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**Notes from the 2020-2021 SCBA Leadership Team**

**Notes from SCBA President**

Dear Fellow SCBA Members and Friends,

What a three months this has been! The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted us in a way no one could have ever anticipated. Basketball players are used as a metaphor for our role in this pandemic in which we have played both the first and second halves, with the exception that there is no halftime break and the second half has been extraordinarily long with no end in sight. I sincerely hope you and your loved ones have stayed well and will remain safe and healthy.

Much has happened within the SCBA in the midst of the pandemic. Firstly, our President-Elect, Linheng Li, has resigned from his position due to unforeseen circumstances. A Council meeting was held on May 19, 2020 and Shan-Lu Liu, who is the runner-up of the category, was voted unanimously as the President-Elect of the SCBA for 2020-2021 and President for 2022-2023. We are very grateful that Shan-Lu has graciously agreed. As you may know, Shan-Lu is the President of the SCBA Virology Division and the leading author of the SCBA open article published in Science in March 2019. Additional details are provided in his bio included in the Newsletter. His devotion to the SCBA and his leadership record make him superbly qualified for this role. I am most grateful for his willingness to serve and I am excited to working with him in moving the SCBA forward. Please join me in congratulating Shan-Lu for the new post and thanking him for his service.

Secondly, I am excited to announce that the publication of this Newsletter is accompanied with the official launch of the new SCBA website! This visually appealing and functionally advanced website is the result of the diligent and hard work of our webmaster Zhe “Zion” Han in the past several months and the SCBA is indebted to his outstanding service. The key features of the website is described in Zion’s write-up. It is crucially important that all members please update your information in the website.
As part of the website re-design and in response to the recent political climate impacting many of our SCBA members, the Council did some deep thinking about who we are and what we represent. Through some intense discussions and brainstorming, a new SCBA Mission and Vision were defined and prominently displayed in the front page of the new website. These will serve as our guiding principles as we advance our Society.

Also associated with membership automation, our Membership Committee has been hard at work evaluating the membership dues and structures. The Chair of the Membership Committee, Yuan Zhu, provides a summary of their recommendations which have been approved by the Council. I would like to point out that we have not changed our membership fees for over 10 years. An increase of Lifetime Membership to $500 is overdue and still a nominal cost for a lifetime membership. This change will be in effective on January 1, 2021. Please spread the word and ask non-members to join before the end of the year to take advantage of the current fee structure.

Additionally, many of you may wonder what is happening with our Biennial conference. The initial decision was to have it in Changchun, China. Unfortunately, the pandemic forced us to abandon that plan and re-strategize. A Planning Committee consisting of Lee Zou, Yong Xu, Shan-Lu Liu, Pan Zheng, Kunxin Luo, Wei Yang, Zhi-Ming Zheng and myself was formed. After much brainstorming, the preliminary plan is to keep the meeting in the summer of 2021 in a US site. I will provide more specific information in the next Newsletter. Ultimately it is the virus that makes the final decision and we hope the situation will be well managed by that time.

Last but not least, our Society journal Cell & Bioscience received a 2-year Impact factor of 5.026, which represents a substantial improvement over the past years. Please join me in congratulating the past and current Editors-in-Chief Yun-Bo Shi and Chris Lau. Please also support the journal by submitting your manuscripts and serving as reviewers.

Dr. Hui Zheng, SCBA President

Notes from SCBA Secretary

Dear SCBA members,

As the country struggling with the COVID19 pandemics during the past three months, many of us had to change our daily lives and adapt to the uncharted realities. Despite these challenges, the SCBA leadership has made a number of important progresses in further developing our organization. As the President Dr. Hui Zheng noted, Dr. Shan-Lu Liu has become the new President-Elect of SCBA. An updated version of “Missions and Visions of SCBA” has been drafted and discussed by the SCBA council. With the tremendous leadership and efforts of Dr. Zhe (Zion) Han, we have
overhauled the SCBA website, making it much more up-to-date and user friendly. We are also actively planning for the next SCBA Biennial Symposium, which is tentatively scheduled to the summer of 2021.

As many of you know, the U. S. President has issued a Presidential Proclamation on May 29 to suspend F-1 and J-1 visas for graduate students and researchers coming to the U. S. from China. We are deeply concerned by the potential impacts of this policy on the Chinese trainees in America, as well as the students and scientists in China who plan to come to the U. S. for training and collaborative research. Many members of SCBA came to America as students or visiting scholars, and have dedicated their careers to the research community of this country. Over the past several decades, the students and scientists from China have been a major driving force of research in many American universities and academic institutions. The contributions of these students and scientists have made a tremendous impact on the advancement of science and technology, and greatly benefited the American society and lives of American people. While the overall impact of this new visa policy is still unclear, it would likely affect the career paths of many Chinese students and scientists, as well as research activities at American universities and academic institutions. It is regretful to see the great deal of uncertainty and anxiety that this policy has generated in the research community. As a society of Chinese bioscientists in America, SCBA will continue to stand by and support the Chinese trainees in this country.

With many new challenges lying ahead of us, the SCBA leadership will continue to strengthen our organization and serve our community. We hope that you will join us in our efforts to keep SCBA growing and thriving in this unprecedented time.

Notes from SCBA Treasurer

Dear Fellow SCBA Members,

I hope everyone is well.

During the second quarter of 2020, the Finance Committee (Drs. Pan Zheng, Ying Zhang, Yvonne Wan, Ji Luo and myself) have been working on the routine duties, e.g. collection of membership dues. In addition, we provided sponsorship to the SCBA Hematology Division for their annual meeting. Importantly, we coordinated with treasurers of each Chapter and Division to collect 2019 annual financial reports. At the end of June, we successfully filed the SCBA 2019 tax return.

As you may all know, the new SCBA website is about to go live, thanks to Dr. Zhe “Zion” Han for his countless efforts. Among many powerful features of the new website, we are particularly excited about the Apricot payment system that the Finance Committee has decided to adapt to for our membership collection going forward. Compared to the PayPal system we used to utilize, the new Apricot payment system accepts credit card payments, which will be more convenient to the majority of our members.
The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact all our lives, especially for those living in southern states (myself included). In addition, there are many other issues that seem to keep coming almost every day, like the visa ban, the travel ban, etc. The year of 2020 has been full of difficulties and uncertainties. However, I want to encourage everyone to put all these adversities aside for a moment, and think about joys we had with our families, our colleagues and our science. Let’s all stay positive and productive.

Dr. Yong Xu, SCBA Treasurer

Dr. Shan-Lu Liu is a lifetime member of SCBA and is a Professor of Virology and Co-Director of the Viruses and Emerging Pathogens Program of The Ohio State University. He is the Founding and current President of the SCBA-Virology Division. He served as the Committee Chair and led the effort to draft the open letter “Racial Profiling Harms Science” on behalf of SCBA, which was published in Science in 2019. Dr. Liu is an elected Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology and was named as the Canada Research Chair in Virology and Gene Therapy when he was faculty at McGill University. Dr. Liu's research is focused on virology and virus-host interaction, with particular interests in HIV, Ebolavirus, Zika virus and coronaviruses, including SARS CoV-2. In early January 2020, in the early stage of the COVID-19 epidemic, Dr. Liu published an article in Nature calling for an urgent investigation of human-to-human transmission of SARS CoV-2 in Wuhan as well as international collaboration to combat COVID-19. He has published extensively in scientific journals and is Associate Editor of the journal “Viruses”, a guest editor of PLoS Pathogens, and an editorial board member of the Journal of Virology and other professional journals.
Introduction of the new SCBA website

Dr. Zhe “Zion” Han, SCBA Webmaster

We are thrilled to announce that SCBA has launched a new website at www.scbasociety.org.

There are many features on our site that you will find useful for your membership. When logged into the site you can check your membership status, renewal your membership if needed, update your membership profile information, register for meetings and events organized by SCBA, post and view job openings or announcements, plus much more.

Please note: If your email address changes at any time, your membership is not affected. Simply login to the website with the email address and password that you had been using and go to your profile settings and change your email address. The new email entered will become your new login email address.

The site also features some of SCBA’s most popular resources:

- Awards – This page features the recipients of the SCBA Presidential Award, SCBA Lifetime Achievement Award, and the SCBA Kenneth Fong Young Investigator Award.
- Membership – Become an SCBA Member!
- Chapters – Learn more about our chapters in the United States and Canada.
- Divisions – SCBA is made up of five divisions: Hematology, Neuroscience, Virology, Cancer, and Hepatology.
- Meetings – This page will be updated frequently to include all upcoming SCBA Meetings and Events.
- Journal – Cell & Biosciences, the official journal of the SCBA, is an open access, peer-reviewed journal that encompasses all areas of life science research.
- News – Our quarterly newsletters can be viewed and downloaded.
- Job Boards – Are you looking for a job or need to fill a position? Use our Job Board!
- Donate – Donate to SCBA!

Our website will continually be updated to include relevant information and resources. Is there something you would like to see included? Please feel free to send your feedback to webmaster@scbasociety.org.
Notes from Editor-in-Chief of Cell & Bioscience

Dear SCBA Members,

Cell & Bioscience is the Society journal and serves as the conduit to every member of the Society as well as the scientific community at large. I am delighted to report a piece of exciting news. Clarivate has released the new journal impact factors this week on June 29, 2020. Cell & Bioscience received an impact factor of 5.026 for the past two years between 2017-2018 and an impact factor of 4.443 for the past five years. These numbers are greatly improved in recent years and reflect the diligent works of the former Editor-in-Chief, Yun-Bo Shi, the former and current Associate Editors, the entire Editorial Board, and many volunteer scientific reviewers. In particular, Yun-Bo Shi has devoted over nine years of tireless efforts in managing the Society journal, and we are grateful for his generous contributions. With the significant improvement in the impact factors, we anticipate the journal will receive close attention from scientific colleagues and a likely increase in manuscript submissions in the near future.

There are numerous ways you can participate and help in advancing the scientific prestige and merits of the Society journal, including submissions of manuscripts describing your important research results and reviews on new developments in your respective specialties, recommending colleagues for submissions of their manuscripts, serving as guest editors of special topic issues, and accepting invitations to serve as reviewers for the journal. As discussed before, we are in the process of expanding the Editorial Board and reviewer database to accommodate specific areas of expertise. We will be grateful if you can volunteer and/or recommend colleagues/associates to serve in such capacities for Cell & Bioscience. In particular, serving as reviewers could greatly foster the scientific growth of junior colleagues under your supervision. Please send your suggestions, voluntary service or recommendations of colleagues to me at: chris.lau@ucsf.edu. I will greatly appreciate, if you can kindly include some relevant information in a brief curriculum vitae, including names, qualifications, academic appointment(s) and affiliation(s), contact information, publications, and a list of personal key words of expertise for the database. Please visit the journal website for further information about the journal: https://cellandbioscience.biomedcentral.com/.

Thank you very much for your support!

Chris Lau, Ph.D.
Editor-in-Chief
Cell & Bioscience
Report from the Chair of the SCBA Membership Committee

In conjunction with the new website launch and membership automation, the Membership Committee held two Zoom meetings to discuss the potential changes of the membership dues. These were further reviewed and adjusted by the SCBA leadership team. Below are the recommendations.

1. Life-time Membership with one-time payment at $500.

2. International Life-time Membership with one-time payment at $400.

3. Regular Membership at $50/year

4. Trainee Membership with one-time payment at $50 for 4 years with possibility for renewal.

This committee also recognizes the potential financial challenges for some members to pay for the membership fee. We suggest that we would accept the application for the reduced membership fee if the applicant can justify the financial difficulties, including a lack of lab funding, the location of the country and/or city. The Membership committee will review the cases and consider a reduced Life-time Membership fee and Trainee fee to $300 and $25, respectively.

This committee discussed the potential incentive to become a life-time member: (1) pay a significantly reduced registration fee to attend the biennial SCBA meeting, (2) organize a session, (3) present at the SCBA meeting, (4) receive 10% discount of publication fee for the SCBA journal, (5) Website ad posting at substantially reduced cost.

The changes will be in effect on January 1, 2021. Please encourage your non-member friends and colleagues to join before the end of the year to take advantage of the current rate.

SCBA Membership Committee
Yuan Zhu (Chair)
Mitchell Ho
Baohua Liu
Feng Yang
Burton Yang
News from the SCBA Texas Chapter

SCBA-Texas Members Meeting June 13, 2020

By Michael Zhu and Qingchun Tong

The SCBA Texas Chapter (SCBA-TX) held an online meeting on June 13, 2020 to elect for SCBA-TX officers of year 2020-2021. The SCBA-TX chapter had a long and uninterrupted history of holding annual symposia in the Texas Medical Center, Houston, Texas, in the late Spring of each year, during which members and their trainees from the academic institutions in the greater Houston area and other cities of Texas, including Baylor College of Medicine (BCM), University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC), University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth), University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA), University of Texas-Medical Branch (UTMB), University of Houston (UH), Texas A&M-University, and the Methodist Hospital Research Institute (TMHRI), give scientific presentations, foster collaboration, and elect the chapter officers for the next academic year. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 34th SCBA-TX annual symposium originally scheduled for May 2, 2020, had to be canceled. To maintain the collaborative spirit and keep the members socially connected and mentally engaged during this unprecedented difficult time, SCBA-TX has been holding weekly webinars via Zoom conferences beginning from April 3, 2020. The topics have included issues related to the current pandemic, such as virus detection and vaccine development, as well as all other areas of biomedical research ranging from cancer, neuroscience, structural biology, drug discovery, deep sequencing, to bioinformatics, with speakers from nearly all major academic institutions in Texas.

The June 13 members meeting was held mainly for the purpose of electing SCBA-TX officers of the next term. The Zoom meeting started at 10 am local time in Houston on Saturday, June 13, 26 members joined the meeting. The current President Michael Zhu briefly reviewed the work of SCBA-TX in the past year. A one-minute of silence from all participants was given to honor all lives lost and people who suffered during this difficult time. The current Treasury, Nancy Huang, then reported the spending and balance of the SCBA-TX account. This was followed by a report from the current secretary, Jin Wang. A number of issues, including the current paid SCBA-TX membership, members’ mail list, SCBA-TX website and Twitter account, and SCBA-TX webinars, were discussed among the participants.

The elections for the 2020-2021 SCBA-TX President, President-Elect, and Treasurer/Secretary were conducted sequentially. After all candidates had given their short election speeches, the votes were casted via Pulleverywhere using text messages. The results were revealed online in the absence of the candidates immediately after all votes had been entered.

The election results are Qingchun Tong (UTHealth) for President, Chonghui Cheng (BCM) President-Elect, and Weiyi Peng (UH)/Jian Hu (MDACC) for Treasurer/Secretary. The participants congratulated the new leadership team, and the meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm.

A transition online meeting was held in the afternoon of June 29, 2020, 4-5 pm Houston local time, between the current and the new leadership teams. Beginning July 1, 2020, the SCBA-TX is under the leadership of Qingchun Tong (President), Chonghui Cheng (President-Elect), Weiyi Peng (Treasurer) and Jian Hu (Secretary), who will continue to transform this most active chapter of SCBA to a new level.
News from the SCBA Hematology Division

The 5th Annual Meeting of the Hematology Division, Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America

Meeting reports prepared by Jianjun Chen and Jun Lu
June 2020

Overview

The fifth annual meeting of the Hematology Division (HD) was held on December 6, 2019 in Orlando, FL, during the 61st annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology. The annual meeting was organized with the leadership of Dr. Linheng Li (President of SCBA-HD, Stowers Institute), Dr. Gang Huang (President-Elect, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital), and with the help of other organization committee members including Jing Zhang (Treasurer, University of Wisconsin), Dr. Ying Liang (co-Treasurer and Committee Member, University of Kentucky), Dr. Jianjun Chen (Secretary, City of Hope) and Dr. Jun Lu (Committee Member, Yale University).

This meeting was organized solely by the SCBA HD Division. The meeting featured a keynote speech by Dr. Linzhao Cheng (former President of SCBA-HD, Johns Hopkins and USTC), and was attended by a record number of attendees. Multiple SCBA-HD members gave talks on their scientific findings, each followed by lively discussions. Attendees also enjoyed social interactions both before and after the talks. Overall, the meeting was a success, continued and expanded the SCBA-HD tradition of a platform for scientific exchanges among members, social interactions among members and guests, and fostering a new generation of scientists.

Attendees and guests

The meeting was attended by 147 people, the vast majority of whom are SCBA-HD members or trainees in SCBA-HD member laboratories. Attendees also included several members from the Chinese Association of Blood Sciences (CABS). Our guests included colleagues and heads of Hematology Division or Institutes in major Hospitals such as Drs. Ruibao Ren, He Huang.
Congratulations to newly elected Academy members

SCBA extends Congratulations to following scientists who were elected to the National Academy of Sciences and American Academy of Arts and Sciences

Newly elected members of the National Academy of Sciences (2020)

Chang, Howard Y.; Professor of Dermatology, and Director, Center for Personal Dynamic Regulomes Dermatology, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, Calif.

Tsao, Doris Y.; Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute; and Professor of Biology, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena

Cheng, Yifan; Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute; and Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics, University of California, San Francisco

Cao, Xiaofeng; Co-Director, CAS-JIC Centre of Excellence for Plant and Microbial Science; and Head, Center for Genome Biology, Institute of Genetics and Developmental Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (People’s Republic of China)

Newly elected Fellows of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2020)

Howard Y. Chang, Stanford University

Edith Chen, Northwestern University

Fan Wang, Duke University

Jie Qiao, Peking University Third Hospital (People’s Republic of China)
Meet our new members

The Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America (SCBA) is the largest professional society for Chinese bioscientists outside of China. 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 Membership:

Dr. Chaodong Wu, Texas A&M University
Dr. Gang Huang, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
Dr. Xinghong Dai, Case Western Reserve University

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http://www.SCBAsociety.org/

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