FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK.....

Dear SCBA Members:

It is my great privilege and honor to serve as the President of SCBA in the next two years. Thank you all for your trust and support.

I would like to use this opportunity to remember Dr. Kuan Teh Jeang, who left us five years ago (1959-2013). Dr. Jeang (we called him Teh) was a long time SCBA member who served as the SCBA President in 2011-2012. During his tenure, Teh converted the budget of the Society from deficit to surplus and organized a highly successful biennial meeting in 2011. He tirelessly promoted the Society and recruited many new members during his two years of service. Moreover, Teh conceived and guided the creation of a new journal, *Cell & Bioscience*, as the official journal of the SCBA.

Teh introduced me to SCBA and encouraged me to play increasingly active roles in the Society. He was an inspiration to many of his friends and colleagues, myself included. He was a passionate and tireless advocate for the rights and well-beings of Chinese bioscientists. Teh was especially vocal regarding the issue of glass-ceiling for career advancement, faced by many Chinese bioscientists in the US. I would like to dedicate my tenure as the SCBA President to Dr. Jeang, and to the quest he started many years ago.

I would like to introduce the new SCBA leadership team for the term of 2016-2017. The new Secretary is Dr. Jianming Xu, who is a Professor in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology in Baylor College of Medicine. The new Treasurer is Dr. Pan Zheng, a Professor in the Department of Surgery and Institute of Human Virology in the University of Maryland. Drs. Xi He and Chris Lau will continue their services as the Co-Executive Directors. In addition, we welcomed new Council members this year, including Drs. Hui Zheng (President-Elect), Lee Zou (Secretary-Elect), Yong Xu (Treasurer-Elect), Mingyao Liu (Council Member), Wei Yang (Council Member), Zhong-Ping Feng (Nomination Committee Chair), and Zhe Han (Membership Committee Chair). I am excited to have these outstanding scientists joining me in serving SCBA, and I thank them for their time, advice, efforts, energy, and cooperation. Together, I am confident that we will serve the Society well.

Several past-Presidents have told me that the most important job for the SCBA President is to plan and organize the biennial meeting. Therefore, I have started the planning process even before I became the President. **I am happy to report that the Council has selected Kunming, China to host the next SCBA biennial meeting, which will take place on July 24-28, 2019.** I hope many of you will be able to attend this meeting and I welcome your thoughts and suggestions as how we can make this meeting a great success. Please also spread the news of this meeting to your colleagues who are NOT SCBA members and encourage them to join SCBA and to attend the meeting.

Thank you and best wishes,
Dear SCBA Members:

It is a great honor for me to serve SCBA as the Secretary from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2019. I am a tenured professor in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology and the Director of the Genetically Engineered Mouse Core at Baylor College of Medicine. I sincerely thank you for your trust and kindly beg your continuous supports to my work for serving our SCBA community. I will try my best to serve you, our SCBA members.

One of my major tasks to assist our SCBA President Dr. Paul Liu for serving our society is responsible for organizing the quarterly SCBA News Letter. The News Letter serves to enhance the communication among our members. It mainly reports SCBA activities such as election news, meeting news, SCBA journal information, memberships, and other issues our members care about. The News Letter also reports these types of activities hosted by our local SCBA Chapters and Divisions. In addition, the News Letter can highlight our members’ distinguished awards and high impact publications. I will need your helps to identify and prepare valuable topics and materials for publishing in our News Letter. Please feel free to let me know if you have or know a good news, a big award or an important scientific finding for publishing in our News Letter.

Sincerely,

Jianming Xu, Ph.D.
SCBA Secretary, 2018-2019

Dear SCBA Members:

It is my honor to serve as the new Treasurer of the SCBA. It has been 20 years since the first time I attended the SCBA meeting at Hong Kong in 1998. We have seen great changes in the organization, but the friendship remains the same. I currently have academic appointment as a professor in the Division of Immunotherapy, Institute of Human Virology, University of Maryland Baltimore.

Thanks to Dr. Ying Zhang, the immediate past-Treasurer and the previous Board of Directors, we had a great SCBA Global Symposium in Hangzhou, China in the Summer of 2017. We began our new term with a net growth of $27,222.07 during 2016-2017 to SCBA account. With the healthy financial status of the society, we would like to strengthen our outreach effort to increase the local chapters and the scientific divisions in SCBA.

The continued growth of the SCBA, both scientifically and financially, will greatly enhance the benefits to our members and promote the advance of biomedical research. Our Society is built upon its members. The major parts of the SCBA’s income come from membership dues and donations. Please encourage your colleagues and trainees to join SCBA. Please also keep SCBA in mind for your charitable donations. I look forward to working with you to strengthen and grow the SCBA in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Pan Zheng, Ph.D.
SCBA Treasurer, 2018-2019
The 17th International Symposium
Kunming China
July 24 to 28, 2019
2019年7月24－28日
Dear SCBA Members:

Our society journal: Cell & Bioscience (http://www.cellandbioscience.com/), is now in its 8th year with the last official IF of 3.294 in June 2017. We are doing well and continue to grow. We owe you our gratitude for your continued support that has been essential for our success since our official launch in Jan. 2011.

A major event last year is that we have renewed our contract with BMC, which is now part of Nature-Springer Group. The new contract was completed with the help of our immediate past President, Dr. Yang Shi. Now we will receive a bigger share of the publishing revenue, ½ of which goes to SCBA and the other half is for journal development and award. Thus, the more you publish in Cell & Bioscience, the more you will help SCBA to grow as well.

In addition, your research papers published in Cell & Bioscience will be considered for the Ming K. Jeang Award for Excellence in Cell & Bioscience (http://cellandbioscience.biomedcentral.com/mkjaward), which was established in 2011 with a generous donation from the Ming K. Jeang Foundation to honor outstanding research articles published in Cell & Bioscience. The editors are currently reviewing and selecting the winners for last year’s papers.

Again, I would like to call your attention to a valuable category, Research Highlight. As I mentioned before, Research Highlight allows one to write a short article of 1-2 pages to highlight important discoveries in your field. For a recent example, see

https://cellandbioscience.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13578-017-0139-5

Thus, if you are aware of a recent important paper, e.g., from one of your colleagues or friends, you can help to bring additional awareness of the findings by publishing a highlight on it. Additionally, if you have an important paper in press or recently published, please let us know so we can invite someone to highlight it. Of course, we cover all the publication cost.

Lastly, I want to point out that Cell & Bioscience was created with the intention of helping SCBA to grow and prosper. It was launched in Jan. 2011 in collaboration with BMC without any financial cost to SCBA. All editors and editorial board members are volunteers, for which I am grateful. Since 2012, Cell & Bioscience has been generating revenues for SCBA. With your continuous support and help, I believe that Cell & Bioscience will become an important asset of SCBA.

Thus, we hope you consider Cell & Bioscience as a home for your research and submit your manuscript via our online submission system. Visit our instructions for authors or contact editorial@cellandbioscience.com for more information.

Thanks again for your support and with best wishes,

Yun-Bo Shi
Editor-in-Chief
YANG SHI RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION AWARD

Dr. Yang Shi, the president of SCBA (2016-2017), was honored with the International Science and Technology Cooperation Award at the 2017 China Science and Technology Awarding Ceremony held in Beijing, Jan 8th, 2018. Dr. Shi was one of the seven scientists receiving the Award.

Dr. Shi is Merton Bernfield Professor of Neonatology at Boston Children’s Hospital and Professor of Cell Biology at Harvard Medical School. He is an American Cancer Society Research Professor and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Shi is a pioneer in epigenetics research. In 2004 he discovered the first known histone dimethylase, LSD1, a seminal finding that was named one of the 25 most significant publications in the Journal CELL in the past 40 years.

Dr. Shi’s award cites his leading role in promoting and developing epigenetic research in China. Dr. Shi feels strongly that there are many professors who have been doing outstanding work in promoting scientific exchange between US and China, and are equally deserving the Award. Thus, this Award belongs to all who have made significant contributions to international cooperation, and to the teamwork by his colleagues and students.

Established in 1994, the International Science and Technology Cooperation Award is presented to international experts or organizations that have made important contributions to China’s science and technology undertaking and development. The award is presented to no more than 10 individuals or organizations each year.

SCBA offers its congratulations to Dr. Shi for this distinguished honor.

THE BOSTON BIOLOGY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY (BBB) HAS BECOME A LOCAL CHAPTER OF SCBA

By Sean Li

Boston is home of many world-class universities, research institutes, hospitals, and biotech and pharmaceutical companies, and is arguably an epicenter of biomedical science, biotechnology and medicine. It is not surprising that many prominent SCBA members are physically located in the great Boston area. SCBA has expanded its base by gaining the Boston Biology and Biotechnology (BBB) as a local chapter in 2017.

BBB has served as a social club and incubator for many biologists originated in China. Traced back to early 90s, a group of young Chinese biologists (mostly postdoctoral fellows), including Wei-Wu He, Guoliang Yu, Yunfei Wei, Yi Li, Jinshan Hu, Zhi-Xiong Xiao, Haodong Li, Yi Rao, Ying Wu, Qiang Yu, Junying Yuan, Yang Shi, Hong Wu, Xiaofeng Zheng, Ling Chen and Yuan Zhu, began to gather together during weekends for pot-luck dinner while talking about science. Later, more and more fellows and junior faculty members who came to Boston joined the dinner club. In mid-90s, the dinner club began to have regular monthly meetings at Dr. Maniatis’ conference room at Harvard University, facilitated by Jinghua Yang, Ping Zuo, Bing Ren, and others. In 1998, the club was formally named and registered as BBB (Boston Biology and Biotechnology Association) with the mission of providing interactive environment and building up a supporting network. BBB consists of scientists of the Chinese origin in the Great Boston Area, including faculty members in academic institutions, senior scientists from bio/pharmaceutical institutions and senior postdoctoral fellows, with its memberships reaching as far as Worcester, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire. Its first president (Jim Zhi-Xiong Xiao) and vice president (Ruibao Ren) were elected in 1999. The past presidents include Ruibao Ren, En Li, Xi He, and Dongfeng Chen. The most recent president and vice president are Sean Xue Li and Jinghua Yang, respectively. For many years, numerous BBB members have made significant contributions to the success of BBB.

On Saturday March 11th, 2017, BBB organized a symposium at Boston Children’s Hospital, sponsored in part by SCBA and Chinese Biological Investigators Society (CBIS).
Drs. Hao Wu, Yi Zhang, Yingzi Yang and Guangping Gao delivered keynote speeches ranging from genomic imprinting, cancer, immune signaling, to gene therapy. In addition, there were a total of 28 short talks from PIs coming from institutes including Boston Children’s Hospital, Brigham Women’s Hospital, Harvard T.S. Chan School of Public Health, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Wyss Institute, Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dartmouth, University of Massachusetts Medical Center, Brandeis University, Tufts University, Boston University and Brown University. The meeting was a great success (picture inserted)! At the end of scientific exchange, the BBB leadership and the entire meeting attendees have decided to explore the possibility to become a local chapter of SCBA. This is largely based on the initial suggestions of Drs. Xi He, Yang Shi, Hao Wu and Yingzi Yang.

Based on discussion among BBB members, its leadership officially adopted the suggestion that BBB became a local chapter of SCBA. To mark this occasion, members of the BBB community gathered at the Auburndale Cove Picnic Area, Newton, MA 02459 on Sunday August 20th, 2017. We are pleased that Drs. Wenyi Wei and Lee Zou have agreed to serve as interim presidents who will oversee the transition committee, which includes Drs. Hong Chen, Sean Li, Yang-Yu Liu, Quan Lu, Wenyi Wei, Hongwei Zhang, Xiaobo Zhou, Lee Zou. Based on recommendations from the interim committee, we have selected the Board members for the BBB_SCBA Boston local chapter, including Drs. Dongfeng Chen, Xi He, Sean Li, Shirley Liu, Yang Shi, Wenyi Wei, Hao Wu, Yingzi Yang, Jing Zhou, Lee Zou.
THE ASSOCIATION OF CHINESE VIROLOGISTS IN AMERICA (ACVA) BECOMES A NEW DIVISION OF SCBA

By Shan-Lu Liu

This is to announce that a new Division, Division of Virology and its proposed officials has been approved by SCBA council in March, 2018. The newly formed Virology Division originated from “Association of Chinese Virologists in America (ACVA)” will be officially confirmed by its members in July, 2018 at its first meeting at the University of Maryland, College Park. The members of the SCBA-Virology Division include principal investigators (PIs) and trainees of numerous American academic institutions, federal government, and private sectors. Membership will be open to other countries upon approval by the SCBA-Virology/ACVA leadership.

The missions of the SCBA-Virology Division or SCBA-ACVA are:

(1) To promote virology and infectious disease research and recognition of Chinese Virologist community;
(2) To enhance scientific collaborations among Chinese virologists;
(3) To facilitate scientific networking and career opportunities of Chinese virologists across America and beyond.

Currently, the ACVA working group includes 8 principal investigators and professors of the U.S. institutions, with diverse academic, gender, and scientific background; they are:

(1) Genhong Cheng, PhD, Professor, UCLA; Director, Suzhou Institute of of Systems Medicine, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences
(2) Haitao Guo, PhD, Associate Professor, Indiana University School of Medicine
(3) Renfeng Li, PhD, Assistant Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University
(4) Yuying Liang, PhD, Associate Professor, University of Minnesota
(5) Shan-Lu Liu, MD, PhD, Professor and Director, Viruses and Emerging Pathogens Program, Infectious Diseases Institute, The Ohio State University
(6) Wenjun Ma, PhD, Associate Professor, Kansas State University
(7) Zhi-Ming Zheng, MD, PhD, Senior Investigator and Chief, Tumor Virus RNA Biology Section, NIH
(8) Tongqing Zhou, PhD, Co-Head, Structural Biology Section, Vaccine Research Center, NIAID, NIH

Since January, 2018, the working group of ACVA has taken advantage of “WeChat” to introduce > 70 colleagues in the fields of virology, viral immunology, viral vector and gene therapy to its >100 PI members. Topics of discussion include science, career, grant writing, publications, leadership opportunity, glass ceiling, etc.

The SCBA-Virology/ACVA plans to hold its first meeting at the University of Maryland, College Park, in Washington DC, on July 14-18, when the American Society for Virology holds its 37th Annual meeting. Many members of ACVA are expected to attend. At this meeting, it is anticipated that SCBA-Virology/ACVA and its nominated officials will be confirmed by its members.

The current SCBA-Virology/ACVA officials nominated by the ACVA working group are:

Dr. Zhi-Ming Zheng, Honorary President
Dr. Shan-Lu Liu, President-Designate
Dr. Tongqing Zhou, Secretary-Designate
Dr. Haitao Guo, Treasurer-Designate

Detailed plans for future activities will be discussed at this meeting. An official website for SCBA-Virology/ACVA under SCBA will be launched in the near future.
SCBA-Texas Chapter Celebrates Lunar Spring Festival

By Xiaodong Cheng, the President of SCBA-Texas Chapter

Chinese New Year is the time for celebration, family reunion, friend gathering, and good foods. On Saturday February 17, 2018, the Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America Texas Chapter (SCBA-TX) and their family members gathered at the China Bear Restaurant in Houston to say farewell to the Year of the Rooster and to welcome in the Year of the Dog (Photo 1). More than 130 people, spanning several generations with baby a few months old to senior 88 years young, attended the happy gathering.

In addition to many regular scientific activities throughout the year, which include bi-weekly faculty seminars, annual scientific symposium, biannual international symposium, the Chinese New Year party is one of the two major social events that the SCBA-TX organizes and sponsors each year. The other one is our Middle Autumn Festival celebration party. These social occasions, open to all active SCBA-TX members and their families, establish a spirit of fraternity and friendship and keep the community connected.

This year’s New Year Celebration is particularly special for SCBA-TX considering that just a few months ago, hurricane Harvey caused devastating flood in Houston and surrounding areas. Some of our faculty and trainees at the Texas Medical Center suffered major property damages. The SCBA-TX scientific community worked closely together as a group to support and help each other during and immediately after Hurricane Harvey. We are also grateful to the SCBA national office and leadership for teaming up with our Chapter to support some of our trainees who experienced severe property loss caused by Harvey.

The festivity featured tasty authentic Chinese foods, bubbling French Champagnes and delicious California wines. Kids received traditional New Year Red pockets with luck money from the SCBA-TX leadership team (Photo 2). Lovely karaoke songs by our multi-talented faculty members kept everyone entertained (Photo 3). The joyful event brought a close-knit community even closer with a sense of being a part of a big extended family.

With the conclusion of a successful and happy New Year celebration, the SCBA-TX looks ahead to another prosperous year. Looking into the near future, the 2018 annual scientific symposium, the premier event of SCBA-TX now in its 32nd year, is only a few months apart. The annual symposium showcases the exciting scientific achievements from our faculty and students and attracts around 200 attendees every year. This year’s symposium is scheduled to take place at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston on May 12, 2018. We are very excited that Dr. Yifan Cheng, a HHMI investigator from UCSF, will be our keynote speaker to deliver the Wang Ying-Lai Memorial Lecture titled “Single particle cryo-EM of membrane proteins”. The symposium will be jam-packed with exciting oral presentations, representing faculty members and trainees from eight academic institutions in Texas. More than 12 awards will be presented to students and postdoctoral oral presentation winners. In conjunction to the annual symposium, a special half-day workshop on “Academia meets with Industry and Venture Roundtable” will be also held on May 11. This new event will enable our faculty members with entrepreneurial spirit to meet and learn from seasoned leaders in industry and venture investment so they can best position themselves to translate their innovations in the laboratory into patient-benefitting products at the bedside. Indeed, there are a lot of excitements for the coming year!
2017 SCBA WASHINGTON DC BALTIMORE CHAPTER ANNUAL HOLIDAY GALA
Sponsored by the SCBA Washington DC Baltimore Chapter

By Xin Wei Wang

Tuesday evening, December 19, 2017 was a special night for members and their friends of the SCBA DC Baltimore Chapter, who gathered at the New Fortune Chinese restaurant located in Gaithersburg, Maryland for their annual holiday gala. Eighty some local chapter members and friends, including president of the National Institutes of Health Chinese Students & Scholars Association (NIH-CSSA), Dr. Ziyi Liu and president-elect of the Chinese Biopharmaceutical Association (CBA), Dr. Frank Li, along with many of their members attended this event. Dr. Xin Wei Wang, the chapter President, along with Secretary Dr. Yufei Jiang and President-Elect, Dr. Li Yang and Treasurer, Dr. Ji Juro organized this event. Many volunteers managed the reception desk including party registration and SCBA membership enrollment. Dr. Li Yang gave a welcome remark. Dr. Xin Wei Wang delivered an annual report. In his report, Dr. Wang emphasized the importance of annual scientific symposium sponsored by the SCBA DC Baltimore Chapter, which brings local scientists together to promote scientific communication/collaborations, as well as to provide the social network platforms for our local SCBA members. He also summarized the success of many scientific and social activities for members of our local chapter in 2017, including a sponsorship of the KT Jeang Memorial Lecture, which was delivered by Dr. XJ Meng of the Virginia Tech who discovered swine hepatitis E virus. Dr. Wang pledged the support to continue our partnership with NIH-CSSA. On this spirit, many NIH Investigators/SCBA senior members at NIH served as the scientific adviser for NIH-CSSA, and members from NIH-CSSA also actively participated in
SCBA local chapter activities and became SCBA member in 2017. Dr. Ji Luo, Treasurer of the SCBA DC Baltimore Chapter, provided a summary of SCBA local chapter financial report. Dr. Ziyi Liu gave a brief introduction of NIH-CSSA and their annual activities in 2017. Dr. Frank Li provided an overview about CBA and its activities and a pledge to continue our long term partnership and strong connection among local Chinese societies. An example includes our joint workshop to be held in the 2017 CBA Annual Scientific conference. Three SCBA active members/NIH investigators, Drs. Chengkai Dai, Chun Zhang Yang, Yihong Ye were the featured speakers in this workshop co-chaired by Dr. Wang and Dr. Yali Fu, a member of CBA.

A major feature of this year’s holiday gala was a keynote talk delivered by Dr. Hannah Valantine, a physician scientist who also serves as Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce at NIH. The title of her talk is “Leadership Promotion in Asian Scientists”. In addition, she also briefly introduced her cardiological research. Her talk was very well-received.

Another new activity at the gala was dinner entertainment brought by our members, Dr. Ziyi Liu who played Guzheng and Dr. Paul Liu who played violin. Their music brought joy and festivities to our gala.

At the dinner party, Dr. Ji Luo was elected as the President-Elect for SCBA DC Baltimore Chapter. He is an Investigator at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), NIH and a strong supporter to SCBA DC-Baltimore Chapter.

At the dinner party, Dr. Xin Wei Wang and Dr. Yufei Jiang received an award from our chapter in recognition of their outstanding leadership and service to the Chapter.

A total of 82 scientists from local universities, NIH and FDA attended this year’s Holiday gala.

Acknowledgement: We thank Dr. Jack Zhu of NCI, NIH for providing all pictures used in this report.

The chapter President-Elect, Dr. Li Yang, delivered welcome remarks.
Dr. Paul Liu, President of SCBA, plays violin

Dr. Hannah Valatine answered a question by Dr. Paul Liu during her keynote speech.

Washington DC/Baltimore Chapter - 2017 Holiday Gala group photo
MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

The Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America (SCBA) is the largest professional society for bioscientists of the Chinese origin in North America. Our SCBA network has continued to expand, and we hope that our members encourage colleagues to join and enjoy the many resources and opportunities at SCBA.

We would like to give a warm welcome to our newest members:

*Life-time Membership:*

Dr. Lanying Du, New York Blood Center
Dr. Wei Jiang, Medical University of South Carolina
Dr. Renfeng Li, Virginia Commonwealth University
Dr. Qingsheng Li, University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Dr. Lixin Wei*, Second Military Medical University
Dr. Xiaoting Zhang, University of Cincinnati
Dr. Huiping Zhou, Virginia Commonwealth University

*Regular Membership:*

Dr. Wei Li, George Washington University
Dr. Binhua Ling, Tulane University
Dr. Chin-Hsein Tai, NCI, NIH
Dr. Hongtao Alex Wang, Baylor College of Medicine
Dr. Fengbo Zhao*, Nantong University
Dr. Tongqing Zhou, NIAID/NIH

Trainee Membership:

Dr. Chunxia Ai, University of Maryland
Dr. Xuexiang Du, University of Maryland
Dr. Jingxing Ou, National Eye Institute
Dr. Limin Wang, NIH
Dr. Xiong Ye, LifeSt

*International

Sincerely,

Xi He, Ph.D.
Co-Executive Director

Chris Lau, Ph.D.
Co-Executive Director

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

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