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Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America

June 2011

Newsletter Editor: Juliann G. Kiang

NEWSLETTER

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Production Editor: Chris Lau

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK.....

June, 2011

Dear SCBA Members,

We are now less than one month from the start of the 13th SCBA Conference (*Bioscience for the 21 Century: Emerging Frontiers and Evolving Concepts*), July 25-29, 2011, Guangzhou, China. Many of you will come to this meeting, and I want to tell you to visit the following link for the latest information on our scientific program/sessions <http://www.scbameeting2011.org/a30430.aspx>. If you are attending this conference, you should have made reservations for hotel accommodations by now. If you have not and need help with doing this, please immediately contact the Secretariat of the 2011 SCBA Symposium at the email address sums@mail.sysu.edu.cn. I am also available to answer your questions, so do not hesitate to contact me as needed.

The SCBA officers, the Advisory Committee, the Program Committee, the Local Organizing Committee, the Session Chairs, and the many volunteers, supporters and donors have worked hard to put together an outstanding meeting with more than 12 plenary and 80 symposium sessions. The names of many of our committee members can be found at the following link <http://www.scbameeting2011.org/a25339.aspx>. To each of them and to our local organizers (headed by Mengfeng Li of Sun Yat-Sen University and his assistant Lucia Liu), I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude. I also want to point out that for the first time our partner society, the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) is holding a small focused meeting on Virology in Guangzhou with us <http://www.asbmb.org/ASBMBMeetings/SpecialSymposia/SympoHome.aspx>; and that another notable feature of our meeting this time is a special session that will feature leading publishers and editors including *Cell* (Emilie Marcus), *Nature* (Veronique Kiermer), the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* (Marty Fedor), *Science* (Richard Stone), *Biomed Central* (Michaela Torkar), *ISI-Thomson Reuters* (David Liu) and others. I think many of you will want to attend and participate in this interesting and instructive forum. At the Guangzhou meeting, we will also be announcing the election results for the new SCBA officers, councilors and committee

members.

Attending meetings and planning conferences are parts of the life of a scientist. However, the most important components of being a scientist are to do science well and to mentor younger colleagues in the proper and ethical conduct of pursuing research. In my role of editor-in-chief of *Retrovirology* (www.Retrovirology.com), I was recently apprised of two cases of alleged scientific misconduct regarding papers that were published in the journal. The pursuit of science is an uncertain venture in which honest mistakes invariably occur even to the very best and those most well intentioned. Occasionally, some scientists step beyond the boundaries of innocent mistakes, and studies suggest those few individuals come from all walks, all races and genders (see e.g. an article published in the *Economist* <http://www.economist.com/node/13776974>). Today, our community is commonly recognized as having some of the most innovative, hardworking, and productive researchers who I believe are also highly ethical. We must vigilantly strive to ensure that ours remain one of the most stringently ethical communities of colleagues. I hope to hear your advice and input on this and other topics of importance when I meet you at our upcoming biennial meeting in Guangzhou.



Respectfully yours,
Kuan-Teh Jeang, M.D., Ph.D.
SCBA President (2010-2011)



SCBA Journal

Dear Fellow SCBA Members,

In January of 2011, SCBA officially launched our own online, open access journal, *Cell & Bioscience*.

I am happy to share with you the excellent progresses of the journal. PubMed Central has accepted our journal. During this quarter, there are 10 articles published. If we continue at this pace, we will be able to submit the journal to Thomson Reuters (ISI, Institute for Scientific Information, which provides Impact Factor) for inclusion there later this year.

The publications in this quarter are listed below.



Editor-in-Chief

Yun-Bo Shi, NICHD, NIH, United States of America

Cell & Bioscience, the official journal of the Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America, is an open access, peer-reviewed journal that encompasses all areas of life science research.

- online submission
- unlimited space for figures, extensive data and video footage
- fair, thorough peer review
- immediate publication on acceptance
- open access and so freely available online
- included in PubMed - making your work easy to find, read and cite.



Akhtar W, Veenstra GC. **TBP-related factors: A paradigm of diversity in transcription initiation.** *Cell & Bioscience* 2011, 1:22 (14 June 2011)

Lau SKP, Fan RYY, Ho TCC, Wong GKM, Tsang AKL, Teng JLL, Chen W, Watt RM et al. **Environmental adaptability and stress tolerance of *Laribacter hongkongensis*: a genome-wide analysis.** *Cell & Bioscience* 2011, 1:22 (14 June 2011)

Kiang JG, Agravante NG, Smith JT and Bowman PD. **17-DMAG diminishes hemorrhage-induced small intestine injury by elevating Bcl-2 protein and inhibiting iNOS pathway, TNF-alpha increase, and caspase-3 activation.** *Cell & Bioscience* 2011, 1:21 (3 June 2011)

Kushwah R and Hu J. **Role of dendritic cells in the induction of regulatory T cells.** *Cell & Bioscience* 2011, 1:20 (24 May 2011)

Yu JX and Li TH. **Distinct biological effects of different nanoparticles commonly used in cosmetics and medicine**

coatings. *Cell & Bioscience* 2011, 1:19 (19 May 2011)

Qu Z, Sun D and Young W. **Lithium promotes neural precursor cell proliferation: evidence for the involvement of the non-canonical GSK-3 β -NF-AT signaling.** *Cell & Bioscience* 2011, 1:18 (3 May 2011)

Lau SKP, Wong GKM, Tsang AKL, Teng JLL, Fan RYY, Tse H, Yuen KY and Woo PCY. **Virulence determinants, drug resistance and mobile genetic elements of *Laribacter hongkongensis*: a genome-wide analysis.** *Cell & Bioscience* 2011, 1:17 (19 April 2011)

Curreem SO, Teng JL, Tse H, Yuen KY, Lau SK and Woo PC. **General metabolism of *Laribacter hongkongensis*: a genome-wide analysis.** *Cell & Bioscience* 2011, 1:16 (19 April 2011)

Wu L, Lam S, Cao H, Guan R, Duan R, van der Kooy D, Bremner R, Molday RS et al. **Subretinal gene delivery using helper-dependent adenoviral vectors.** *Cell & Bioscience* 2011, 1:15 (4 April 2011)

Wang H, Lafdil F, Wang L, Yin S, Feng D and Gao B. **Tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinase (TIMP-1) deficiency exacerbates carbon tetrachloride-induced liver injury and fibrosis in mice: involvement of hepatocyte STAT3 in TIMP-1 production.** *Cell & Bioscience* 2011, 1:14 (4 April 2011)

While we are doing very well, having a steady stream of good papers submitted is essential for our success. Thus, I would like to ask you to submit and encourage others to submit papers to the journal.

Thanks for your support.



Yun-Bo Shi, Ph.D.
Editor-in-Chief

AN UPDATE FOR
UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM IN

The 13th SCBA International Symposium
Guangzhou, China
July 25-29, 2011

The opening of 2011 SCBA International Symposium is rapidly approaching in one month. Currently, the preparation work is on pace, with the joint efforts of SCBA and Sun Yat-sen University.

As of this writing, 2011 SCBA International Symposium has already received over 900 on-line registrations, including over 400 international and domestic speakers. And 400 abstracts or so have been submitted to the organizing committee by the invited speakers. Four hundred outstanding colleagues have committed to speak in 85 symposium sessions. The Awards Committee has nominated 80 awardees for Ming K. Jeang scholarship Award and 5 awardees for Chin-Min Hsiang Education Foundation Travel Award.

At the warm invitation from SCBA, Michael Karin, Robert Webster, Davor Solter, David Ho, Shu Chien, Bai Lu, Yingzi Yang and Mien-Chien Hung have committed to deliver plenary presentations at the meeting. Emilie Marcus (Editor-in-Chief, Cell), Marty Fedor (Editor-in-Chief, the JBC), Veronique Kiermer (Nature Executive Editor) also have confirmed their attendance.

The presence of many well-established scientists with international renown will significantly elevate the visibility of the meeting to an at-large audience and should attract the participation of younger researchers and students who would benefit from the opportunity to learn from these knowledgeable and influential investigators.

As a co-organizer, Sun Yat-sen University has been busy working on the preparation for the Symposium. In the coming days, the Committee Secretariat will be focusing on designing materials for the conference affairs, arranging layout of the conference rooms, assisting participants for room reservation, planning social programs and so on. Thirty outstanding student-volunteers from Zhongshan School of Medicine, Sun Yat-sen University have been called on and to get ready for serving at the Symposium. We are trying our best to ensure all the participants will enjoy a brilliant and outstanding meeting. Here in Guangzhou China, we are looking forward to your participation in the 13th SCBA Symposium.



Lucia Xiaoxiao Liu
Local Coordinator of the SCBA 2011 Symposium
Sun Yat-sen University
Guangzhou, China



Mengfeng Li, M.D., Ph.D.
Vice President, Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU)
Cheong-Kung Professor and Dean, SYSU Zhongshan School
of Medicine
Guangzhou, P. R. China
Head, SCBA Local Organizing Committee
Conference co-chair, 13th SCBA International Symposium
Email: limf@mail.sysu.edu.cn



NOTES FROM OUR CO-EXECUTIVE

New Members' Welcome!

The Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America (SCBA) is the largest professional society for elite Chinese bioscientists all over the world. Our SCBA network continues to expand and we encourage everyone to ask colleagues to join and share the many resources and opportunities at SCBA. We would like to give a warm welcome to our newest members:

- Dr. Howard Y. Chang**, Department of Dermatology, Stanford University, Stanford, California, USA
- Dr. Ching-Hsien Chen**, Department of Life Science, National Chung-Hsing University, Taichung, Taiwan
- Dr. I-Chien Chen**, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, USA
- Dr. Kun-Ming Chen**, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Penn State, Hershey, Pennsylvania, USA
- Dr. Yin-Ju Chen**, Chang Gung University, Tao-Yuan, Taiwan
- Dr. Zhenbin Chen**, City of Hope, Duarte, California, USA
- Dr. Ann-Joy Cheng**, Chang Gung University, Tao-Yuan, Taiwan
- Dr. Kai-Ming Chou**, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Indiana University of Medicine, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA
- Dr. Yan Dai**, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
- Dr. Hong Du**, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA
- Dr. Yuxin Fan**, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, USA

Dr. Peiwen Fei, Mayo Clinic Cancer Center, Rochester, Minnesota, USA

Dr. Sidney W. Fu, George Washington University, Washington, DC, USA

Dr. Chao Guo, City of Hope, Duarte, California, USA

Dr. Xin Guo, Bio-Rad Laboratories, Hercules, California, USA

Dr. Nan Jiang, Department of Pediatrics, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Dr. Wenliang Li, University of Texas-Health Science Center at Houston, Houston, Texas, USA

Dr. Yi Li, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, USA

Dr. Sheng-Yi Lin, Taiwan

Dr. Leyuan Liu, Institute of Bioscience and Technology, Texas A&M Health Service Science Center, Houston, Texas, USA

Dr. Biao Luo, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

Dr. Li Ma, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas, USA

Dr. Wenxue Ma, University of California San Diego, San Diego, USA

Dr. Yuandong Peng, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, USA

Dr. Qing-Bai She, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, USA

Dr. Qiang Shen, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas, USA

Dr. Yuan-Wan Sun, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Penn State, Hershey, Pennsylvania, USA

Dr. Bin Wang, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas, USA

Dr. Chi-Chung Wang, Fu Jen Catholic University, New Taipei City, Taiwan

Dr. Li Wang, Department of Oncological Sciences, University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

Dr. Cong Yan, Indiana University of School of Medicine, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA

Dr. M. James You, Department of Hematopathology, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas, USA

Dr. Weiping Zou, Department of Surgery, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA

Dr. Johnny J. He, Center for AIDS Research, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA



Sincerely,
T.-C. Wu, M.D., Ph.D.
SCBA Co-Executive Director (2010-2011)



Dear SCBA members,

There are two society-related activities that I would like to draw your attention.

- 1) The election for the next SCBA leadership is completed. Election results will be announced in the upcoming International Symposium and published in the September issue of SCBA Newsletters.
- 2) As you are aware, goal of the eCommunication is to provide an additional channel, besides the SCBA Newsletter and Website, to communicate directly with SCBA members. Our hope is to keep SCBA members informed in a relative timely fashion on the breadth and depth of the SCBA-related activities, current and future events as well as SCBA member highlights. Thus if you have press-worthy news and wish to share with the entire society, please send it to scba2u@gmail.com. If you will have any questions or suggestions on the SCBA operations, both TC Wu and I would also like to hear it from you. Thank you.



Warm regards,
Richard Y. Zhao, Ph.D.
SCBA Executive Co-Director (2010-2011)



LOCAL CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

From SCBA Baltimore-Washington-DC Chapter

Wanjun Chen (NIDCR, NIH) and Kai Ge (NIDDK, NIH) were recently tenured at NIH.

Richard Zhao was recently promoted to tenured full Professor and elected as President of the University Senate at the University of Maryland.

Paul Liu was recently appointed Deputy scientific director for National Human Genome Research Institute, NIH.

Congratulations to all of them!



Bin Gao, M.D., Ph.D.
Chapter President, 2011



From SCBA Texas Chapter

2011 Annual Symposium Report - A Wonderful Year For SCBA-Texas Chapter

The Texas Chapter of SCBA ended another exciting and successful year by hosting an Annual Symposium at Baylor College of Medicine on Saturday, April 23, 2011. The symposium was organized by the year-2010-2011 chapter officials, Drs. Jianming Xu (President), Jinsong Liu (President-elect), Ba-Bie Teng (Treasurer), and Leyuan Liu (Secretary), with the help of many volunteers. More than 60 faculty members and 100 graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and other research scientists from the Houston and other areas around Texas attended this one-day event. The symposium consisted of four major sessions: plenary presentation, SCBA-Texas Achievement Award lecture, oral presentation from students and postdoctoral fellows, and the Keynote Lecture and The Wang Ying-Lai Memorial Lecture delivered by Dr. Wanjun Chen from National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), National Institutes of Health. The symposium was concluded by the announcement of oral presentation and the Alexander Yeu-Ming Wang Memorial Scholarship winners.

The plenary session featured five speakers from various Texas institutions as outlined below:

Dr. Junjie Chen, UT M. D. Anderson Cancer Center,

Title: DNA damage signaling and DNA repair;

Dr. Rong Li, UT Health Science Center at San Antonio,

Title: Pausing for thought: biology of an RNA polymerase-pausing factor;

Dr. Meng Wang, Baylor College of Medicine,

Title: Aging gracefully with a lean body, lessons learned from genetics of *Caenorhabditis elegans*;

Dr. Yang Xia, UT Medical School at Houston,

Title: Detrimental effects of adenosine signaling in sickle cell disease and novel therapeutics

Dr. Yingzi Cong, University of Texas Medical Branch,

Title: Microbiota regulation of inflammatory bowel diseases

After the plenary session, Dr. Lawrence Chan introduced this year's SCBA-TX Achievement Award recipient, Dr. Wah Chiu from Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Chiu was honored for his outstanding scientific achievements and his persistent dedication and contribution to the SCBA at the local and international levels. Dr. Chiu delivered his lecture, titled "Cryo-EM for molecular machines and cells", and received a standing ovation.

The afternoon event began with the oral presentation, held in six concurrent groups and judged by faculty members. Twelve finalists were selected from the 1st round competition, and were further ranked based on a two-minute presentation without visual aid. In the end, nine received the third prize. One was awarded the second prize. One was awarded the first prize. The top place winner, Ms. Yi Zhang, a graduate student from Baylor College of Medicine, received the Professor Alexander Yeu-Ming Wang Memorial Scholarship.

The final event of the symposium was the Keynote Lecture and Wang Ying-Lai Memorial Lecture. Dr. Wanjun Chen, an investigator of National Institutes of Health, delivered an inspiring lecture entitled "TGF-beta control of regulatory T cells in immune responses and autoimmunity".

During the symposium the SCBA Texas Chapter also elected Dr. Yi Li from Baylor College of Medicine as the President-elect, Dr. Jianping Jin from University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston as the Treasurer, and Dr. Jiang Chang from Texas A&M Health Science Center Institute of Biosciences and Technology as the Secretary. Together with the new president Dr. Jingson Liu, they form the SCBA-TX Chapter committee for the year 2011-2012.

Owing to the active participation of our faculty and the trainees, the SCBA Texas Chapter remains one of the most vibrant chapters of the SCBA. In addition to the Annual Symposium, the chapter organizes a bi-weekly Faculty Club on Friday evenings at the Texas A&M Health Science Center Institute of Bioscience and Technology. The Faculty Club

was established eight years ago, and has been providing a platform for the local SCBA-TX members to exchange research ideas and foster collaborations.

For the first time, the SCBA-TX Chapter, Luzhou Medical College, Sichuan Biotechnology Council and Association of International Science Cooperation in Sichuan have successfully co-organized the Texas-Sichuan Biomedical Research Symposium in Chengdu, China from October 24-27, 2010. Twenty-five faculty members from the SCBA-TX Chapter and many local and invited scientists in China presented very impressive lectures in this international meeting with about 250 audiences.

On a final note, we thank SCBA for the continuous support to our Chapter and we look forward to another productive and exciting year.



Jianming Xu (Baylor College of Medicine)
Jinsong Liu (UT MD Anderson Cancer Center)
Ba-Bie Teng (UT Health Science Center at Houston)
Leyuan Liu (IBT, TX A&M Health Science Center)



AACP Welcomes New Vice President for Research and Graduate Education

AACP is pleased to announce that [Dr. Vincent Lau](#) will join AACP as the new vice president for research and graduate education and chief science officer. Lau comes to us from the University of Houston where he is the John and Rebecca Moores Professor in the Department of Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences. He received a B.S. in biology from the University of Hawaii, Honolulu; as well as an M.S. and Ph.D. in pharmacology from the University of Hawaii, Honolulu. He completed his post-doctoral work in pharmacology at the University of Michigan. He'll begin his new role at AACP around July 1. He can be reached at vlau@aacp.org.

Dr. Yuen-Sum (Vincent) Lau is a Life Regular member of SCBA since 1985 and Regional President (Nebraska and Missouri), 1985-2005.



AWARDS

Kuan-Teh Jeang, M.D., Ph.D.



[SCBA President Kuan-Teh Jeang, MD; PhD (left) received the award from Dr. Ali Bazerbachi, Award Committee Chair]

MEMBERS' NEWS

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy **AACP** E-LERT April 18, 2011
Discover · Learn · Care: Improve Health
Academic Pharmacy's Online Resource for the Latest News and Information

Yen Li, Ph.D

Dr. Kuan-Teh Jeang (Editor-in-Chief, *Retrovirology*), current SCBA President, received the International Retrovirology Association's (IRA) Dale McFarlin Memorial Award. This Award is the leading recognition of the Association, which honors the memory of Dale McFarlin, M.D. who was the Chief of the Neuroimmunology Branch at the National Institutes of Neurological Diseases and Stroke. Previous winners of the McFarlin Award have included the following individuals: Robert C. Gallo, Kiyoshi Takatsuki, William Hall, Steve Jacobson and Toshiki Watanabe.



(Dr. Yen Li, the second from the right)

Dr. Yen Li received 2011 American Success Award from Foreign-Born Information and Referral Network (FIRN) for his outstanding community service. Dr. Li received his Ph.D. from New York State University at Stony Brook. He currently is a Program Officer at NIH. FIRN is a nonprofit organization in Howard County, Maryland that empowers immigrants, refugees, asylees and other foreign-born individuals by helping them to access community resources and opportunities.

David Da-I Ho, M.D.

Dr. David Ho, founding scientific director and CEO of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center, received the inaugural Lotus Leadership Award from the Asia Foundation for his contributions to the health and well-being of Chinese women and children. Dr. Ho revolutionized the world's understanding of HIV/AIDS; his groundbreaking research and advocacy catalyzed landmark treatment and prevention programs in China and has saved countless lives.

The Asia Foundation is the premier non-profit, non-governmental organization working to promote reform, development, equality, and prosperity in Asia. It has committed to the development of a peaceful, prosperous, just, and open Asia-Pacific region. The Foundation supports Asian initiatives to improve governance, law, and civil society; women's empowerment; economic reform and development; sustainable development and the environment; and international relations. Drawing on nearly 60 years of experience in Asia, the Foundation collaborates with private and public partners to support leadership and institutional development, exchanges, and policy research. With 18 offices throughout Asia, an office in Washington, DC, and its headquarters in San Francisco, the Foundation addresses these issues on both a country and regional level. In 2010, the Foundation provided more than \$98 million in program support and distributed nearly one million books and journals valued at over \$42 million.

MEET OUR MEMBERS

In this issue, Dr. Juliann G. Kiang has privileges to e-interview two highly accomplished members Dr. Nancy Ip and Dr. Yun-Bo Shi. The interviews are recorded below.

Dr. Nancy Ip is Dean of Science, Chair Professor in the Division of Life Science and Director of the State Key Laboratory of Molecular Neuroscience at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST).



Kiang: Thank you very much for accepting my interview. My first question is this. Where did you go to school and who were your mentors?

Ip: I was born and raised in Hong Kong. I attended the St. Mary's Canossian College for both my primary and secondary education before furthering my studies in the US. After obtaining my BSc degree majoring in both chemistry and biology at Simmons College in Boston, I went on to receive my PhD training in pharmacology at Harvard Medical School.

Throughout my scientific career, I have been very fortunate to have the support of outstanding mentors. These range from my high school biology teacher at St. Mary's to distinguished scientists I worked with during my graduate and post-doctoral training. My mentors have provided me with encouragement and invaluable guidance. For example, my high school biology teacher taught me that science is an inquiry-driven process of learning and discovery, while my mentors at Simmons College, Harvard Medical School, and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals have been great teachers and role models, inspiring me to fulfill my scientific aspirations. One major role model in my research field is Dr. Rita Levi-Montalcini, an eminent neuroscientist and Nobel laureate who excelled in the face of insurmountable odds. During the early stage of her career, without any funding and in the midst of war, she set up a home laboratory to continue her research on the growth of nerve fibers in chicken embryos. In fact, these groundbreaking studies laid the foundation for her future work that shaped the understanding of neurogenesis.

Kiang: Where are you working now and what do you enjoy the most about doing science and about teaching students?

Ip: I currently serve as the Dean of Science, Chair Professor in the Division of Life Science and Director of the State Key Laboratory of Molecular Neuroscience at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST).

I joined HKUST in 1993, and this year marks the 20th anniversary of HKUST which has provided me with a rich environment conducive for my research. My strong sense of curiosity and the pure joy of learning and discovery has been the driving force that sparked my scientific career. This joy continues today and I have a great passion for unraveling new clues in an area I am most passionate about – neuroscience. The brain is the most complex organ in our body and its network is highly sophisticated and very complicated. I am interested in understanding the manner by which connections within the brain are formed and how brain cells communicate with each other, and how the brain transforms external sensory experiences into memories. Disrupting the precise and concerted processes result in different neurological disease, which we currently have very little understanding of.

I have focused my work on neuronal signal transduction and neurotrophic factors and some of my research highlights include the identification of novel neurotrophic factors and the elucidation of their roles in activating specific receptor molecules on nerve cells. We also aim to uncover the pathophysiological mechanisms underlying brain diseases so as to develop effective treatments. Our findings have

underscored the importance of neurotrophic factors as potential pharmaceutical agents in the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease.

I enjoy teaching. It is very fulfilling to see the enthusiasm and excitement of my students when I introduce great discoveries or new perspectives to them. Teaching is one of those rare professions that keep your brain young, allowing you to continue your own journey as a lifelong learner. In the process of teaching, not only do I get to expand my students' knowledge, but I get to learn from them as well. It also gives me a lot of joy when former students visit me and share with me how my advice made an impact on their lives and career development.

I often encourage my students to engage in critical thinking and emphasize to them the importance of scientific integrity and good scientific practice. Furthermore, one cause that is close to my heart is to encourage more women to pursue career in the sciences. Studies have shown that support and encouragement during these important years can provide young women with the courage and confidence to pursue their dreams. If they have the passion and drive, they should not let anything hold them back.

Kiang: Can you list for us two or three of your "best" papers?

Ip: We have 3 good papers.

- Fu AKY, Fu WY, Cheung J, Tsim KWK, Ip FCF, Wang JH and Ip NY (2001). Cdk5 is involved in neuregulin-induced acetylcholine receptor expression at the neuromuscular junction. *Nature Neuroscience*. 4:374-381.

As the first *Nature Neuroscience* paper published in China, this paper provides the first hint on the critical role of an important brain kinase Cdk5 in the regulation of synapse development, and opens up a new avenue to study the synaptic roles of this kinase.

- Fu WY, Chen Y, Sahin M, Zhao XS, Shi L, Bikoff JB, Lai KO, Yung WH, Fu AKY, Greenberg ME and Ip, NY (2007). Cdk5 regulates EphA4-mediated dendritic spine retraction through an ephexin1-dependent mechanism. *Nat Neurosci* 10: 67-76.

This paper defines the molecular mechanisms by which a receptor protein EphA4 regulates brain plasticity, which laid the foundation for my more recent work on the involvement of EphA4-dependent signaling in homeostatic plasticity and cognitive functions.

- Ip NY, Nye SH, Boulton TG, Davis S, Taga T, Li Y, Birren SJ, Yasukawa K, Kishimoto T, Anderson DJ, Stahl

N and Yancopoulos GD (1992). CNTF and LIF act on neuronal cells via shared signalling pathways that involve the IL-6 signal transducing receptor component gp130. *Cell* 69:1121-1132.

This paper reported the seminal discovery that growth factors CNTF and LIF in the nervous system utilize the same receptor component gp130 that is shared by the cytokine IL-6, revealing an important link between the neural and immune systems.

Kiang: Outside of science, what are you the most proud of?

Ip: When I first returned to Hong Kong in 1993, the city did not have a thriving research culture. Hong Kong is known as a financial center rather than a hub for cutting-edge scientific research and development. While I focused on my research and administrative duties, I was also very passionate about contributing to the development of a bioscience hub in Hong Kong.

For example, under my helm as Director of the Biotechnology Research Institute at the University, we first established a multi-faceted state-of-the-art drug discovery technology platform to drive local biomedical research towards a higher standard of excellence. Numerous prominent academic and industrial collaborations were also forged to enhance the scope and quality of our research in molecular neuroscience as well as drug discovery. Thus, in the past decade, we have harnessed the unique characteristics of traditional Chinese medicine in our quest to develop effective neuro-drugs, and have identified promising therapeutic compounds which are being subjected to efficacy testing in cellular and animal model systems.

With the invaluable contributions and support of committed colleagues and team members to consolidate expertise and research initiatives in molecular neuroscience, our vision of a thriving research hub in Hong Kong has begun to see fruition. This has been an enormous achievement as it allows us to undertake exciting new initiatives in molecular neuroscience and drug discovery. Furthermore, China's Ministry of Science and Technology recently approved the establishment of the State Key Laboratory (SKL) of Molecular Neuroscience at HKUST. The establishment of a State Key Laboratory helps consolidate the university's presence in the global research arena and anchors its role in spearheading international collaborations in neuroscience research abroad while promoting scientific development locally. It has been immensely gratifying to be a part of the pioneering team of researchers involved in establishing Hong Kong as a world class hub for molecular neuroscience research.

Kiang: You have an opportunity to speak to the Young SCBA members --- in approximately 100 words what do you think is the most important point that you'd like to say?

Ip: Science is a demanding profession that requires years of study and tremendous dedication. The journey of a scientist can be inspiring and exhilarating, filled with exciting

discoveries and opportunities. It is a profession driven by passion rather than financial rewards. However, the rewards are immensely gratifying since the objectives are directed towards improving lives and enhancing healthcare. Even with the technological advances of today, there are diseases and ailments that continue to defy current medical knowledge. Thus, despite setbacks, one needs to stay motivated to continue the pursuit of our passion. The future of our world lies with its scientists.

Kiang: Thank you very much for your time. Your views will be greatly beneficial to our members.

Chuang: Thank you for having me.



Dr. Yun-Bo Shi is Head, Unit of Molecular Morphogenesis, Lab. of Molecular Embryology, NICHD/NIH, Bethesda, Maryland, U.S.A.



Kiang: Thank you for accepting my interview. My first question is this. Where did you go to school and who were your mentors?

Shi: I received my B. S. degree in chemistry from Wuhan University, China, in 1982 and Ph. D. degree in biophysical chemistry under Prof. John. E. Hearst from University of California, Berkeley, CA, in 1988. I obtained my postdoctoral training under Dr. Donald. D. Brown at Carnegie Institution from 1988-1992.

Kiang: Where are you working now and what do you enjoy the most about doing science and about teaching students?

Shi: Since 1992, I have been running a research group at NICHD, NIH. My research is mainly focused on the function and mechanisms of gene regulation by thyroid hormone during vertebrate development by using *Xenopus laevis* metamorphosis as model. What I really enjoy is having the freedom and flexibility to pursue what I am interested. I also like the opportunity to interact with other scientists in diverse fields and locations through conferences and collaborations, etc.

NIH does not have an undergraduate or graduate program. We do not have regular teaching duty, although I have taught

a few lectures for the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences (FAES), which offers a number of courses at both the graduate and undergraduate levels at NIH. Most of my interactions with students have been with high school and college students working in the lab during the summer. It is a real pleasure to see how they learn and enjoy working in the lab. The students typically learn quickly and contribute significantly to our research.

Kiang: Can you list for us two or three of your "best" papers?

Shi: We have 3 good ones.

- Su, Y., Shi, Y., Stolow, M. A., and Shi, Y.-B. (1997) Thyroid hormone induces apoptosis in primary cell cultures of tadpole intestine: Cell type specificity and effects of extracellular matrix. *J Cell Biol* 139, 1533-1543.
- Buchholz, D. R., Tomita, A., Fu, L., Paul, B. D., and Shi, Y.-B. (2004) Transgenic analysis reveals that thyroid hormone receptor is sufficient to mediate the thyroid hormone signal in frog metamorphosis. *Mol Cell Biol* 24, 9026-9037.
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Kiang: Outside of science, what are you the most proud of?

Shi: The first is my family. My wife, Theresa, and I have been married happily for over 20 years and we have two lovely kids, Caitlin, 12 years old, and Ethan, 10 years old. The second is to get involved in various services in the scientific communities. I am currently the SCBA treasurer. Prior to becoming the EIC for Cell and Bioscience, I was an Editor, for over 13 years, of Cell Research, a journal sponsored by Shanghai Institute of Biochemistry and Cell Biology (SIBCB), Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences (SIBS), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), and jointly published with Nature Publishing Group (NPG).

Kiang: Now, our society has its official journal, *Cell & Bioscience*, in which you are EIC. Why do you think it is important to our society?

Shi: Unlike many other professional societies, SCBA is not based on a specific discipline of science that can facilitate member interactions. Having a society journal will offer another venue for members to interact and network with each other across various disciplines and another reason to be associated with the society. A successful society journal will also help increase SCBA's visibility and provide a source of revenue. With tremendous support from many SCBA members, the journal has a very good start. I would like to encourage everyone to check out our recent publications and submit his/her manuscripts to the journal at <http://www.cellandbioscience.com/>. I sincerely believe that

by working together, we will succeed in establishing a first class biomedical journal, which I am sure will benefit us all. Please note that the journal has been accepted and indexed by PubMed, which is a big step for our journal.

Kiang: You have an opportunity to speak to the SCBA members --- in 100 words or less what do you think is the most important point that you'd like to say?

Shi: Everyone has a different experience. Based on my own, I think that it is important to be interested in what you do and to try the best you can. Additionally, networking is critical. Getting involved in the activities of various scientific communities such as SCBA is an important way to network. While there may be no immediate personal benefit from such volunteer work, by working together, we can help each other and achieve what we individually may not.

Kiang: Thank you very much for your time.

Shi: My great honor to be here.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

We have not received any feedbacks from you. Therefore, we would not have any letters to be included in this section. We sincerely look forward having your comments on our Newsletters.

Editor
AFRRI/USU
Bethesda, MD



The Secretary's Corner --- Juliann G. Kiang

**Greetings to
my fellow
scientists!**



Three significant events are covered in this issue of the SCBA Newsletter. First, the SCBA announced its newly inaugurated journal, *Cell and Bioscience*, managed by BMC, has published 10 articles between April and June, 2011. The

journal is included by PubMed Central. We encourage our members continuing to submit manuscripts to support the journal. Second, the issue updates members with the status of preparations for the 2011 SCBA International Conference (Guangzhou, China, July 25-29, 2011) in a report by local conference coordinator, Ms. **Lucia Xiaoxiao Liu** and Dr. **Mengfeng Li**. The date of the conference is approaching. Third, our members received significant awards.

As usual, this issue also includes the President's letter from Dr. **Kuan-Teh Jeang** and updates from Editor-in-Chief **Yunbo Shi** and Membership co-Executive Director **TC Wu**. It also includes a communication from co-Executive Director **Richard Zhao** and coverage of the president of the Great Washington-Baltimore Chapter and the annual symposium held by the Texas Chapter from Dr. **Jianming Xu**.

In the "MEET OUR MEMBERS" section, a forum where members share their views on research careers/professions, we interviewed SCBA senior members, **Dr. Nancy Ip** at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong, and **Dr. Yun-Bo Shi** at NICHD/NIH, Bethesda, MD, U.S.A. Their views will prove helpful to our members developing their research careers.

In the "AWARDS" section, where we recognize achievements of our members, we proudly announce that Dr. **Kuan-Teh Jeang** was a recipient of the "Dale McFarlin Memorial Award"; Dr. **David Da-I Ho** was a recipient of the "Lotus Leadership Award"; and Dr. **Yen Li** received the "American Success Award".

The election results for next SCBA leadership will be announced in the 13th International Symposium. We all are excited and look forward to that moment.

In "LETTERS TO THE EDITOR", it is disappointing that we had received no reader feedbacks from the materials put in the March issue. We greatly appreciate reader feedback as a way of promoting open discussion of issues and sharing experiences, and we strongly encourage member participation.

In this issue, we remain the section of "NEWS FROM MEMBERS". **Dr. Vincent Lau** announced his new position. The section of "ESSAY FROM MEMBERS" is void. I sincerely invite members to submit any information of interest to the Society membership for inclusion in future issues—awards and honors, people leaving and gaining positions, upcoming events, essays on topics of special interest, articles published in *Cell and Bioscience*, ideas to promote the growth and well-being of the Society, and information of request of proposal applications.

Please take the time to read through the Advertisements section of the Newsletter for job opportunities, products, and services that might meet your needs. Advertising helps ensure publication of the Newsletter so your patronage of our

advertisers is very much appreciated.

I remind members that they can also share their thoughts and information items at the Society blog and Facebook page.

<http://blog.scbasociety.org>
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Society-of-Chinese-Bioscientists-in-America-SCBA/103698126329871>

Finally, I would like to encourage you to donate your money for our 2011 International Conference. The list of donors can be found in <http://www.scbasociety.org/Donors/Donors.html> and the "ACKNOWLEDGMENTS" section.

I wish you all a Happy Summer.

Juliann G. Kiang, Ph.D.
 SCBA Secretary (2010-2011)



Your Day

Finish each day and be done with it.
 You have done what you could.
 Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in;
 Forget them as soon as you can.
 Tomorrow is a new day;
 Begin it well and serenely and with too high a spirit
 To be cumbered with your old nonsense.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson -



SCBA Newsletter is an official quarterly publication of the Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America. For more information, please visit SCBA website:
<http://www.SCBAsociety.org/>

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Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America
The 13th International Symposium



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第十三屆國際學術討論會



Guangzhou, China . July 25-29, 2011 廣州, 中國 二零一一年七月二十五 - 二十九日

Please visit our meeting website: <http://www.scbameeting2011.org/> for details
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SCBA and the Organizers of the 13th International Symposium greatly acknowledge the following organizations, foundations and individuals for their generous financial supports.

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1st Announcement

The Second Xiamen Winter Symposium

February 24 -26, 2012

Calling for Poster Submission MAJOR INFECTIOUS VIRAL DISEASES IN ASIA

The second Xiamen Winter Symposium is jointly organised by Xiamen University, Tsinghua University, the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School. Xiamen is one of the most beautiful coastal cities in Southern China and has a pleasant weather in the winter months. The symposium will be held at the new conference centre, Xiamen University. With this and other following symposia in Xiamen, the organizers hope to provide a popular, non-profit meeting platform for biologists in Asia and beyond.

Deadline for submission is Jan 10th, 2012. There will be a post conference tour of Nanjin Tulou, a famous World Heritage Site. Details on abstract submission and registration are available

Tentative program

Hepatitis B & E
Dengue Virus
EV 71
HPV
Platforms for Vaccine Development

Scientific organizing committee

James Wai Kuo Shih (*Xiamen*) Chair
Choy Leong Hew (*NUS*) Co Chair

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Keynote Speakers (confirmed)

Ding-Shinn Chen (*National Taiwan*)
Kenrad E. Nelson (*Johns Hopkins*)

Speakers (confirmed)

Xiaoyan Che (*Southern Medical, China*)
Pei-Jer Chen (*National Taiwan*)
Suzanne U. Emerson (*NIH, USA*)
Tongming Fu (*Merck & Co*)
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