



美洲華人生物科學學會



Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America

June, 2008

NEWSLETTER

Volume 23 Issue 2

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK.....

June, 2008

Dear SCBA Members:

SCBA was founded in 1984 by a group of concerned and enthusiastic scientists who foresaw the necessity of forming a society to promote the cause of a growing number of bioscientists of Chinese origin in America. The year 2009 marks the 25th Anniversary of SCBA. Over the years, SCBA has matured considerably and has grown in breath as well as in depth. It has become a major scientific society for promoting many facets of biosciences. The Society, with over 30 local chapters, has provided a major forum for scientific exchange and professional dialogues. I wish to thank all the past Presidents for their foresights and efforts in shaping the Society as a major scientific forum among Chinese bioscientists throughout the world. For this reason, I wish to announce that the Biennial Meeting, which will take place in Taipei on June 15-18, 2009, will not only feature outstanding scientific programs, but also be a Gala event to celebrate our past achievements and to honor our past Presidents.

I am pleased to announce that during the past year, officers of the Society have been working diligently in planning a number of events to mark this occasion. First of all, I wish to thank the Local Host Committee, chaired by Drs. Andrew Wang (Academia Sinica) and I. K. Ho (National Health Research Institute) for their leadership in assembling an outstanding team for planning the logistics of the meeting. I wish to especially thank Dr. Ming-Daw Tsai (Institute of Biological Chemistry, Academia Sinica) to take on the daily supervision of a very capable team of volunteers who are noted for their attention to details. Special thanks are due to Academia Sinica for providing an excellent and modern meeting site for our meeting. In addition, I wish to acknowledge the Program Committee, chaired by Drs. Mien-Chie Hung (University of Texas, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center) and Lin Mei (Medical College of Georgia), who have already assembled a strong team and programmed a total of 35 thematic topics, with approximately 165 presentations covering a wide range of topics of current interests. We also will have a number of prominent keynote speakers to lecture on major developments in bioscience. These topics cover the latest development in molecular and

biomedical sciences, bioengineering, entrepreneurship, and educational issues. Special funding has been acquired for encouraging young and aspiring bioscientists to attend this meeting as they are our future discoverers.

I wish to recognize our officers, including Drs. Joseph Li (Executive Director) who has provided daily liaison among the various teams, Dihua Yu (Treasurer) who has made certain that we remain fiscally sound, and Chris Lau (Secretary) who maintains our communication lines as well as the Newsletter. It has been a tremendous pleasure working with such a capable team.

Finally, thanks are also due to all members who responded the call for session proposals. It is not too late to begin to think about individuals you wish to nominate for two of the most prestigious SCBA awards—the Presidential Award and the Junior Investigator Award. Please refer to this News Letter for information, qualifications, and procedures for nominations. I encourage all of you to follow the webpage (www.SCBA Society.org) for the latest announcements regarding our activities and meeting planning.



With best wishes,

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

RobertYu@scbasociety.org



A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear SCBA Members,

Updated summary of the 12th SCBA International Symposium, June 15-18, 2009 in Taipei, Taiwan

Total meeting sessions: 32- 35

A total of 25 workshop proposals have been submitted to Joseph Li & Chris Lau and these had been sent to co-chairs and members of the Scientific Program Committee for their evaluation on July 2, 2008.

1. Each day will begin with a keynote plenary presentation (preferably Nobel Laureates or Academy members) and they will be supported financially by both the Academia Sinica and NHRI.

Following the keynote plenary presentation, a special lecture will be given. Special lectures are Tsai-Fan Yu Legacy Lecture Samuel Waxman (Presented by Hua Yu) & Ray Wu Legacy Lecture - TBA, both of which will be organized by Joseph Li

- Presidential Award Lecture; and Junior Achievement Award Lecture will be selected by the SCBA Award Committee chaired by Chris Lau.

Attractive keynote speeches and special lectures are to be reserved for the fourth/last day (June 18, 2009).

2. All co-chairs and invited speakers in each session will have their registration fee waiver, invitation to the Opening Reception, a ticket to the Closing Banquet, an abstract book, 7 coffee breaks and meeting accessory items donated by meeting sponsors.
3. Following the special lecture, there will be a coffee break. Then there will be 3 or 4 parallel sessions in the morning called "symposium". There will be two consecutive scientific sessions in the afternoon called "colloquia" and "workshops", respectively, each of which has 3 or 4 parallel sessions.

The names of these sessions are suggested by Robert Yu, SCBA President.

Again, each afternoon has two consecutive scientific sessions, each of which has 3 or 4 concurrent and parallel sessions. All sessions are 2 hours/EA for 4 - 5 invited speakers. All co-chairs can be invited speakers if they decide or just serve as co-chairs of the session.

4. The number of sessions of each of the 13 sub-themes has been decided based on progress of the thematic field and membership representation.
5. If more sessions are needed, the number of parallel sessions in the afternoon could be increased to 4.
6. Suggested potential invited speakers are listed in some of the 13 sub-themes, many have submitted workshop proposals or have been recommended by the Scientific Program Committee or organization committee members.

7. SCBA official invitation letters have been sent by e-mails to each of the 32 co-chairs of the 13 sub-themes. All of them have accepted the invitation.
8. Numbers of session in each of 13 sub-themes of the SCBA International Symposium had been determined by the Scientific Program Committee members
9. The number of speakers in each Session should be 4 - 5 people. Each session has 2 co-chairs who can just serve as co-chairs or also be one of the speakers in that session. Thus, the number can change with or without the co-chairs as speakers. Several co-chairs have already indicated to us that they will not speak but will provide those slots to their younger investigators or collaborators for a chance to give the presentation of their collaboration and results.
10. To assist SCBA to pay for meeting-related expenses and travel fellowships, many invited co-chairs and speakers have agreed and will pay for their meeting registration fee even though their registration fee will be waived (see #2 above). They will pay for their registration fee either through their grants or personally. This is considered as a kind of "donation" to SCBA. We hope many of you will consider this "donation". In fact, many of you have already promised to do so. This should be sent in a check, payable to "SCBA", directly to SCBA Treasurer, Professor Dihua Yu,
Department of Molecular and Cellular Oncology
Cancer Biology Program
The Univ. Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
1515 Holcombe Blvd.,
Unit 108, Room B7.4527
Houston, TX 77030
Tel: 713-792-3636; Fax: 713-792-4544
E-mail: dyu@mdanderson.org

Call or contact the SCBA Executive Director if you need additional information.



~~ Joseph Li
SCBA Executive Director & Professor
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5305 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT 84322-5305
E-mail: josephli@biology.usu.edu

TEXAS CHAPTER MEETING REPORT

The Texas Chapter of SCBA had another active and successful year in 2007-2008. On Saturday, April 19, the chapter held its Annual Symposium at Baylor College of Medicine located at the Texas Medical Center campus in Houston. The meeting was organized by current Chapter officials Drs. Fen Wang (President), Hui Zheng (President-elect), Paul Chiao (Treasurer), and Xin Lin (Secretary), as well as numerous local faculty volunteers. On a sunny and beautiful day, about one hundred and fifty faculty members, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and other research associates had attended the full-day event. The symposium had 4 major sessions: the plenary session and the SCBA-Texas Achievement Award session in the morning, and the oral presentation sessions from students and postdoctoral fellows in the afternoon. The meeting was concluded with the keynote speech delivered by Dr. Yang Shi from Harvard Medical School.

Following the opening remarks of Dr. Fen Wang, the plenary session of the Symposium featured the following six speakers from various Texas institutions covering interesting topics from basic signaling research to translational studies on diseases.

Dr. Chen Dong, University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, title of his talk: "A random walk along an autoimmune pathway"

Dr. Dekai Zhang, Texas A&M Health Science Center, Institute of Biosciences and Technology, title of his talk: "Toll-like receptors in infectious and inflammatory disease"

Dr. Tienyuan Gao, University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, title of her talk: "Ubiquitination and degradation of a novel protein phosphatase PHLPP"

Dr. Jianping Jin, University of Texas Health Science Center, title of his talk: "New ubiquitin signaling pathway"

Dr. Jade Wang, Baylor College of Medicine, title of her talk: "Post-genomic insights into alarmones and genome stability"

Dr. Jian Zhou, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, title of his talk: "Protein motifs, from signaling to therapy and tumor imaging"

After the plenary session, Dr. Dihua Yu from the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center introduced the first recipient of the SCBA-TX Achievement Award, Dr. Mien-Chie Hung of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Hung is nominated for the award based on his outstanding scientific contribution, and more importantly, his dedicated service for the SCBA, both locally and internationally. Dr. Hung then delivered an inspiring

presentation entitled "To believe or not to believe: Trafficking of membrane tyrosine kinase receptors to the nucleus-mechanism, function and clinical implication"

The afternoon session had 6 concurrent groups with short oral presentations from trainees. Judging panels consisting of faculty members selected 2 finalists from each group and finally ranked winners in the final round of standing presentations. The first-prize winner, Jer-Yen Yang, a graduate student from M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, received the Professor Alexander Yeu-Ming Wang Memorial Scholarship. Two second-prize and nine third-prize winners also received cash awards.

The meeting was highlighted and concluded by the Keynote Speech, which is traditionally presented by a prominent Chinese scientist from outside of Texas. This year, Dr. Yang Shi, Professor from Harvard Medical School, delivered an exciting speech entitled "Histone demethylases and dynamic regulation of histone methylation". Dr. Yang first gave a brief overview of his research work and then focused on the cutting edge of the new finding on histone demethylation in gene regulation.

In addition to the Annual Symposium, the Texas Chapter also has a bi-weekly faculty club seminar series held on Friday evening at the Texas A&M Health Science Center, Institute of Biosciences and Technology. The seminar series was inseminated four years ago and has been serving as a platform for the local members to exchange their ideas, foster collaborations, and promote friendship.

On a final note, we are grateful to the continuous support and participation from Chapter faculty members and trainees that make the Annual Symposium and biweekly meetings so successful.



Dr. Yang Shi and local SCBA faculty members.

First row (from left to right): Dihua Yu, Mien-Chie Hung, Fen Wang, Hui Zheng, Yang Shi, Leyuan Liu, Rongfu Wang, Mingyao Liu, Chen Dong, Yuxiang Sun, Xiangwei Wu, Second row: Jianping Jin, Xin-Hua Feng, Shao-Cong Sun, Paul Chiao, Jinsong Liu, Zhou (Sunny) Songyang, Peng Huang, Jade Wang, Jianming Xu, Pumin Zhang, Yi Li, Xin Lin.



Dr. Yang Shi giving the keynote lecture



Dr. Mien-Chie Hung in his inspiring presentation



Ms. Helen Weng, Drs. Yang Shi, Hui Zheng (08-09 SCBA-TX President), and Fen Wang (07-08 SCBA-TX President) and awardees

--- Submitted by

Fen Wang, presiding President

Associate Professor, Center for Cancer and Stem Cell Biology, Institute of Biosciences and Technology, Texas A&M University System Health Science Center, 2121 W. Holcombe Blvd., Houston, TX, 77030

email: fwang@ibt.tamhsc.edu

Hui Zheng, President, SCBA Texas Chapter

Professor, Baylor College of Medicine, One Baylor Plaza, Houston, TX, 77030

email: huiz@bcm.tmc.edu



Dr. Wang (right), President of SCBA-TX Chapter, presents the Achievement Award to Dr. Mien-Chie Hung (left).



Ms. Helen Weng (left) presents the Alexander Wang Scholarship to Jer-Yen Yang (right).



2008 SCBA Northern California Chapter Annual Meeting

The SCBA Northern California Chapter Meeting was held on Saturday, May 24, 2008, in the Rock Hall Auditorium at the beautiful UCSF Mission Bay Campus. A total of 53 scientists from UC Davis, UCSF, UC Berkeley and Stanford participated in this event. The current chair Dr. Eric Huang opened the meeting at 9:20am with a brief introduction on the history and the mission of SCBA. He encouraged the attendees to visit the SCBA Website and become a member of SCBA.

The scientific meeting started with a Keynote Lecture by Dr. Bob Tjian, Professor and HHMI Investigator at UC Berkeley. Dr. Tjian is a pioneer in the field of transcriptional regulation of gene expression. Over the past three decades, his laboratory has made many important contributions in characterizing the basal transcriptional machinery in eukaryotes. For this work, he has won many distinguished honors, including the induction to the National Academy of Sciences. During his presentation, Dr. Tjian presented recent data on the dynamic role of transcription factor FoxO3 and TAF3 in controlling the differentiation of muscle cells. He also made references to the significance of these results in stem cell biology and regenerative medicine.



Keynote Speaker Professor Robert Tjian

Following the Keynote Lecture, there were nine 40-minute lectures divided into three sessions. The first session began with a lecturer by Dr. Averil Ma of the Dept of Immunology at UCSF, who discussed the role of A20 in the downstream of Toll-like receptor and how such mechanism regulated the physiology of innate immunity in mouse and human. In the second lecture, Dr. Chang-Zheng Chen of Stanford University discussed the role of microRNA in T cell development. Using both biochemical and genetic approaches, Dr. Chen showed that miR-181a worked as a rheostat and modulate the activity of several phosphatases in the downstream of T cell receptor (TCR). The third lecture was given by Dr. Yifang Cheng, at the Dept of Biochemistry at UCSF. Dr. Cheng discussed the power of electron crystallography and cryoEM in elucidating the structures of many important proteins, such as bacteriorhodopsin and aquaporin, and large complexes, such as clathrin coated vesicles and 26S proteasome. After Dr. Cheng's lecture, there was a one-hour lunch break where all the participants enjoyed gourmet sandwiches, salads and drinks over the social interactions.

The second session began with a lecture by Dr. Wen-Chi Huseh, an Assistant Professor in the Institute of Human Genetics at UCSF. Dr. Huseh discussed the powerful tool of human SNP genotyping and the correlation between visceral fat in different ethnic groups and the risk of type 2 diabetes. Following Dr. Huseh's lecture, Dr. Allison Xu of UCSF Diabetes Center presented her recent data using mouse as a model to investigate the role of arcuate nucleus in hypothalamus in regulating the energy balance and glucose homeostasis. An impressive array of mouse genetic approaches was used to support the notion that STAT3 critically regulated the downstream signaling of leptin. The third lecture in the afternoon was given by Dr. Ching-Pin Chang of the Dept of Cardiovascular Medicine at Stanford. Dr. Chang's laboratory studied the role of chromatin

remodeling in the control of heart development. His recent results indicated that Brg1, a core component in chromatin remodeling complex BAF, was required for the formation of extracellular matrix (ECM) by endocardial cells.

In the last session, Dr. Qing Zhong of UC Berkeley presented some very exciting data in the isolation of a protein complex involved in autophagy mediated by Class III PI3 kinase. The second lecture was presented by Dr. Guowei Fang from the Dept of Biological Sciences at Stanford University. Dr. Fang discussed the role of Polo-like kinase 1 (Plk1) and Bora in regulating mitosis and cell cycle progression. Finally, the last lecture of the meeting was given by Dr. Limin Li, who presented some very impressive data from his lab indicating that S-nitrosylation regulated by S-nitroso-glutathione reductase (GSNOR) played important roles in regulating carcinogenesis in liver. Mice lacking GSNOR developed hepatocellular carcinoma due to dysregulation of AGT.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the organizer Dr. Eric Huang thanked all the speakers for a day loaded with exciting results and stimulating discussions. He also thanked members of his laboratory for their assistance in organizing a successful meeting. The chair position of the Northern California Chapter was officially passed on to Dr. Chris Lau, who will organize the next annual meeting.



Part of the Audience of the Meeting

Reported by

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DR. MIEN-CHIE HUNG RECEIVES THE SCBA-TEXAS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The SCBA-Texas chapter is very proud to announce that Dr. Mien-Chie Hung has been awarded the SCBA-Texas Achievement Award at the 2008 SCBA-Texas Annual symposium on April 21, 2008. This Award is in recognition of his landmark scientific achievements. Dr. Hung is an internationally renowned scientist in the field of cancer cell signaling and cancer gene therapy. He joined the faculty of The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in 1986 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Tumor Biology. Dr. Hung has received numerous honors since his initial appointment and was promoted to full professor in a fast track. He currently is the Chairman of the Department of Molecular and Cellular Oncology, Distinguished Teaching Professor, Director of the Breast Cancer Basic Research Program, and holds the Ruth Leggett Jones Distinguished Chair.



Dr. Hung's research accomplishments are stunning. Since 2000, he has published 23 papers in high-impact *Cell-Nature-Science* series of journals and these papers are highly cited—many of them more than 100 times in just a few years. Dr. Hung has also published many other high impact papers (266 total) in peer-reviewed journals. Since 1986, he has trained 163 students, post-doctoral fellows, and physician scientists. He is the only professor in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences to receive the "Outstanding Teaching Award" three times. In 2002, Dr. Hung was appointed as a Founding Editorial Member of the journal *Cancer Cell* (Cell Press). Dr. Hung has received numerous honors and awards because of his scientific achievements. In 2002, he received the prestigious honor of Academician of the Academia Sinica, Taiwan.

Dr. Hung has made many outstanding scientific contributions to The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, the Health Science Center of Houston Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and the larger scientific community. As a well-recognized leader in basic cancer research, Dr. Hung's research impact reaches far beyond onto the world stage of science. Most importantly, Dr. Hung has provided his dedicated service to SCBA. He served as the President of SCBA-Texas from 1989-1990 and the President of SCBA-International from 2004 to 2005.

Dr. Hung's seminal contributions in basic cancer research have made him a world-class leader in his field. His basic scientific research on the molecular basis of cancer focuses in two important areas: 1) Deciphering the *HER2/neu* signal transduction pathways and their functional role in cancer, which has led to a better understanding and more effective treatment of cancer in clinical trials. 2) Nuclear translocation and nuclear function of membrane receptor tyrosine kinases,

which have revolutionized our concept of receptor tyrosine kinase signaling and function, and it paved a new avenue of novel research endeavors.

At the 2008 SCBA-Texas Annual Symposium, Dr. Mien-Chie Hung gave an inspirational speech as the Achievement Award winner. He not only nicely summarized his groundbreaking research findings in the two research areas, but also passed his passion on science to many young scientists. SCBA-Texas is very proud of him and his outstanding achievements.

Reported by

Dihua Yu, MD, Ph.D., SCBA Treasurer and Professor

Department of Molecular and Cellular Oncology

Director, Cancer Biology Program

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SICHUAN EARTHQUAKE, RELIEF EFFORTS AND DONATION FOR RECOVERY, CLEAN UP AND RECONSTRUCTION

The 19th deadliest earthquake in recorded history struck eastern part of Sichuan, China on May 12, 2008 at local time 02:28:01 PM. The earthquake, now known as the Wenchuan Earthquake (汶川大地震), measured 8.0 and 7.9 at the Mercalli scale by the Chinese Earthquake Administration and the US Geographical Survey respectively. The epicenter was located at the town of Yingxiu (映秀) in Wenchuan County (汶川县), 50 miles WNW of Chengdu, the provincial capital of Sichuan. Many buildings, schools, roads, and bridges collapsed, killing and trapping thousands of people, including many school children. The destruction was widespread, as we observed in numerous television newscasts. Numerous aftershocks with magnitude >6.0 hit the disastrous and adjacent areas, including Shaanxi Province, resulting in more destructions, landslides, death and injuries. Official figures, as of July 6, 2008, indicate that 69,197 are confirmed dead, 18,238 are missing, 374,176 are injured, and >4.8 millions are homeless.

Recognizing such extreme natural disaster, many SCBA Members, Local Chapters and National Office have mobilized our Members to assist the rescue and relief efforts for the survivors. On May 16, 2008, President Robert Yu and other SCBA officers have sent out, via e-mail and also posted on our website, an urgent message to our Members calling for donations to agencies involved in the rescue and relief operations. Many of our Members and Families have responded and acted positively to our call.

SCBA expresses our heartfelt sympathy and condolence to our Members whose families, relatives and friends are direct victims of the Wenchuan Earthquake. We sincerely

appreciate all of SCBA members, friends and colleagues who have donated individually and/or collectively as groups to the suffering victims before and after our e-mail message. Your substantial donation and those from many others globally have helped to reduce much of the painful suffering conferred upon them unexpectedly in this significant natural disaster. We sincerely hope that you will continue to donate and to offer assistance to those who are on their way to recovery.

Special appreciation to Dr. Grace Wong of Actokine Therapeutics (Chestnut Hill, MA; grace@actokine.com) who has immediately contacted and obtained a total of more than US \$5 M donation of medical supplies and products from many biopharmaceutical companies such as Amgen, AstraZeneca, Genzyme, Pfizer, Merck, Abbott, Eli Lilly and others. These companies transported all these items directly to this region for clinical application and therapeutic assistance.

Thanks for all the monetary and donation of medical products for the rescuing efforts. We sincerely hope that speedy recovery will occur in this disastrous region so that survivors can heal their wounds, both physical and psychological, and regain certain degrees of normality in their daily life.

*Reported by
Joseph Li and Chris Lau*

NOMINATIONS ARE SOUGHT FOR THE 2009 SCBA AWARDS

SCBA is seeking nominations for two awards to recognize the significant scientific contribution of one senior and one junior scientist who is a SCBA member at the upcoming 12th SCBA International Symposium at the Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan, June 15 – 18, 2009. The guidelines and nomination forms for these two awards are posted on the SCBA website, <http://www.SCBAociety.org/>.

The SCBA Presidential Award is for a senior SCBA scientist whose cutting-edge scientific contribution in biosciences is globally recognized. His/her publications are frequently cited by his/her peers. He/she is regarded as the leader of his/her respective field of excellence and is recognized with numerous notable awards. The SCBA Junior Investigator Award will be bestowed upon a young SCBA investigator/scientist who is recognized a rising star in biosciences. The candidate's level should be at early or intermediate stages of scientific career development in academia or biotechnology industry.

Both Awardees will be presented a plaque and a cash award. The cash award for the SCBA Presidential Award is ~US\$2,000 and that for the Junior Award is US\$1,000. The Presidential and Junior Investigator Achievement Awardees will attend and respectively present a keynote address during the 2009 SCBA Symposium in Taipei, Taiwan.

Please send your nomination(s) with his/her CV to Chris Lau, Chair of the Award Committee (chris.lau@ucsf.edu, Tel: 415-379-5526) or the SCBA Executive Director, Joseph Li (JOSEPHLI@BIOLOGY.USU.EDU, Tel: 435-797-1914) ASAP for evaluation by the Award Committee. The deadlines for receipt of nomination is October 1, 2008, or till Awardees are selected.

SCBA Award Committee:

Chris Lau	Chair and SCBA Secretary
Jean Shih	past SCBA President
Yi Zhang	past Junior Achievement Awardee
Dihua Yu	SCBA Treasurer
Kuan-Teh Jeang	SCBA President-elect
Yun-Bo Shi	SCBA Treasurer-elect
Y W Kan	past Lifetime Achievement Awardee
Shu Chien	past Lifetime Achievement Awardee
Yuh L Jan	past Presidential Awardee
Lily Jan	past Presidential Awardee
Joseph Li	<i>ex officio</i> , SCBA Executive Director
Robert Yu	<i>ex officio</i> , SCBA President

SCBA MEMBERS ELECTED AS 2008 ACADEMICIANS IN THE ACADEMIA SINICA.... CONGRATULATIONS!

On July 4, 2008, the Academia Sinica announces the election of the 2008 Academicians. There are 6 newly elected Academicians in the Division of Life Sciences, 8 in the Division of Mathematics and Physical Sciences, and 4 in Humanities and Social Sciences. Of the 6 new Academicians in Life Sciences, 5 are SCBA Members. SCBA congratulates all the 2008 Academicians, especially proud of our Members elected to this prestigious academic organization this year.

The 2008 SCBA Academicians are:

Li-Huei Tsai (蔡立慧)

Current position(s)
Picower Professor, Picower Institute
for Learning and Memory;
Investigator, Howard Hughes
Medical Institute

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
Specialties: Cell Biology, Genetics, and Molecular Biology



Cheng-Ming Chuong (鍾正明)

Current position(s)
Professor of Pathology,
Chair of Graduate Committee,
Department of Pathology;
Guidance Committee, Center for
Stem cells and Regenerative Medicine
Specialties: Stem cells, developmental biology and skin
biology



Wah Chiu (趙華)

Current position(s)

Alvin Romansky Professor of Biochemistry, Baylor College of Medicine
Director of National Center for Macromolecular Imaging and of Center for Protein Folding Machinery
Specialties: Structural and Computational Biophysics



Kuan-Teh Jeang (蔣觀德)

Current position(s)

Chief, Molecular Virology Section
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
President-Elect, Society of Bioscientists in America (SCBA)

Specialties: Biochemistry, Microbial Biology, and Molecular Genetics



Jen-Kun Lin (林仁混)

Current position(s)

Professor Emeritus, Institute of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
College of Medicine, National Taiwan University
Specialties: Biochemical Oncology, Cancer Chemoprevention



The other elected Academician in Life Sciences who has frequent interactions with SCBA.

Jen Sheen (沈正韻)

Current position(s)

Professor in Genetics, Harvard Medical School
Specialties: Plant Molecular Biology



Reported by

Chris Lau and Joseph Li



A DAY OF SCHOLARLY FESTIVITIES AT ACADEMIA SINICA

June 30, 2008 marked a day of scholarly excitement and festivities at the Academia Sinica in Taipei. A half-day symposium was organized for the newly elected Academicians in Life Sciences Division of Academia Sinica. There were a total of 5 Academicians elected in 2006. They were being inducted in the 28th Academician Convocation, starting July 1, 2008. Each of these newly elected Academicians was introduced by a distinguished peer on their achievements prior to their respective lectures.

8:30 ~ 8:35

Opening Remarks

Dr. Andrew H.-J. Wang

Vice President of Academia Sinica

王惠鈞 副院長

8:35 ~ 9:20

“Personalized Therapy of Lung Cancer : A Prospective Current ”

Speaker : Dr. Pan-Chyr Yang

楊泮池 院士

Dean, College of Medicine, National Taiwan University

Moderator : Dr. John Yu

游正博 所長

Director, Institute of Cellular and Organismic Biology, Academia Sinica

9:20 ~ 10:05

“In Research for Magic Bullets for Neurodegenerative Diseases : Have Mood Stabilizing Drugs Been Overlooked ? ”

Speaker : Dr. De-Maw Chuang

莊德茂 院士

Chief, Molecular Neurobiology Section, National Institute of Mental Health, NIH

Moderator : Dr. Yuan-Tsong Chen

陳垣崇 所長

Director, Institute of Biomedical Sciences, Academia Sinica

10:05 ~ 10:50

“SUMOylation and De-SUMOylation : Wrestling with Life's Processes ”

Speaker : Dr. Edward T.H. Yeh

葉篤行 院士

Chairman, Department of Cardiology, The University of Texas - M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

Moderator : Dr. Ming-Daw Tsai

蔡明道 所長

Director, Institute of Biological Chemistry, Academia Sinica

10:50 ~ 11:00

Coffee Break

11:00 ~ 11:45

“Molecular Biology of Hepatitis D Virus : The Story of a Unique Single-Genome ”

Speaker : Dr. Pei-Jer Chen

陳培哲 院士

Professor and Director, Graduate Institute of Clinical Medicine, College of Medicine, National Taiwan University

Moderator : Dr. Chung-Hsuan Chen

陳仲瑄 主任

Director, Genomics Research Center, Academia Sinica

11:45 ~ 12:30

“Chromosome Integrity and DNA Rearrangements : A View through a Simple Protozoan ”

Speaker : Dr. Meng-Chao Yao

姚孟肇 院士

Distinguished Research Fellow and Director, Institute of Molecular Biology, Academia Sinica

Moderator : Dr. Wen-Hsiung Li

李文雄 主任

Director, Biodiversity Research Center, Academia Sinica

SCBA is proud to recognize that all newly elected 2006 Academicians are SCBA members, some are serving or have served various elected and appointed positions in SCBA.

The lectures were held at the Institute of Biomedical Sciences and were well attended by a large audience, consisting of participants from various Institutes of Academia Sinica, local universities and medical schools, and visiting scholars from United States and elsewhere.

Academician Pan-Chyr Yang (楊泮池), Dean of College of Medicine, National Taiwan University, presented a lecture on lung cancer. He described the molecular biology, biomarkers and perspective of a personalized therapy of this prevalent cancer among smokers, especially in Taiwan and East Asia. [Dr. Yang is a member of the Local Organizing Committee for the 2009 SCBA International Symposium in Taipei.](#)

Academician De-Maw Chuang (莊德茂), a past SCBA Secretary, Chief, Division of Molecular Neurobiology, National Institute of Mental Health, NIH, discussed the mechanisms of the mood stabilizers, notably lithium and valproic acid, on treatments of bipolar disorder, a common, severe and chronic mental disorder. His laboratory has provided the first evidence that such mood-stabilizers robustly protect CNS neurons from glutamate-induced excitotoxicity in vivo and in vitro, and has identified potential mechanisms underlying this neuroprotection. He expanded his discussion to various neurodegenerative diseases, suggesting that such mood-stabilizers could potentially benefit treatments of certain forms of neurodegeneration.

Academician Edward T.H. Yeh (葉篤行) is the Chairman of the Department of Cardiology, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. Conjugation of small ubiquitin-related modifier (SUMO) (SUMOylation) of proteins plays critical regulatory roles in many cellular processes, including cell division, gene transcription, chromatin remodeling, and signal transduction. The discover, Aaron Ciechanover, Technion-Isreal Institute of Technology, Isreal, of this important process has been awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2004. Following such Nobel work, Dr. Yeh has discovered and characterized a biological process(es) in which SUMOylated proteins could be de-SUMOylated by a special class of proteases, termed Sentrin/SUMO-specific proteases (SENPs). Using various advanced molecular genetics and transgenic mouse techniques, Dr. Yeh demonstrated that SENPs, coupled with SUMOylation, play significant roles in regulating the hypoxic response and DNA replication and repair. Notably, knockout of various SENP genes in mice produce different genetic defects resulting in embryonic lethality at homozygous states. Further, heterozygous mice are prone to carcinogenesis, particularly in the development of prostate cancer, and cardiomyopathies.

Academician Pei-Jer Chen (陳培哲), Professor and Director, Hepatitis Research Center, National Taiwan University Hospital, and Graduate Institute of Clinical Medicine and

Microbiology, National Taiwan University gave a lecture on the Hepatitis Delta virus (HDV), of which he has studied for many years. HDV is a single-stranded, negative polarity RNA virus with a small genome size of 1,700 bases in length, that encodes only one viral protein, the delta antigen. His research addresses the interesting and critical question on how a single viral protein can distinguish the different viral life stages that take place in the nucleolus, nucleoplasm and cytoplasm of the host cells. HDV is the only RNA virus, which adopts the cellular polymerase II for RNA transcription and replication. His research has identified the phosphorylation of the 177 serine of the HDAg by Erk1/2 kinases as being critical for initiation of viral RNA synthesis by polymerase II. His research has contributed significantly to the knowledge of RNA viral replication in animal cells.

Academician Meng-Chao Yao (姚孟肇) is the Director of the Institute of Molecular Biology, Academia Sinica. His lecture focused on chromosome integrity and DNA rearrangements on Tetrahymena, a ciliated protozoan that possesses two distinct nuclei, a somatic macronucleus and a germline micronucleus. The macronucleus contains approximately 45 times the DNA in a haploid genome while the micronucleus is diploid. Both are directly derived from the zygotic nucleus. The macronucleus is generated by large-scale DNA rearrangements, including deletion and elimination of specific DNA segments and fragmentations of 5 chromosomes into hundreds of mini chromosomes with new telomeres but not centromeres. It is transcriptionally active and performs all the somatic functions while the micronucleus is transcriptionally inactive and provides the germline lineage of the organism. Dr. Yao studies this process(es) and shows that the deletion is mediated by a small RNA interference mechanism while DNA amplification is facilitated by small inverted repeats (15-nucleotides)/palindromic sequence, called chromosome breakage site (CBS). CBS-flanked dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR) gene could be amplified as an ampliconic unit with methotrexate selection in transfected cells. He further discussed the implications of these results in the context of chromosome structures and genome instability.



Academicians Meng-Chao Yao, Pei-Jer Chen, Pan-Chyr Yang, Edward T.H. Yeh, and De-Maw Chuang (left to right)

*Reported by
Chris Lau*



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

RAY WU, A PIONEER LEGACY

Ray Wu memorial service was held at Kendal on Sunday, June 15, 2008

Ray's friends, colleagues and SCBA members are grateful for all the great things and cutting-edge research that Ray had done for Life Science as well as for over 400 Chinese scientists from the Asia-Pacific region, especially from China and Taiwan, many of whom have now become great scientists whose research will benefit the human population. This is an outstanding credit to Ray.

Numerous obituary and people profiles of Ray have been published globally since his death. A latest article, **Ray Wu, Pioneer of Rice Research: in Memoriam**, was published in **Asia Pacific Biotech News**, April 2008, Vol. 12, No. 6, pp. 26-30.

To contribute and share your memories, please visit <http://hi.baidu.com/pkuwurui>.

A 2-day **Ray Wu Memorial Symposium** will be held October 3 - 4, 2008 at Cornell University. For more detailed information, please visit <http://cbisociety.org/RayWuBirthday.html> or contact **Dr. Xiaohong Sun** at xiao-hong-sun@omrf.org

Another **Ray Wu Memorial Symposium** at the Academia Sinica, Taipei will be held on October 29, 2008. This is organized by many of his friends and colleagues in Taiwan as well as in US and the Asia-Pacific regions (China, Japan and South Korea). Please contact **Dr. Lie-Fen Shyur** (lfshyur@ccvax.sinica.edu.tw; 886-2-2651-5028) for symposium information and meeting agenda.

A **Ray Wu Legacy Lecture** will be held during the 12th SCBA International Symposium at the Academia Sinica,

Taipei, June 15 – 18, 2009. Many distinguished scientists have been nominated as the keynote presenters for this unique and memorial lecture. Partial funding for this special lecture has been obtained. Please contact **Joseph Li** (josephli@biology.usu.edu; 435-797-1914) for information of this event.

Professor Xiao-cheng Gu of Peking University who is a good friend of Ray as well as a collaborator for the China and United States Biochemistry Examination and Application (CUSBEA) Program that Ray had initiated (1982 – 1989) might be invited to come to this Legacy Lecture and share with the meeting participants many sweet memories if sufficient donation for his trip is available.

*Joseph K.-K. Li, Professor,
SCBA Executive Director*

THE SCBA CANCER DIVISION DINNER AT AACR MEETING

The Cancer Division, organized by Dr. Yun Yen, Professor and Director of Clinical and Molecular Pharmacology, and Associate Director of the Cancer Center, City of Hope, has hosted a dinner meeting at the American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting in April 13, 2008 in San Diego, California. The dinner was attended by ~60 SCBA members and guests. It featured talks and discussions by numerous established investigators and SCBA members. Many are looking forwards to having similar dinner gatherings in future AACR Annual Meetings. Please contact Dr. Yen, if you are interested in attending such future meetings, (626) 359-8111 x 65707 or e-mail: YYen@coh.org.

Representative snapshots during SCBA Cancer Division gathering in the evening of April 13, 2008, at the Marriott San Diego, Gaslamp Quarter.



SCBA Cancer Division Dinner



C. S. Yang
Past SCBA President



Ming-Daw Tsai
Academia Sinica, Taiwan



Wen Jing Hong – Singapore



Victor Lin – Canada



Rui Wen Zhang, University of Alabama, Tommy Cheng (past SCBA President), Yale University, and Yun Yen, City of Hope, the event Organizer (left to right)

Reported by
Chris Lau and Yun Yen

NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP – SINGAPORE

The Office of Life Sciences of National University of Singapore announces the availability of the prestigious National Research Foundation Fellowship to graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and other research personnel. National University of Singapore is seeking outstanding young scientists to do independent research in Singapore. The Fellowship aims to support talented postdoctoral fellows who

are 35 years of age and below. It is openly available to all nationalities in all areas of science and technology. The successful applicants (approximately 50 - 70 in number) will be offered tenure track positions at the respective universities in Singapore with a generous start up grant of US\$1.5 million over 3 years.

Please contact Professor Hew for details:

Professor Choy Leong Hew, Director
Office of Life Sciences
14 Science Drive 4,
National University of Singapore,
Singapore 117543
Tel: 65-6-874-2692
E-mail: olshead@nus.edu.sg



SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE, IC DIRECTORS, DEPUTY DIRECTORS, AND OTHER POSITIONS, NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH, BETHESDA, MARYLAND

Position	Pay	Closes
Deputy Executive Officer, NCI	\$114,468 - \$172,200	7/25/2008
Senior Policy Officer (Ethics)	\$114,468 - \$172,200	8/1/2008
Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)	Commensurate with qualifications and experience	8/4/2008
Director, Office of Research Information Systems, OER, OD	\$114,468 - \$172,200	8/8/2008
Scientific Director, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)	Commensurate with qualifications and experience	8/15/2008
Director, Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research	Commensurate with qualifications	8/15/2008

Tyrone Banks
OEODM, SEPM, OD
2115 East Jefferson Street
Room BD-20
Rockville, Maryland 20852
301-451-0748 (Tel)
301-480-2240 (Fax)



Tenure Track Faculty Positions

Microbial Genomics/Genetics Agricultural Biotechnology Research Center, Academia Sinica, Taiwan

Applications are invited for tenure-track research fellow positions at the Assistant or Associate level (equivalent of assistant/associate professor). The successful candidates will be expected to develop a rigorous research program in the field of microbial genomics/genetics. Areas of interest include but are not limited to: molecular plant pathology, environmental microbiology, exploring microbial genomes for enzyme biotechnology, and metabolic engineering of microorganism.

The ABRC will be in a major expansion and is developing an integrated research program in enzyme biotechnology. Several new faculty hires are anticipated over the next several years, and a new research building equipped with state-of-the-art facilities will be opened in December 2008. For more information of ABRC and Academia Sinica, please visit our websites at <http://abrc.sinica.edu.tw/> and http://www.sinica.edu.tw/main_e.shtml,

Qualifications: Ph.D. in microbiology, plant pathology, or related field, postdoctoral experience and knowledge skills in microbial genetics or genomics. We are particularly interested in applicants who are seeking a highly collaborative research environment. Applicants should submit the following materials online, at <http://abrc.sinica.edu.tw/jobs/> (a) Cover letter; (b) Curriculum vitae, including publications; (c) A summary of research accomplishments; (d) Clearly focused description of future research plans; (e) PDF copies of major publications; (f) Names and contact information for three referees.

Candidates should arrange three letters of recommendation to be submitted by e-mail to: abrc@gate.sinica.edu.tw or sent by regular mail to: Faculty Search Committee, Agricultural Biotechnology Research Center, Academia Sinica, No. 128, Academia Rd. Sec. 2, Nankang, Taipei 11529, Taiwan, ROC. Review of candidates will begin on April 15 and continue until the positions are filled.



Tenure Track Faculty Positions in Plant Biochemistry Agricultural Biotechnology Research Center Academia Sinica, Taiwan

Applications are invited for tenure-track research fellow positions at the Assistant or Associate level (equivalent of assistant/associate professor). The successful candidates will

be expected to develop a rigorous research program in the field of plant biochemistry. Areas of interest include but are not limited to: secondary metabolism, enzymology, cell wall biosynthesis and degradation, and metabolic engineering or metabolic changes in response to disease or environmental stresses in crop or medicinal plants.

The ABRC will be in a major expansion and is developing an integrated research program in enzyme biotechnology. Several new faculty hires are anticipated over the next several years, and a new research building equipped with state-of-the-art facilities will be opened in December 2008. For more information of ABRC and Academia Sinica, please visit our websites at <http://abrc.sinica.edu.tw/> and http://www.sinica.edu.tw/main_e.shtml.

Qualifications: Ph.D. in Plant Biochemistry or related field, postdoctoral experience and knowledge skills in plant metabolism. We are particularly interested in applicants who are seeking a highly collaborative research environment. Applicants should submit the following materials online, at <http://abrc.sinica.edu.tw/jobs/> (a) Cover letter; (b) Curriculum vitae, including publications; (c) A summary of research accomplishments; (d) Clearly focused description of future research plans; (e) PDF copies of major publications; (f) Names and contact information for three referees. Candidates should arrange three letters of recommendation to be submitted by e-mail to: abrc@gate.sinica.edu.tw or sent by regular mail to: Faculty Search Committee, Agricultural Biotechnology Research Center, Academia Sinica, No. 128, Academia Rd. Sec. 2, Nankang, Taipei 11529, Taiwan, ROC. Review of candidates will begin on March 1 and continue until the positions are filled.



Tenure-Track Faculty Positions The Institute of Biological Chemistry Academia Sinica, Taiwan

The Institute of Biological Chemistry is seeking highly qualified candidates to fill positions at the Assistant Professor (or higher) level. Candidates in all areas that would complement or strengthen the current topics in the Institute, including molecular and cellular biology, proteomics and genomics, chemical biology, structural biology and molecular biophysics, will be considered. Candidates with research expertise in chemical biology or structural biology are especially encouraged to apply. Applicants should have a Ph.D. degree, relevant postdoctoral experience, and an outstanding record of research accomplishments. Successful candidates will be required to participate in research and in teaching biochemistry-related courses at undergraduate and graduate levels. He/She will be provided with a generous start-up fund, followed by annual intramural support, and will have full access to all the resources at the Institute of Biological Chemistry, Academia Sinica

(<http://www.sinica.edu.tw/~ibc/>) and the Institute of Biochemical Sciences, National Taiwan University (<http://homepage.ntu.edu.tw/~ibs/index.htm>).

Applicants should send their Curriculum Vitae, a description of past research accomplishments and future research interests (pdf files) and three letters of reference. Recommendation letters should be sent by referees through E-mail or post to:

Recruitment Committee
c/o Ms. Sunny Shih
Institute of Biological Chemistry
128 Academia Road Sec. 2, Nankang,
Taipei 11529, Taiwan
E-mail: yujshih@gate.sinica.edu.tw

All applications received before October 1, 2008 will receive formal consideration, but the search process will start immediately and continue until outstanding candidates are recruited to fill the positions.

Junior Faculty Positions Available at the Institute of Biomedical Sciences, Academia Sinica, Taiwan

tenure-track junior faculty positions available



The Institute of Biomedical Sciences Academia Sinica Taiwan

The Institute of Biomedical Sciences in Academia Sinica, Taiwan (www.ibms.sinica.edu.tw), a premier biomedical research institute in Asia, now has several tenure-track junior faculty positions available in the fields of genetics, signal transduction, cancer, cardiovascular disease, infectious disease and immunology, neuroscience, and structural biology. Ph.D. or M.D. scientists with solid training in biomedical related fields and excellent publication records are encouraged to apply. Applicants should e-mail their CV and a cover letter with a brief outline of future research plan to Mr. Gin-tong Chen (gtc@ibms.sinica.edu.tw). The institute offers a competitive start-up package and an excellent environment with cutting-edge core facilities.

TENURE-TRACK FACULTY POSITIONS Organic Chemistry, Chemical Biology, Structural & Molecular Biology Peking University Shenzhen Graduate School

The School of Chemical Biology and Biotechnology (SCBB) at the Shenzhen Graduate School of Peking University invites applications for several tenure-track Professorship positions expected to be filled in 2008-2009, in the general areas of Organic Chemistry, Chemical Biology, and Structural & Molecular Biology.

Candidates must hold a PhD degree in a relevant field (postdoctoral training experience is preferred but not required), and have a distinguished record of scholarly accomplishment, exceptional potential for world-class research, and a commitment to graduate education.

SCBB is devoted to discovering and developing new-generation medicines that could help address critical medical needs, as well as educating and inspiring some of China's brightest young minds for leadership in the nation's rapid advancing pharmaceutical and biotech industries. SCBB operates under a conceptually new framework that effectively breaks down the traditional boundaries between chemistry and biology, and integrates scientists of various disciplines critical to drug discovery under one roof!

Successful candidates will be provided a highly competitive start-up package that includes 2.5 million RMB research fund, 300,000+ RMB annual salary, 200,000 RMB housing stipend, full tuition and scholarship support to 2-3 doctoral students every year, and state-of-the-art chemistry or biology laboratory space well capable of supporting the research needs of more than 20 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Multiple external funding opportunities are also available from China's National Science Foundation and various governmental science & technology agencies in the greater Shenzhen-Hong Kong metropolitan area.

Interested applicants are encouraged to contact **Professor David Zhigang Wang** at dzw@szpku.edu.cn for further information, and submit to him complete application materials that should include curriculum vitae, three reference letters, and an outline of future research plan.

Review of applications will begin August 2008 and will continue until filled.

**DIRECTOR OF THE EXTRAMURAL OFFICE OF
TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS AND
STROKE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH**

Recent advances in neuroscience have created unprecedented opportunities to develop effective new treatments for the many disorders that affect the nervous system. The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) is at the forefront of efforts to translate discoveries in basic research into therapeutic interventions for neurological disease. NINDS seeks a Director of its recently reorganized Office of Translational Research, to lead the development of new therapies and oversee ongoing translational programs.

The Director will report directly to and advise the NINDS Director on translational programs, and will represent the Office of Translational Research at an executive level within NINDS and on trans-NIH and trans-agency programs. Programs within the Office of Translational Research will include a collection of high-risk, milestone-driven projects focused on obtaining IND or IDE approval for new diagnostic and treatment strategies. The Director will work with the NINDS Office of Clinical Research to transition promising therapies into initial studies in patients, work closely with the extramural research community and build partnerships with nonprofit research organizations and companies, and set priorities for the Institute's grants to small businesses (SBIR and STTR).

The successful candidate for this position will have an international reputation for accomplishments in translational neuroscience research, and have demonstrated skills, knowledge, and experience in therapeutic development, project management, technology transfer, and public-private partnerships. Consistent with the required qualifications, the individual will be appointed as a Science Executive in Title 42.

Application for this position should be sent to: Dr. Story Landis, Director, NINDS, c/o Lisa Reyes, Building 31 Room 8A52 NIH, Bethesda, MD 20892. Evaluation of applications will begin September 1, 2008. The NINDS is one of the Institutes of the National Institutes of Health, a component of the Department of Health and Human Services.

HHS and NIH are Equal Opportunity Employers





美洲華人生物科學學會

Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America

The 12th International Symposium 第十二屆國際學術討論會

Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan 中央研究院,台北,台灣

June 15 - 18, 2009

二零零九年六月十五至十八日

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