



美洲華人生物科學學會



Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America

September 2009

NEWSLETTER

Volume 24 Issue 3

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK.....

September, 2009

Dear SCBA Members,

I am pleased to report to you that the 12th Meeting of SCBA in Taipei was a hugely successful event. It is my sincere hope that you have benefited significantly from the scientific sessions, which were uniformly outstanding. In addition, I also hope that you enjoyed the friendly and supportive atmosphere that permeated throughout the social gatherings.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Local Host Committee, especially Dr. Andrew H. J. Wang, I. K. Ho, Ming-Daw Tsai, and many others for making this event possible. Special thanks are due to Academia Sinica, for providing an outstanding venue for the meeting, National Health Research Institute, for logistic support. Many other organizations, especially the National Science Council of Taiwan, had also provided substantial financial support. Of course, we should not forget the participation of many staff members and local host committee members for providing the most professional and efficient organizational support, which made this meeting such a smooth and memorable event.

Thanks are also due to members of the Program Committee, chaired by Drs. Mien-chie Hung and Lin Mei and other committee members for putting together such an outstanding program, both in its depth and breadth. Our theme for this meeting is "Science for a Healthier and Better Life." I hope we have achieved that goal.

In addition to the long list of names I wish to express my sincere "Thank-you", I should acknowledge all the speakers and session chairs who were responsible for the tremendous success in the scientific programs, for which I am truly grateful.

Finally, I would like to thank all the officers, especially Drs. Joe Li, Chris Lau, and Dihua Yu, for their diligence in making this meeting a huge success. All the councilors for their genuine support and cooperation throughout the planning session of this meeting are also gratefully acknowledged.

Now, it seems that my job is done, although my term will last till the end of this year. I will work closely with the incoming President, Dr. Kuan-Teh Jeang at the National Institutes of Health, and his team of COOs, Drs. Julian Kang and Yun-Bo Shi, to insure a smooth transit of the Society responsibilities.



With best wishes,
~ Robert Yu, SCBA President (2008-09)
RobertYu@scbasociety.org



A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear SCBA Members,

A total of 4 articles about the 12th SCBA International Symposium at the Academia Sinica June 14 – 18, 2009 have been published:

- A. One article in Nature:
"Biology society narrows Chinese rifts scientific relations warm between Mainland China and Taiwan" by David Cyranoski of Nature

<http://www.nature.com/news/2009/090624/full/4591044a.html>

Nature 459, 1044 (2009) | doi: 10.1038/4591044a
Published online 24 June 2009

B. Two articles in [Science](#) by Dennis Normile have also been published:

1. [ScienceInsider](#) (June 15, 2009) available via <http://blogs.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2009/06/usbased-chinese.html> or <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/324/5935/1629>

2. [Science](#) (324:1629) on June 26, 2009

C. One article in [Asia-Pacific Biotechnology News](#) (September 30, 2009 issue) 13 (9):44-46.



~ Joseph Li
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INCOMING OFFICERS AND ADMINISTRATION 2010

SCBA Officers (Jan 1, 2010)

3 SCBA Chief Operation Officers (COOs):
(Jan 1, 2010 – Dec 31, 2011)

SCBA C00s

SCBA President:

Kuan-Teh Jeang (NIH/NIAID)



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University)



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Yun-Bo Shi, (NIH/NICHD)



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Executive Director (August 2001 –Present)

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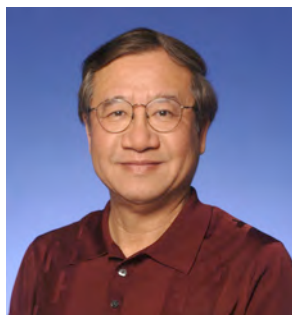
**Previous 3 SCBA COOs who will serve as SCBA
Councilors for 2 years
(Jan 1, 2010 – Dec 31, 2011)**

Robert K. Yu, Immediate Past President (effective 1/2010)



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Chris Lau, Immediate Past Secretary (effective 1/2010)



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Dihua Yu, Immediate Past Treasurer (effective 1/2010)



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Councilors (Overlapping 4-yr term):

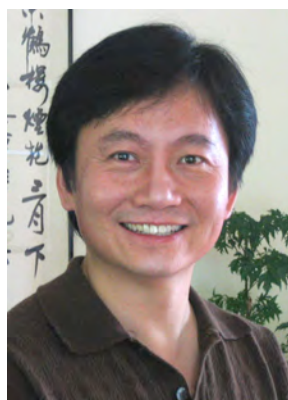
**Two SCBA Councilors for 4-yr term
(Jan 1, 2008 – Dec 31, 2011):**

Sophia Tsai



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Xin-Hua Feng

(Jan 1, 2010 – Dec 31, 2011)



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Three newly elected SCBA COOs who will serve as SCBA Councilors for 2 years

Xiao-Fan Wang

(Jan 1, 2010 – Dec 31, 2011)



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Nomination Committee (2-yr term)

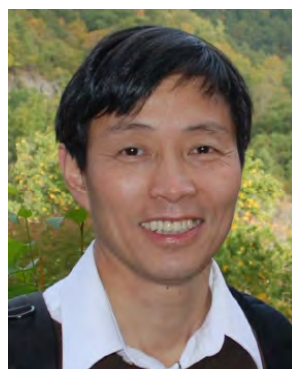
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Long-Range Committee Chair**

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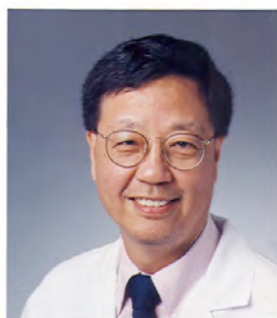
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(January 2012 – December 2013)**

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**SCBA Secretary-Elect
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Please send suggestions, and announcement of recruitments, essays, scientific meetings, discoveries and important events and publications via e-mail attachment to the Co-Editors:
Chris Lau, Secretary,
chris.lau@ucsf.edu or
Joseph Li, Executive Director,
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IN MEMORY OF T. S. BENEDICT YEN, M.D., PH.D.

Dr. Tien-Sze Benedict (Ben) Yen died on August 31, 2009 at UCSF Medical Center of acute leukemia. He was 55. Dr. Yen was the President of the Northern California Chapter of SCBA in 2003-2005 and the co-Chair of the local organizing committee of the 11th SCBA Symposium that was held in San Francisco in 2006.



Dr. Yen was born on October 15, 1953 in Taipei, Taiwan. He moved with his family to the United States in 1965. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Stanford University in 1973 and received M.D. and PhD degrees from the Medical Scientist Training Program

at Duke University in 1982. He spent most of his academic career in the San Francisco Veterans Administrations Medical Center (VAMC), where he served first as the Assistant Chief (1990-1996) and then as Chief (1996-2009) of Pathology Service. He also held a joint faculty appointment as a Professor and the Vice Chair in the Department of Pathology at the University of California San Francisco.

Dr. Yen was an exceptionally creative scientist who made seminal contributions to our understanding of the regulation of gene expression in the hepatitis B virus (HBV). Throughout Dr. Yen's career, he won many awards and honors for his discoveries on key regulatory elements in the HBV genome that control viral gene expression. He discovered that a mysterious HBV gene product named X protein is a transcriptional activator that can enhance HBV replication. Dr. Yen demonstrated that the infection by HBV and hepatitis C virus (HCV) could induce stress on liver cells to cause pathological changes, which can progress to severe liver diseases including liver cirrhosis and liver cancer.

Dr. Yen collaborated with many scientists worldwide, and was often invited to speak abroad in academic institutions such as Chang Gung University in Taiwan, Kanazawa University in Japan, and Xi'an Jiaotong University in China. Dr. Yen was also a wonderful mentor to many students, postdoctoral fellows and young faculty. Even in the last few

days of his life, he continued working to ensure the future career of his trainees.

Aside from his scientific achievements, Dr. Yen was also deeply concerned with race-related social injustice. He campaigned actively against racial profiling and the glass ceilings imposed on the minorities in society. During the confinement and trial of Dr. Wen Ho Lee, a Chinese scientist accused of being a spy, Dr. Yen worked tirelessly to point out injustices imposed on Lee by the federal government. His social activism contributed to the subsequent exoneration of Dr. Lee by the federal judge James A. Parker, as well as a public apology from President Bill Clinton. When a Chinese laboratory technician at UC Davis was accused of espionage, Dr. Yen wrote a letter to the San Francisco Chronicle pointing out inconsistencies in the case. The technician was later found not guilty.

Dr. Yen's relentless pursuit for scientific excellence and social justice was reflected in his approach toward fighting an insurmountable disease. In the darkest hours of his fight against myelodysplastic syndrome, he never gave up hope of finding a potential cure. He was always optimistic and maintained a great sense of humor and a ready smile.

Despite his numerous endeavors, Dr. Yen always made it a point to be home for dinner every night with his wife and two children. He was devoted to his family. He nurtured his son and daughter's academic pursuits and encouraged their interests in music and art. He was actively involved with Lowell High School, participating in committees to raise funds to offset budget cuts and serving as a judge in Bay Area-wide debate tournaments for the Lowell Forensic Society.

Dr. Yen is survived by his wife, Maria Yen; daughter, Cecilia Yen; son, Brian Yen; four sisters, Martha Meng, Madeline Chu, Rosa Chin, Margaret Chu; and his mother, Er-Ying Yen.

Dr. Yen's memorial service will be held on October 5, 2009 from 9:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. in the auditorium of the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Donations can be made to the Dr. T.S.B. Yen Travel Endowment Fund to support the education and research efforts for residents and fellows in the Department of Pathology at the University of California San Francisco (attention: Kai Wang, the Finance Unit, Dept of Pathology, UCSF, Box 0506, 185 Berry Street, Suite 100, San Francisco, CA 94107).

Reported by ~ Eric Huang (UCSF) and James Ou (USC)

ADVERTISEMENTS

Tenure-Track Faculty Positions – The Institute of Biological Chemistry, Academia Sinica, Taiwan, is seeking highly qualified candidates to fill positions of Assistant Research Fellow (equivalent to Assistant Professor). Outstanding candidates at higher levels will also be considered. Candidates in all areas that would complement or strengthen the current topics in the Institute will be considered. 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 and graduate students 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 arrange to have three letters of reference sent to: yujushih@gate.sinica.edu.tw. The search process will start immediately and continue until outstanding candidates are recruited to fill the positions.

NIH encourages the application and nomination of qualified women, minorities, and individuals with disabilities for the following available position:

The **National Institutes of Health-Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Program** is an accelerated program to fully fund graduate students to undertake collaborative PhD projects in biomedical research between labs at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD, and Oxford and Cambridge Universities in the UK. The details of this relatively new program can be found via <http://oxcam.gpp.nih.gov>

If you need any additional information, please contact:

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Website: <http://oxcam.gpp.nih.gov>

NIH Intramural Research Program is Recruiting “Earl Stadtman Investigators”

The National Institutes of Health, the nation’s premier agency for biomedical and behavioral research, is pleased to announce the launch of its search for top-tier tenure-track candidates to become “**NIH Earl Stadtman Investigators.**” Earl Stadtman was an outstanding NIH scientist who mentored many current leaders in the biomedical community. In his honor, the NIH is recruiting basic, clinical and population-based investigators who seek the flexibility of scientific exploration in an intellectual and supportive environment. NIH investigators have the ability to focus on research that is high risk; they can quickly redeploy resources to explore new directions, collaborate freely on multidisciplinary teams, and contribute to the NIH mission of improving human health. The receipt of prestigious awards and honors—Nobel prizes, Lasker awards, elections to the NAS and IOM, among others—demonstrates the scientific rigor of our NIH intramural investigators. We offer competitive startup packages and a collaborative, academic environment with more than 1,100 principal investigators engaged in cutting-edge basic, translational, clinical and population-based research. Our scientists focus entirely on their research with ample opportunities to mentor and train outstanding fellows at all levels. One special feature of our research program is the NIH Clinical Center, the world’s largest hospital entirely devoted to biomedical research.

Qualifications/Eligibility: Candidates must have an M.D., Ph.D., D.D.S./D.M.D., D.V.M, D.O. or equivalent doctoral degree and have an outstanding record of research accomplishments as evidenced by publications in major peer-reviewed journals. Preference will be given to applicants who are in the early stages of their research careers. Candidates in any area of biomedical, clinical and behavioral research are invited to apply. Appointees may be U.S. citizens, resident aliens or non-resident aliens with, or eligible to obtain, a valid employment-authorized visa.

Salary: Successful candidates are offered competitive salaries commensurate with experience and qualifications, and they are assigned ample research space, supported positions and an operating budget.

To Apply: Complete applications should be received by November 1, 2009; however, applications will be accepted until available positions are filled. Interested applicants should submit a curriculum vitae, a three-page description of proposed research, and three letters of recommendation through our online application system, at <http://tenuretrack.nih.gov>. No paper applications will be accepted. For information on the NIH Intramural Research Program, refer to <http://intramural.nih.gov/search> and

<http://www1.od.nih.gov/oir/sourcebook/sci-prgms/sci-prgms-toc.htm>.

Specific questions regarding this recruitment effort may be directed to **Dr. Roland Owens**, Assistant Director, NIH Office of Intramural Research at owensrol@mail.nih.gov. We seek original and interactive thinkers to be part of the next generation of research leaders. Become part of a team that continues to make history. DHHS and NIH are Equal Opportunity Employers.

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**Opening Position for A Director,
Computational Biology and Bioinformatics Program
National Institute on Drug Abuse
Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is seeking a senior-level scientist with expertise in bioinformatics and information technology who will bring significant experience to operate in an intellectually challenging Federal biomedical research institution engaged in a national research program to understand the biomedical and social causes and consequences of drug addiction throughout the world.

This is a new position that offers a unique and challenging opportunity for the right individual to work directly with the NIDA Director to create and establish a major new program in computational biology and bioinformatics. The successful candidate will provide scientific and executive-level management, leadership, and direction for the program; oversee efforts to coordinate and integrate large-scale existing and to-be-developed data systems in therapeutics, pharmacology, genetics, and health services; and mine and

analyze data across studies and disciplines, allowing meaningful new hypotheses, research directions, and well-founded conclusions to be derived. These would involve not only application of standard techniques, but also the development and validation of new and innovative approaches. The candidate will work with scientists and bioinformatics experts at NIH as well as in the academic community and in industry.

The successful candidate will possess an M.D. and/or Ph.D. degree and have scientific credentials and research-oriented experience related to biomedical informatics, computational biology, and/or information technology. In addition, the candidate will have sufficient education and experience to ensure success in managing a professional and technical staff engaged in providing highly technical and complex informatics support to in-house and NIDA-funded university-based biomedical and clinical programs. Extensive experience in information technology management, encompassing strategic planning, technical project management and process transformation, is highly desirable. The candidate also must possess strong leadership qualities and exceptional interpersonal skills.

Application Process: Salary is commensurate with experience; a full package of Federal Government benefits is available, including retirement, health and life insurance, long-term care insurance, leave and retirement savings plan (401K equivalent). Send your application package, including: CV, bibliography, and two letters of recommendation to the National Institutes of Health; Attn: Stephanie Jones, Office of Human Resources; 2115 East Jefferson St., Room 2D-204, Rockville, Maryland 20853; or e-mail jones17@mail.nih.gov; phone: 919-541-7913. For further information on the position, please contact the search committee chair: Barry Hoffer, M.D., by e-mail: bhoffer@intra.nida.nih.gov, or phone: 443-740-2463. Your application package must be received by September 15, 2008. All information provided by applicants will remain confidential and will not be released outside the NIDA search process without a signed release from candidates.

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