



# 美洲華人生物科學學會



## Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America

September 2008

NEWSLETTER

Volume 23 Issue 3

### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK.....

October, 2008

Dear SCBA Members:

I would like to take this opportunity update you on some recent events. First of all, we are extremely proud that two Chinese bioscientists have won special accolades-- Dr. Roger Tsien of the University of California San Diego for winning the 2009 Nobel Prize in Chemistry and Dr. Robert Tjian of University of California Berkeley for being appointed to President of Howard Hughes Medical Institute. We congratulate them for the extraordinary recognitions for their life-long contributions in bioscience. The year 2009 has truly been a banner year for Chinese bioscientists as a whole.

I would also like to thank many SCBA members for responding to our call for help in two recent tragic events: the Sichuan Earthquake Fund and the University of Texas Medical Branch (Galveston) Hurricane Ike Fund. Both are devastating events of a colossal scale and have affected many people, including students and scholars. In both instances, SCBA members have contributed generously to the relief funds. I wish to thank all of you for expressing your brotherly love for those who have suffered during those tragic occasions.

During the past few months, we also witnessed many changes and new challenges that directly affected us. One of the most significant changes was the consolidation of the business office operation under the guidance of Dr. Joseph Li, Executive Director, who is assisted by Ms. JoAnn Starks. Joe has been associated with the Society since its inception and his responsibilities includes providing administrative management of the SCBA Office and organizing the annual meetings. He has worked diligently with the other officers, including Drs. Chris Lau (Secretary), and Dihua Yu (Treasurer) to ensure the smooth operation of the Office.

In preparation for the Biennial Meeting (June 14-18, 2009, Taipei), we have been working closely with Drs. Andrew Wang and I. K. Ho, Ming-Daw Tsai, Co-Chairs of the Local Host Committee, Dr. Mien-chie Hung, Lin Mei, Co-Chairs of the Program Committee, and many others to ensure the smooth planning of the 2009 Biennial Meeting in Academia Sinica, Taipei. We have completed the programming of the meeting with about 35 sessions with many outstanding speakers. Since we will celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SCBA, I intend to make the 2009 meeting a

major event to commemorate the achievements of Chinese bioscientists throughout the world. Please visit our website [www.SCBA Society.org](http://www.SCBA Society.org) for additional information regarding the meeting planning.

We I took over the Presidency earlier this year, I resolved to respond to the following challenges that were facing our Society:

1. To remain as a vital and forward-looking Society, we must actively recruit young, talented and vibrant bioscientists and to expand our membership base. I challenge each of our members to recruit at least one new member a year. A special membership drive, "SCBA Hat", is underway under the chairmanship of Dr. Shiu-an Chen, Membership Committee, SCBA.
2. To better improve our scientific programs, a membership opinion survey is underway. Our Society has grown over the past 25 years in breadth and depth. This survey is the first of our efforts in communicating directly with our members with respect to their needs and suggestions on how we can improve our service as well as to improve the quality of our biennial meeting. It is crucially important that we establish a strong communication mechanism with our members. When you receive the Survey Form, please make sure that you fill out the form at your earliest convenience. We also plan to award each of the first 20 responders with a nice gift.
3. I have established an *ad hoc* Publication Committee, chaired by Dr. Kuan-Teh Jeang, to examine the possibility of having an SCBA affiliated scientific journal that will substantially increase the impact and financial stability of our Society.
4. I intend to establish an *ad hoc* Committee on the Future of SCBA to provide invaluable advices that will improve the well-being of the Society and to ensure that the Society stay at the cutting-edge of biosciences.
5. We plan to increase substantially the number of travel awards to young and aspiring new investigators to enable them to attend the Biennial Meeting.

I wish to express my special thanks to Dr. Ken Fong, Past President, for his leadership in donating a substantial amount of funding to support the activities of SCBA. We have also received several other major donations to support our programs and meetings. Their generous support is

gratefully acknowledged.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge several colleagues, notably Drs. Joe Li, Chris Lau, and Dihua Yu, to name a few, whose constant, capable assistance has made my job to serve you a pleasant one.



With best wishes,  
 ~~ **Robert Yu, SCBA President (2008-09)**  
[RobertYu@scbasociety.org](mailto:RobertYu@scbasociety.org)

#### A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Dear SCBA Members,**

**Updated summary of the 12<sup>th</sup> SCBA International Symposium, June 14-18, 2009 at the Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan.**

Registration of the meeting will begin in the mid-afternoon and the welcome evening Opening Reception on **Sunday June 14, 2009**.

A total of 29 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 along with 30 sessions proposed by the co-chairs of the 13 themes.

All of these proposals have been evaluated and many of those submitted by SCBA members were selected by co-chairs of the 13 themes, either entirely or partially incorporated into the sessions submitted by the co-chairs of the corresponding THEME.

The evaluation was completed by late August. The total number of sessions that have been approved is 32- 35, which will be further finalized by Oct 31, 2008.

The invited speakers in the proposals that are not accepted are placed in the "**ALTERNATE LIST**" and these speakers will replace those invited speakers who can not come due to unexpected reasons and circumstances, the average of which was about 15 – 25 in the last few SCBA Symposia in the last decade.

An estimated number of 165 speakers will be invited.

- 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 National Health Research Institutes.

- Following the keynote plenary presentation, 4 Special Lectures will be given:

- **-Two Special Lectures** are **Tsai-Fan Yu Legacy Lecture** by Professor Samuel Waxman (Presented by Hua Yu) & the **Ray Wu Legacy Lecture** by Xiaodong WANG. These will be organized by Joseph Li who has obtained majority of donation to cover the expenses of these two special lectures.

- **-Two SCBA Special Lectures:**

- 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).

- 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. There might also be FREE lunch boxes (In negotiation).

- 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. Each session has 2 co-chairs and each session is 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. 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.

- SCBA official invitation letters have been sent by e-mails to each of the 32 co-chairs of the 13 themes. All of them have accepted the invitation.

- A grant application has just been submitted to the Taiwan National Science Council to request for some travel support for invited speakers who might need some travel supplement. If this is funded, travel support of ~ US\$ 500 – 1,000 might be provided to many of those who need some travel support in order to come to our meeting.

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. They will pay their registration fee either through their grants or personally

directly to SCBA Treasurer. 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  
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**IT IS GREEN LIGHT FOR ROGER TSIEN TO STOCKHOLM! – THE NOBEL LAUREATE FOR CHEMISTRY 2008**

**Roger Y. Tsien**, a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator and a Professor at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD), Osamu Shimomura of the Marine Biological Laboratory, and Martin Chalfie of Columbia University have been awarded the 2008 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their discovery and development of the green fluorescent protein, GFP to monitor movements, positions and interactions of tagged proteins in different cells, diseases



and cancer. This permits scientists to examine and follow the behavior of molecules inside living cells as well as monitor the interactions of proteins, each tagged with different hues of fluorescence in real time.

He is renowned initially for developing colorful dyes to track the concentration and movement of calcium within cells since calcium plays a critical role in numerous physiological processes, including the regulation of nerve impulses, muscle contraction, and fertilization.

As one of the founders of *Molecular Engineering*, Tsien has expanded his investigation to generate color palette of fluorescent proteins - adding a dazzling array of hues, including cherry, strawberry, tangerine, tomato, orange, banana and honeydew. By the mutation process, called somatic hypermutation (SHM), he has also developed a way to generate large array of antibodies that can attack microbes and other foreign substances that the immune system may never have encountered before.

Currently, Tsien is in the process of developing the innovative strategies for imaging and treatment of cancer.

A colorful illustration of a Southern California beach by fluorescent proteins – from Roger Tsien’s laboratory



A colorful illustration of a Southern California beach by fluorescent proteins – from Roger Tsien’s laboratory

**Clontech commercialization of GFP.** The development of green fluorescent protein and variant fluorescent proteins has greatly advanced the biomedical fields. Fluorescent proteins are now being used in almost all disciplines of biological investigations, including uses as biological tracers in subcellular, cellular and whole animals and plants, as molecular markers for protein-protein or protein-DNA interactions, cellular trafficking and biological sensors/detectors, among many others. Some examples of GFP uses in cells and transgenic mice are displayed in the header of the SCBA website, <http://www.SCBAociety.org/>.

It is interesting to note that the first biotechnology company that recognized such potentials and commercialized green fluorescent proteins as reagents for biomedical research is the Clontech Laboratories, Inc., a Palo Alto, California company founded by Kenneth Fong, the immediate past President of SCBA.

Fong recalled, "in 1994, Steve Kain, one of the senior scientists, came to my office with the Science article announcing the cloning of the GFP gene by Martin Chalfie of Columbia University. Steve did not waste any time convincing me that this GFP gene could be one of the most exciting cellular markers. I told Steve to immediately contact Dr. Chalfie so that we would not be the second in line to commercialize the product. You could see the excitement on Steve's face and not surprisingly, he had been able to get the licensing agreement signed between Columbia University and Clontech within a matter of two months. The only surprise to me...was that no other companies were negotiating with Columbia University.... had not realized the significance and applications of the GFP gene in those earlier days. .... Subsequently, Roger Tsien developed a much-improved version of GFP that Clontech was able to obtain a license from UC San Diego for well over \$1 million.... Since then Clontech had been the leader in this market niche for fluorescent protein reagents".

It is also noteworthy that Fong later sold Clontech to BD Biosciences for many more millions in 1999.

Sources:

Roger Tsien Laboratory: <http://www.tsienlab.ucsd.edu/>

Nobel Foundation Announcement link:

[http://nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/chemistry/laureates/2008/](http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/chemistry/laureates/2008/)

*Reported by*

*Joseph Li and Chris Lau*



### **A CHINESE AMERICAN SCIENTIST APPOINTED AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE**

**Professor Robert Tjian**, University of California, Berkeley and a life-long SCBA member since January 1987, has been named the new President of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute on September 30, 2008.



He will manage the HHMI endowment fund of 17.5 billion dollars and provide grants to over 350 outstanding HHMI investigators.

Tjian was born in Hong Kong 1949, grew up in Argentina and Brazil before coming to United States for high school in New Jersey. He has conducted pioneering and innovative research in human genome and gene regulation for over 3 decades, and has been a Hughes Investigator since 1987. Thus, he held numerous leadership roles and has been awarded many distinguished awards and honors, including California Scientist of the Year in 1994, Alfred P. Sloan Prize and the Lousia Gross Horwitz Prize.

Tjian has been invited as a keynote speaker in two SCBA International Symposia at Singapore (1992) and Vancouver (1995). He is not only an extremely productive scientist, he is also a great teacher and distinguished mentor and role model for young scientists.

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Announcement link:

<http://www.hhmi.org/news/tjian20080930.html>

*Reported by:*

*Joseph Li and Chris Lau*



### **2008 SCBA Southern California Chapter Annual Meeting**

The southern California chapter of the Society for Chinese Bioscientists in America (SCBA) held their annual chapter meeting on September 6, 2008 at the Platt Conference Center of the City of Hope Cancer Center in Duarte, California. The meeting was used as a platform for scientists of Chinese decent to get acquainted with each other. High profile scientist from the region gave talks including Professor Jean C. Shih as keynote speaker. Dr. Shih's talk was titled "MAO: from impulsivity to compulsivity".

Dr. Bangyan Stiles, the President of the Southern California Chapter commenced the meeting at 9:15 AM. Dr. Yen Yun, the deputy director of the host institution City of Hope presented welcome remarks. Approximately 60-70 people attended the meeting. Beside Dr. Shih's keynote speech, 13 scientists representing six major university/institutions around southern California area presented their works. These talks are broken into four sections: two in the morning and two in the afternoon. The topics of these presentations ranged from immunology to cancer to cardiovascular disease, covering molecular biology to clinical relevancy.





Dr. Jean Shih delivers the keynote address

#### Speakers:

Dr. David Ann: SUMOylation or Not: A KAP1 Story.

Dr. Wei Li: Secretion of Heat Shock Protein 90 (HSP90) by Normal Cells Under Stress or by Cancer Cells during Invasion: Why?

Dr. Genhong Cheng: Type 1 Interferon Gene Programs beyond Anti-Virus.

Dr. Hong Wu: Multi-Genetic Events Collaborative Contribute to PTEN-Null Leukemia Stem Cell Formation (Presented by Dr. Wei Guo, Postdoctoral Fellow in Dr. Wu's Laboratory).

Dr. Wen-Hwa Lee: Developing Small Molecules Targeting Mitotic Machinery as Potential Cancer Drugs



Dr. Xing Dai: Pygopus 2 Controls Mammary Stem Cell Self-Renewal by Regulating WNT Signaling and Chromatin.

Dr. Gensheng Feng: Shp2 and Molecular Signaling in Stem Cells and Metabolic Diseases.



Dr. Xingdong Fu: Digital Analysis of Gene Expression and Alternative Splicing.

Dr. Yang Xu: The Role of p53 in Stem Cells and Aging.

Dr. Yang Chai: Smad4-dependent and Independent Signaling in Regulating Craniofacial Development

Dr. John Shy: Statin, Exercise, and AMP-activated Protein Kinase

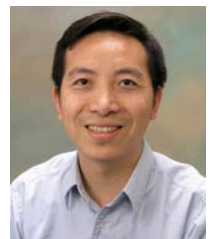
Dr. Binghui Shen: Fen1 mutations result in autoimmunity, chronic inflammation and Cancer

Dr. Shelly Lu: SAME in Liver Health and Cancer

At lunchtime and during the break, the attendees enjoyed the fellowship time and got to know each other and make connections during the meeting.



After lunchtime, the attendees joined a tour arranged by City of Hope for their state-of-the-art facilities. A business meeting was conducted when we returned for lunch break. During the business meeting, we elected a new President, Dr. Wendong Huang, for Southern California Chapter. Dr. Huang is an Assistant Professor at City of Hope. He will be taking over the leadership from Dr. Stiles for the SoCal Chapter of SCBA.



The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.



The meeting could not have been successful without the time and devotion of the wonderful student volunteers from USC and City of Hope.



*Reported by: Bangyan Stiles, Ph.D.  
President of the SCBA Southern California Chapter*



### **CONFERENCE ON GENETIC AND GENOMIC MEDICINE HELD IN HONG KONG AND A BANQUET HONORING PROFESSOR YUET WAI KAN**

The Association of Chinese Geneticists in America (ACGA) and the Hong Kong Society of Medical Genetics (HKSMG) held their first joint Conference on Genetic and Genomic Medicine in Hong Kong from June 9-11 of 2008 at the Cheung Kung Hai Conference Center, William MW Mong Block, Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, University of Hong Kong. This Conference received generous support from the American Society of Human Genetics, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Baylor College of Medicine, Wenzhou College of Medicine, University of Hong Kong, Croucher Foundation, Chan Dang Social Service Foundation, Dr. Stanley Ho Medical Development Foundation as well as a number of local entrepreneurs and industries.

The Opening Ceremony of the Conference included a welcome speech by Professor Lap-Chee Tsui, President and Vice Chancellor, University of Hong Kong, Ms Sandra Lee, Permanent Secretary of Health, Hong Kong SAR, and a letter from Dr. Chen Zhu, Minister of Health, China. Dr. Oliver Smithies, 2007 Nobel Laureate in Medicine and Physiology, led off the Conference followed by 5 other keynote speeches and 20 scientific sessions in 3 fully-packed days. The keynote speeches and scientific sessions covered topics include medical genetics, molecular genetics, cancer genomics, mitochondrial genetics, prenatal and preimplantation diagnosis, genetic therapeutics, medical



Opening Ceremony

genomics, stem cell and tissue engineering, etc. Seventy four speakers from USA, Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, Japan, Singapore, China mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong described their cutting edge research and exciting discoveries to an equally international audience of over 300.



Keynote Speech delivered by Dr. Oliver Smithies  
2007 Nobel Laureate in Medicine and Physiology

Besides Dr. Smithies the other keynote speakers include Dr. Yang Huanming, Director of Beijing Genomic Institute, Dr. Owen M Rennert, Scientific Director of National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Dr. David Rimoin, past President and Dr. Aravinda Chakravarti, President of the American Society of Human Genetics, and Dr. Eric J. Sampson, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Dr. Stanley Ho presenting a souvenir to Dr. Huanming Yang after the Dr. Stanley Ho Lecture on Human Genomics

Speakers in the scientific sessions are equally outstanding and include institute directors, department chairs, laboratory chiefs, and famous scientists. A large number of the participants are young investigators who were given opportunities to present their posters in special sessions. Ten posters were given outstanding poster awards.



The Conference Banquet was organized to honor the achievements of Professor Yuet Wai Kan, a pioneer in modern genetics and genomics, and a Founding Member of ACGA and a past President of ACGA and SCBA. The banquet was attended by all participants of the Conference. A number of honor guests were also present, including Nobel Laureate Dr. Stanley Prusiner, Dr. Tai-Fai Fok, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of Chinese University of Hong Kong, Dr. Kan's daughter, Deborah Kan and several of his medical school classmates. (*Editor*: Deborah works in Hong Kong and is a News Reporter/Anchor, Talk Show Host, and Producer on Star News|Asia and hosts a Talk Show at Star TV called "Talk with Deborah Kan" interviews with news makers and personalities, [http://www.startv.com/starnewsasia/view/talk.](http://www.startv.com/starnewsasia/view/talk)) At the banquet, Dr. Lap-Chee Tsui, Vice Chancellor of University of Hong Kong, gave a moving speech about Dr. Kan's contributions to modern genetics and the genetic community. He showed some of the pictures of Dr. Kan while he was a medical student at the University of Hong Kong. It seems like Dr. Kan had not changed much since those days! Dr. Smithies reflected on his friendship with Dr. Kan. Dr. Kan's address to the banquet was equally enlightening and brought the banquet to its climax.



Banquet honoring Professor Yuet Wai Kan



Conference Organizers, Drs. Stephen Lam (left) and Wai-Yee Chan (right) and Professor Yuet Wai Kan (center)

~~ Reported by Wai-Yee Chan, Ph.D.  
Senior Investigator, NICHD  
Professor, Georgetown University

### MEMBERS, ELECTION! IT IS ELECTION TIME!

It is time again for us to nominate and elect next leadership of the SCBA. The nomination committee will like to invite your input and nomination on all positions for outstanding candidates. Remember that several nominees are needed for election to become members of the SCBA Council. Positions include:

1. One President, Secretary, and Treasurer (Jan 2012 – Dec 2013)
2. Two Councilors (Jan 2010 – Dec. 2014)
3. Five-Seven members in the Nomination Committee and Membership Committee (Jan 2010 – Dec. 2011)

Description of their job responsibilities of these positions is stated in the SCBA by law as listed in the SCBA Directory. Please direct all your suggestions and nominations at your

earliest convenience to:

Ming-Jer Tsai, Ph.D. Chairman  
Nomination Committee  
Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology,  
Baylor College of Medicine,  
One Baylor Plaza, Houston, TX 77030  
Tel: 713-798-6253  
Fax: 713-798-8227  
E-mail: [mtsai@bcm.tmc.edu](mailto:mtsai@bcm.tmc.edu)

All nominated candidates who have accepted to run should send:

1. A recent colored photo
2. A brief, half page description of their education training (location and years), current position, some significant accomplishment & awards, and
3. Their previous volunteer services (committees, workshops, chapter meetings, previous or current council position, etc) to SCBA if there is any.

Examples of such candidate description are shown in the September 2007 newsletter that can easily be accessible from the "NEWS" section of our SCBA website: <http://www.scbasociety.org>.

Thank you for your help.

~~ Joseph Li  
SCBA Executive Director

**SCBA EXPRESSES OUR SINCEREST APPRECIATION TO DR. KENNETH FONG FOR HIS GENEROUS DONATION OF \$60,000 TO SCBA IN JULY 2008!**

Our Society's continuous vitality and strength result in large part from the generous support and unselfish volunteerism from our SCBA members, associates, friends, and corporate and industrial sponsors. To those of us entrusted with the responsibility to offer and provide new opportunities for mutual and open exchanges of new scientific ideas and information, to establish direct personal contact and potential collaboration, and to generate better understanding through good friendship and personal interaction, your generosity signifies our confidence and continual belief in meeting all the planned objectives and challenges of SCBA.



Ken has also exerted significant efforts in securing donations from various sources, including a \$50,000 from Dr.

Allen Chao, President and CEO of Watson Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and \$10,000 from Dr. Nancy Chang, CEO of Tanox, Inc. during his presidency.

*SCBA is most grateful to Ken for his kind and very generous contribution.*

**The Management Team:**

~~ Joseph K.-K. Li,  
SCBA Executive Director  
~ Chris Lau  
SCBA Secretary

~~ Robert Yu  
SCBA President  
~~ Dihua Yu  
SCBA Treasurer



**A CELEBRATION OF RAY WU'S LIFE**

The Ray Wu Memorial Symposium was held October 3-4, 2008 on the beautiful Cornell University campus in Ithaca, New York. Over 150 out-of-town guests, as well as many local faculty members and students, came to celebrate Dr Wu's enormous scientific and personal achievements.

Following opening remarks by Dean Susan Henry, Dr. Hunter Rawlings, Cornell President Emeritus, presented an eloquent and moving remembrance of Dr. Wu. Wu was regarded not only as an outstanding scholar but also a great humanitarian. The symposium then went on to highlight three of his major achievements. Drs. R. Pad Padmanabhan (Professor, Georgetown University Medical Center) and Robert Bambara (Professor and Chairman, University of Rochester Medical Center), who are former postdoctoral fellow and student, respectively, recounted Ray Wu's discoveries associated with DNA sequencing in the pre-Sanger era. This was much appreciated by the younger audience who were not familiar with this part of the history. More recently, Dr. Wu dedicated to feeding the hungry. His development of transgenic rice plants tolerant to drought and salt stress was described by his associate, Dr. Ajay Garg. It was also revealed that much of Dr. Wu's recent work and intellectual property will be further developed by a newly formed biotech company in connection with Cornell University.

A third aim of the symposium was to showcase the success of the CUSBEA program initiated by Dr. Wu. Eight speakers representing each of the CUSBEA classes discussed their scientific pursuits in areas ranging from plant biology to human diseases, from fundamental mechanisms to drug discoveries, and more importantly how Dr. Ray Wu had influenced their scientific journey. The speakers were Drs. Junying Yuan (Professor, Harvard Medical School), Min Han (Investigator and Professor, HHMI and University of Colorado at Boulder), Guo-Liang Yu (Chairman, President and CEO, Epitomics, Inc.), Xiao-Dong Wang (Investigator and George L. MacGregor Distinguished Chair in biomedical

Science, HHMI and UT-Southwestern Medical Center), Ning Wei (Principle Investigator, Yale University), Liqun Luo (Investigator and Professor, HHMI and Stanford University), Qiufu Ma (Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School) and Xuemei Chen (Associate Professor, UC-Riverside). While the speakers as well as many sitting in the audience wondered what their lives would have been without the CUSBEA program, colleagues of Ray Wu at Cornell obtained a first-hand appreciation of the impact of Dr. Wu's efforts not only on these Chinese students but also on biological sciences in general. In addition, many friends of CUSBEAns remarked that the program and Dr. Wu indirectly and directly helped their careers as well.

The symposium closed with a thought-provoking and humorous presentation by Ray Wu's son, Dr. Albert Wu. Albert is a Professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and senior advisor to the World Health Organization. The audience was impressed with the two strongest traits of Ray Wu, intense discipline and utmost optimism. These will continue to inspire those who were privileged to know and know of him.

Over 20 members of the Wu and extended Wu family also attended the symposium. Christina Wu, the widow of Ray Wu, spoke briefly at the banquet and her remarks were received by a standing ovation. A letter from Professor Xiaocheng Gu of Peking University, Dr. Ray Wu's long-time partner of running the CUSBEA program, was read to the audience. Several other colleagues, students and friends also shared their fond memories of Ray Wu. The symposium was co-sponsored by Cornell University and the Chinese Biological Investigator Society. Local organizers were Drs. Kelly Jun Liu, Bik Tye and Ailong Ke. Additional organizers were Junlin Guan, Yue Xiong, Hong Wu, Jinshan Hu and Xiao-Hong Sun.

During the symposium, the interim board of Ray Wu Memorial Fund had its first face-to-face meeting and members were Xiao-Hong Sun, Ming Luo, Hong Wu, Xiao-Fan Wang, Charlene Xiao-Ling Liao (absent), Kelly Jun Liu and Yun Qiu. Christina Wu along with her children, Albert and Alice, also attended the meeting.



Christina Wu and granddaughter

Albert Wu will serve as the family representative on the board of RWMF. Since its establishment in April 2008, tremendous progress has been made, including an impressive fundraising record. As of 10/6/2008, RWMF has received \$81,251 from 68 donors and

three contributing organizations. Many SCBA members were among the generous donors. For a complete list of donors, please visit <http://raywufund.pharmacology.ucla.edu>. For the next phase, RWMF will begin the process of nomination and evaluating the first round of recipients of Ray Wu Prizes. Candidates for the Prize will be outstanding graduate students working in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore. Detailed instructions are available at the above website. At an informal discussion session held during the symposium, many individuals volunteered to serve on the prize committee and provided excellent suggestions. The legacy of Ray Wu is certain to continue through activities sponsored by RWMF.

The symposium was an appropriate tribute to Ray's life and provided much-needed consolation for his untimely death. As Albert Wu revealed, Ray's own estimation of his life expectancy was 103 based on his utmost optimism.



*Reported by*

*Xiao-Hong Sun, Ph.D., Eli Lilly Chair  
Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation*

**Editor:** Another Ray Wu Memorial Symposium will be held at the Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan on October 29, 2008. Please visit our website for more information.

<http://www.SCBA society.org/RayWu.html>





Please send suggestions, and announcement of recruitments, scientific meetings, discoveries and important events via e-mail attachment to the Co-Editors:



Chris Lau, Secretary,  
[chris.lau@ucsf.edu](mailto:chris.lau@ucsf.edu) or  
 Joseph Li, Executive Director,  
[josephli@biology.usu.edu](mailto:josephli@biology.usu.edu)



### **PRESIDENT-ELECT KUAN-TEH JEANG TESTIFIED IN THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION ON JULY 22, 2008**

Dr. Kuan Teh Jeang, President-Elect of SCBA, testified to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, July 22, 2008, in Washington DC. In his statement, Dr. Jeang emphasized the lack of advancement among Chinese-Americans for high positions in both scientific community and in established scientific organizations. He cited statistics at both NIH and elsewhere on the number of Asian and Pacific Americans (APA) who are in the leadership positions. He urged the EEOC to examine this issue and to work to promote more APA for equal opportunity for advancement and to assume leadership positions. Full text of Dr. Jeang's testimony can be read at SCBA website:

[http://www.SCBAociety.org/News/Jeang\\_Testimony.pdf](http://www.SCBAociety.org/News/Jeang_Testimony.pdf)

As a result of his efforts, the NIH has been sending recruitment announcement to SCBA for posting on our website. Such postings are listed on a monthly basis, under Bulletin and Jobs and Recruitment sections. All members are encouraged to explore these and other opportunities posted on our website, <http://www.SCBAociety.org/> and those published in the quarterly SCBA Newsletter.

~~ Reported by Chris Lau



### **AN APPEAL FOR HELP FOR STUDENTS, POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS AND RESEARCH STAFF AT UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH (UTMB)**

Dear SCBA Members and Colleagues,

As you may know, Galveston was directly hit and severely damaged by Hurricane Ike. Only last week Galveston residents were allowed onto the island to check on their homes and possessions. As more of our students, postdocs

and research staff return and contact us, we hear about numerous cases of devastating and heart-wrenching personal losses. Many are now literally homeless, and have lost everything they left behind. Those with family and children are especially hard hit.

FEMA is offering some aid for Hurricane Ike victims, but this help is restricted to US citizens and permanent residents. Since many of our graduate students, postdocs and research staff are foreign nationals, they are not eligible for any federal assistance. They are left entirely on their own to fend for themselves.

The APS (American Physiology Society) just announced that they will set aside a Hurricane Ike Relief fund to help graduate students and post-docs who suffered significant losses in the storm. I was reminded of the extraordinary generosity of SCBA and the Houston/Galveston area bioscientists/students towards the earthquake victims in Sichuan China not long ago. Many international students and scholars at UTMB were actively involved in organizing fund drives and collecting donations in that endeavor. Now they themselves are in need of help. I wonder whether similar aid (at a smaller scale of course) can be organized for the students, research staff and postdocs of UTMB. I believe it will be a noteworthy gesture of support that will be greatly appreciated by those who are suffering from bewildering losses. So I appeal to you on their behalf, and hope that there will be a warm response.

Best regards,

Lee-Nien Lillian Chan, Ph.D.  
 Mary and J. Palmer Saunders Professor  
 Dept. of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology  
 Director, Graduate Program in B&MB  
 The University of Texas Medical Branch Galveston,  
 Texas 77555-0643  
 Tel: 409-772-2861; Fax: 409-772-9679  
 E-mail: [lchan@utmb.edu](mailto:lchan@utmb.edu)

Dear Members of SCBA,

Two weeks ago, Hurricane Ike took a direct hit at Galveston TX, causing one of the worst disasters in Galveston history. Most of the apartments close to our institution (University of Texas Medical Branch, UTMB) were flooded by the storm surge and are uninhabitable. Among the victims of this natural disaster, many graduate students, visiting scientists and postdoctoral fellows from foreign countries have lost virtually everything, have nowhere to stay and are not eligible for FEMA assistance. The Chinese faculties as well as all other faculties at UTMB try their best to host the victims and provide support, but the support needed for them far exceeds what we can provide. Essentially, they will need to live outside of Galveston for 4-6 weeks. Although the final number of the students/scholars of Chinese origin affected by the storm is not yet known, we estimate the number to be close to 100. The Chinese faculties here are working with the

Chinese Student and Scholar Association (CSSA) to help the victims and we appeal to you for your generous donation to the Hurricane Ike Fund. If you wish to make donation to be received by the CSSA here, you may write a check to UTMB CSSA and for "Hurricane Ike Fund"

The mailing address is:  
Zhu Zengrong,  
c/o Jingwu Xie,  
2008 Breezway Bend Lane,  
League City, TX 77573-4610.

Your support will be highly appreciated.

Chinese faculty representatives at UTMB:  
Jingwu Xie: (jingwuxie2000@hotmail.com)  
William Au  
Xiaodong Cheng  
Lillian Chan  
James Lee  
Lynn Soong  
Ping Wu  
Yongjia Yu

SCBA hopes that all our SCBA members and colleagues can assist and provide some donation to help all Chinese graduate students, visiting scientists and postdoctoral fellows at your earliest convenience similar to what SCBA and many of SCBA members had done for the Sichuan Earthquake in China earlier this year.

~~ Robert Yu, SCBA President  
Dihua Yu, SCBA Treasurer  
Chris Lau, SCBA Secretary  
Joseph Li, SCBA Executive Director



### SCBA TRAVEL FELLOWSHIP FOR THE 12TH SCBA INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM (2009)

SCBA has a limited number of Travel Fellowships (TF) available for eligible graduate students, new post doctoral fellows (within 2-3 years after earning doctoral degree), new faculty members (assistant professor), young investigators and physician-in-training. The maximum amount provided by the SCBA Travel fellowship will not exceed \$500 – 700. However, since SCBA will waive the registration fee for the TF awardees, the total value of TF would be about US\$ 800 - 1,000.

TF awardees are encouraged to stay at the Activity Center in the Academia Sinica, which has limited numbers of available rooms. Most of the SCBA C00s, meeting organizers and many invited speakers will also stay in this facility for 5 - 6 nights (June 13 – 17/18, 2009) since meeting registration and the evening Welcome Opening Reception will be held on Sunday, June 14, 2008 at the Academia Sinica. If TF awardee decides to stay in the Activity Center, SCBA will use part of

the fellowship to cover the room charges but will not cover any other personal expenses. We can also assist to help you to share your room, which has two single beds with another participant to reduce further expenses.

A free Closing Banquet ticket valued at US\$85 each might also be provided to you when (1) your poster is evaluated and considered excellent by SCBA Poster Evaluation Committee members and (2) also if SCBA obtains sufficient donation to cover this expense.

To be qualified for this SCBA Travel Fellowship, each applicant must:

- 1) Send your abstract and application letter to Joseph Li, SCBA Executive Director before the application deadline December 30, 2008.
- 2) Must be a member of SCBA. If you are not a member, you can apply directly and immediately via SCBA Website ([www.scbasociety.org](http://www.scbasociety.org)) and pay for the application fee (~ US\$ 15 – 35) ASAP. Non-SCBA members will also be considered but on the second priority.
- 3) You must be the first presenting author of your accepted abstract
- 4) You must be on time to post your poster and you must be present during your poster session
- 5) You must be supported by a letter of recommendation by your appropriate mentor
- 6) All TF awardees must be present in most of the sessions and keynote presentation
- 7) You are encouraged highly to stay 5 nights at the Activity Center where we can assist to help you to share with other participants to reduce the expenses. If you decide to stay in nearby hotels, we might also be able to provide some assistance for hotel reservation
- 8) You need to provide xerox copies of receipts of your air-ticket and Activity Center invoice
- 9) You must also be self-supported financially for other meeting-related expenses (e.g. meals, air-tickets, airport and local transportation, phone calls ...etc.).
- 10) The Academic Sinica and SCBA will provide assistance to apply for VISA if it is required for you to get into Taiwan such as a China passport.

All applicants will be contacted by SCBA to provide the missing information needed to complete your application after abstracts have been reviewed. The result of the approved TF awardees for the SCBA Travel Fellowship will be announced around February 16-20, 2009 via e-mail.

*Joseph K.-K. Li,*

*SCBA Executive Director*



**PLEASE TAKE A MEMBERSHIP SURVEY AND WIN PRIZES.**

Follow the link below to obtain instruction and survey form.  
[http://www.SCBA society.org/Survey\\_SCBA-08.xls](http://www.SCBA society.org/Survey_SCBA-08.xls)

## NATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTES -TAIWAN

Vaccine R&D Center invites applications for the positions as principle investigators. We seek senior outstanding colleagues with different experience and expertise in either protein characterizations or molecular virology with interest in animal model development. Applicants should submit curriculum vitae, and arrange to have three letters of recommendation, including one from the postdoctoral mentor to be sent directly to the email at [Katharine@nhri.org.tw](mailto:Katharine@nhri.org.tw). For more information go to: <http://www.nhri.org.tw>.

encouraged to apply. Applicants should email their CV, brief research plan and three recommendation letters to Miss Blanca Chiang ([blanca@nhri.org.tw](mailto:blanca@nhri.org.tw)). The Institute offers competitive start-up package and an excellent environment with cutting-edge core facilities. For more information go to: <http://www.nhri.org.tw>.

**DUKE NUS**  
GRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL SINGAPORE

### Faculty Positions All Ranks Cancer and Stem Cell Biology

The Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School Singapore (Duke-NUS) is recruiting adventurous scientists to join our growing faculty as we expand into our new building in early 2009. A global partnership between Duke University and the National University of Singapore, we seek creative researchers who are focusing on discovery biology and/or translational medicine in the field of **Cancer and Stem Cell Biology**. Scientists studying cancer and adult stem cells are especially encouraged to apply.

Applicants should have a PhD, MD, or equivalent and a record demonstrating outstanding promise or achievement. New recruits will work alongside existing faculty and trainees with strong programs in cancer signaling and stem cell biology. Opportunities also exist for translational studies in collaboration with world-class clinical services including Singapore General Hospital and National Cancer Centre. Faculty positions at Duke-NUS include full salary, generous start-up and ongoing research funding, assuring a stable base of support that can be supplemented by competitive grant awards, which are expanding rapidly in Singapore.

For full consideration, interested candidates should submit, by December 1, 2008, a cover letter, curriculum vitae, a summary of research accomplishments and outline of future plans. Assistant professor candidates should also arrange for three letters of reference to be forwarded to:

David Virshup, Director  
Program in Cancer and Stem Cell Biology  
Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School Singapore  
2 Jalan Bukit Merah, Singapore, 169547  
email: [CSCB.recruit@duke-nus.edu.sg](mailto:CSCB.recruit@duke-nus.edu.sg)  
[www.duke-nus.edu.sg](http://www.duke-nus.edu.sg)

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## 國家衛生研究院癌症研究所 National Institute of Cancer Research National Health Research Institutes

The National Institute of Cancer Research of National Health Research Institutes, Taiwan, now has several tenure-tracked junior faculty positions available in the fields of cancer genomics, molecular tumor marker, cancer biology and bioinformatics. Ph.D. or M.D. scientists with solid training in the biomedical field and excellent publication records are

## 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](http://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](mailto:gtc@ibms.sinica.edu.tw) ). The institute offers a competitive start-up package and an excellent environment with cutting-edge core facilities.

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# 美洲華人生物科學學會



Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America

The 12<sup>th</sup> 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

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 Immunology and Infectious Diseases . Genetics, Epigenetics and Genomics  
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 Aquaculture and Aqua Biotechnology . Chromosomal Biology and Gene Regulation  
 Post-translational Modification and Proteomics . Pharmacology and Chinese Medicine

# 科學美化人生

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