation and the GFP labeling of single neurons for imaging, thus permitting the longitudinal study of the development of specific neurons under normal or pathological conditions in vivo. Third, they developed transgenic mice that express the light-activated channelrhodopsin-2 in subsets of cortical neurons in the brain. These neurons can be activated with light pulses in a frequency and intensity dependent manner. These mice allow precise manipulation of neural activity in the intact mammalian brain with light for exploring function and dysfunction of complex neural circuits in vivo.

The meeting participants then enjoyed a sumptuous lunch at the Ocean City Restaurant in Philadelphia China Town. After the lunch break, **Dr. Hong Wang** (Temple University) kicked off the Cardiovascular Biology session with her talk on “*Hyperhomocysteinemia and endothelial injury*”. They found that clinically relevant concentrations of **homocysteine (Hcy)** exert highly selective inhibitory effects on cyclin A transcription and endothelial cell (EC) growth through a hypomethylation related mechanism, which blocks cell cycle progression. They also demonstrated that Hcy reduces DNA methyltransferase 1 (DNMT1) activity and de-methylates cyclin A promoter leading to cyclin A chromatin remodeling. Adenovirus-transduced DNMT1 gene expression reverses the inhibitory effect of Hcy on cyclin A expression and EC growth inhibition. Finally, using a mouse carotid injury model they have found an impaired reendothelialization and increased neointimal formation in severe hyperhomocysteinemia mice. Since damage to the EC is a key and initiating feature of arteriosclerosis, they propose the inhibition of EC proliferation may represent a primary mechanism for Hcy-induced arteriosclerosis. It may be possible to reduce the risk of arteriosclerosis by lowering the level of Hcy in subjects with hyperhomocysteinemia.

Dr. Li-Ming Gan (AstraZeneca) who came all the way from Sweden for this meeting, gave a lucid presentation on the *use of high-resolution ultrasound technology to study atherosclerotic cardiovascular diseases and their application in atherosclerosis drug discovery*. He presented beautiful ultra-sound images which can be used to measure mouse atherosclerotic lesions in the aortic arch and innominate arteries and effect of drug treatment in real-time in vivo. Using targeted ultrasound microbubbles (as contrast agent), they can also study the expression of cell surface adhesion molecules in vivo. They have also been successful in applying ultra-sound imaging technology to measure the “twisting” of the heart and its effectiveness in “pumping”.

Dr. Chi-Ming Lee, on behalf of the BioPharm Division of SCBA, thanked all the speakers for their enlightening talks and the audience for the lively discussions throughout the meeting. He also thanked Dr. Dun and Dr. Liu for their excellent efforts in organizing the meeting and AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals for its generous sponsorship. Last but not the least, he thanked **Liz Molina, Mary Dun and Wan-Kei**

Chang for their effective management of the registration process and meeting logistics which ensured the smooth running of the meeting. The meeting participants then moved from the auditorium to the lounge for the poster viewing and networking session. Dinner was then served at the Ocean City restaurant at 5:30 pm. Riding on the coat tail of this successful meeting, we look forward to work with our new and existing members in the area to provide more scientific activities and networking opportunities in the greater Philadelphia area.



Dr. Nae Dun at the SCBA/BioPharm Greater Philadelphia Area Workshop Meeting.



Luncheon during the SCBA/BioPharm Greater Philadelphia Area Workshop Meeting.

2007 SCBA NEUROSCIENCE DIVISION SOCIAL MEETING AT SAN DIEGO

Each year, the SCBA Neuroscience Division holds its social at the Annual Meeting of Society for Neuroscience (SfN). This year marks, arguably, the best social ever with about 400 people joining the party. The Executive Director of SfN, **Marty Saggese**, greeted the neuroscientist crowd by speaking in Chinese (although limited) and stated the

invaluable contributions of Chinese scientists to SfN and global neuroscience research. **Dr. Mu-ming Poo** from UC Berkeley gave a keynote speech about neuroscience in China that is the highlight of the night. It was truly a great opportunity for students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculties of Chinese heritage to solidify better network, meet old friends, and establish new ones.

Election was also conducted during the social and the following newly elected officers will be in charge for the next two years.

President: Nancy Ip (HKUST)
Treasurer: Jing Wang (UCSD)
Secretary: Wei Chen (Yale)



Participants of the 2007 SCBA Neuroscience Division Social Meeting at San Diego

The Neuroscience social was sponsored and supported by:
 The Society for Chinese Bioscientists in America (SCBA)
 The Chinese Biological Investigators (CBI) Society
 GENEWIZ, Inc. (www.genewiz.com)
 ACEA Biosciences, Inc. (www.aceabio.com)

Reported by:

~James Zheng [zhengjq@umdnj.edu]

2007 ELECTION RESULTS

1. **PRESIDENT:** (January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2011)
Kuan-Teh Jeang (NIH/NIAID)
2. **SECRETARY:** (January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2011)
Juliann Kiang (Uniformed Service University)
3. **TREASURER:** (January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2011)
Yun-Bo Shi (NIH)
4. **COUNCILOR:** (January 1, 2008- December 31, 2011)
Sophia Tsai (Baylor College of Medicine)

Haifan Lin (Yale University)

5. **NOMINATION:** (January 1, 2008 - December 31, 2009)
Ming-Jer Tsai (Baylor College of Medicine)
Savio L.C. Woo (Mt. Sinai School of Medicine)
Chuxia Deng (NIH)
Edward Yeh (MD Anderson Cancer Center)
Bing Su (Yale University)
Yufang Shi (Robert Wood Johnson Medical School)
6. **MEMBERSHIP:** (January 1, 2008 - December 31, 2009)
Shiuan Chen (Beckman Research Institute)
Yen Li (NIH)
Lei Li (MD Anderson Cancer Center)
Cheng-Ming Chiang (UT Southwestern Medical Center)
Chen Dong (MD Anderson Cancer Center)
Shi-Yuan Cheng (University of Pittsburgh)

UPDATES FOR THE UPCOMING 12TH SCBA INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

We appreciate very much your continuous input, advice and suggestions for the upcoming 12th SCBA International Symposium. We hope you will continue to send us your personal and professional suggestion for this exciting meeting and event.

Robert Yu (Incoming SCBA-President) and **Joseph Li** (SCBA Executive Director) have worked with key members of the Academia Sinica (**AS**), Directors of several Institutes within AS, NHRI and the NSF. All of them are very supportive to have the 12th SCBA International Symposium in Taipei, May or June 2009.

Further negotiation is ongoing to work out many minor details. Robert Yu will submit his recommendation to the SCBA Council for final approval before the location and date will be announced.

The date will most likely be at the end of May or early June 2009 and the venue will be at the Academia Sinica, Taipei. It will be a 3½ day exciting and eventful meeting.

Dr. Lin Mei (Medical College of Georgia; Lmei@mail.mcg.edu; Tel: 706-721-8775) has agreed to serve as co-chair of the Scientific Committee. We encourage volunteers to serve on this scientific committee. Major scientific themes of this meeting are quite similar to the last 2006 SCBA meeting in San Francisco.

Please continue to send your suggestions to **Professor Robert Yu**, SCBA President or to **Joseph Li**, SCBA Executive Director.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AAAS Fellow Award:

It is with great pleasure to congratulate **Professor Jean Chen Shih**, University of Southern California for her recent election to be **the AAAS Fellow**. Professor Jean Shih is the University Professor and the Boyd and Elsie Welin Professor of the Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Toxicology, Pharmaceutical Sciences Center, Department of Cell and Neurobiology, Keck School of Medicine of USC. **She was also a former SCBA President (2002-2003).**

SCBA DATABASE DIRECTORY:

SCBA Database Directory has been sent out to all those SCBA members who had provided us with their e-mail addresses. It will not be posted in our website to avoid unexpected access of the contact information of all our SCBA members and SPARM e-mails to our members. If you have not received your copy, please contact us and we will send it to you directly via e-mail. If you want a hard copy in CD/DVD format, we can make it for you. However, you have to "donate" \$5.00 to SCBA to cover the cost of the CD, handling and shipping and postage. The check should be payable to "SCBA". We would not like to charge your credit card since we have to pay credit card charges and the amount we will get is not \$5.00 but less. This will also generated minor problem for our accounting since it is easier to add \$5 to \$5 to \$5 instead of \$4.43 + \$4.37 + \$4.51 (different credit cards have different charges!).

SCBA Newsletter posts only on web:

The 2007 December issue of our **SCBA Newsletter** will be the last printed issue, subsequent ones will be posted in our Website instead of publication in hard copies. This will significantly reduce our annual operation budget in printing of the newspaper, handling and shipping, postage, longer time for delivery, etc.

SCBA Management changes:

Effective January 1, 2008, SCBA Council has decided not to use the management system of **FASEB** to reduce the annual cost. The new SCBA Management will be composed of three individuals: **Chris Lau** (SCBA Secretary), **Joseph K.-K. Li** (SCBA Executive Director), **Ms. JoAnn Starks** (part-time secretary to Executive Director). Their contact information are shown below:

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New SCBA Website:

Chris Lau and Joseph Li are in the process of updating and designing a new SCBA website even though the name of the website will still be the same. The new Website will be available in mid-February 2008. If you have any suggestions and new ideas, please do not hesitate to send us your innovative input. Updating the website periodically with numerous new SCBA information is quite time-consuming. However, we will try to do the updates more often than previous years instead of once every two months. If you have lots of experiences and are willing to take over this challenge, please do not hesitate to contact us and take it over.



This is a new addition to our newsletter, featuring discussion, suggestions, and announcement of recruitments, scientific meetings, discoveries and important events from our Members. Please send information via e-mail attachment to the Co-Editors:

Chris Lau, Secretary, chris.lau@ucsf.edu or
Joseph Li, Executive Director josephli@biology.usu.edu

SAD NEWS FROM TORONTO CHAPTER

Professor Cecil Cheung-Ching Yip, Ph.D., F.R.S.C. (1937-2007)

In the early morning of November 27, 2007, Professor Cecil Yip, an outstanding scientist and University Administrator passed away at his Toronto home. Professor Yip was well known to many of our colleagues at the University of Toronto as Vice Dean of Research in the Faculty of Medicine. He contributed broadly to the governance and leadership of the University over several decades and also to the leadership of the University of Toronto Faculty Association. He was former Chair of the Banting and Best, Department of Medical Research where insulin was discovered. He made tremendous contribution to the innovation and growth of the research programs in our University.

Professor Yip pioneered the understanding of the structure of insulin receptor and interactions between insulin and its receptor. His work had an enormous impact in the field of insulin signaling. He has mentored many of our faculty members and students. His vision of a new concept for inter-disciplinary research has now been realized in the successful establishment of the T. Donnelly Center for Cellular and Biomolecular Research.

His compassion for the Chinese community was truly remarkable. Despite his busy schedule, he attended symposia of our Toronto SCBA Chapter. He was a great supporter for the SCBA International Symposium held in Toronto in 1997. A few years ago, when he heard that the President of Peking University, Professor Zhihong Xu, was going to stop over Toronto on his way to attend a conference in Montreal, he contacted the President's Office immediately and arranged many important exchange activities. Professor Cecil Yip will be greatly missed and remembered



fondly by all of us.

Drs. Mingyao Liu, Tak Mak and Ming-Sound Tsao attended the funeral service and conveyed the condolence to Cecil's family on behalf of the SCBA. The flower bouquet from the SCBA was also prominently displayed at the service with a ribbon saying "From SCBA Friends".

Reported by ...

Jim Hu, Tianru Jin and Ming-Sound Tsao

AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GENETIC AND GENOMIC MEDICINE ORGANIZED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF CHINESE GENETICISTS IN AMERICA & THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF MEDICAL GENETICS IN 2008 by Wai-Yee Chan (NICHD/NIH)



ACGA-HKSMG
International Conference on Genetic and Genomic Medicine

8 - 11 June 2008

Cheung Kung Hai Conference Centre, University of Hong Kong

**Keynote Speakers**

Aravinda Chakravarti, Director
McKusick-Nathans Institute of Genetic Medicine
Johns Hopkins University
Owen M. Rennert, Scientific Director
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
David L. Rimoim, Director
Medical Genetics Institute - Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, LA
Richard Myers, Director
Stanford Genome Center

Topics

Genomic Technologies	Prenatal and Pre-implantation Diagnosis
Developmental Genetics and Genomics	Molecular Genetics
Genetics of Emerging Diseases	Medical Genetics
Genomics and Genomic Analyses	Cancer Genetics and Genomics
Genetics Therapeutics	Mitochondrial Genetics
Clinical Genetics	Reproductive Genetics
Medical Genomics	Stem Cells and Tissue Engineering
Population Genetics	Environmental Gene Interaction
Complex Disorders	

For information, <http://ideaexplore.net/conference/>

Abstract deadline: 1 April 2008



美洲華人生物科學學會



Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America Directory of Officers – 2008

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SCBA ELECTED-C00s

(Jan 1, 2010 – Dec 31, 2011)

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University)**
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