



# 美洲華人生物科學學會



## Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America

March 2020

Newsletter Editor: Lee Zou, Ph.D.

NEWSLETTER

Volume 35 | Issue 1

Production Editor: Chris Lau, Ph.D.

### CONTENTS

1. Notes from the 2020-2021 SCBA Leadership Team
2. Notes from Dr. Chris Lau, Editor-in-Chief (EIC) of Cell & Biosciences
3. An open letter to President Trump cosigned by SCBA
4. News photo: SCBA President with members of the D.C. Chapter
5. News: A COVID-19 taskforce of the SCBA Texas Chapter
6. Meet our new members

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

##### Notes from SCBA President

Dear Fellow SCBA Members,

I am excited to be the new President of the SCBA for the 2020-2021 term. To set the wheels in motion, we held our first Council Meeting on January 16, 2020. A number of topics were discussed and action plans were implemented. First and foremost, to better define the SCBA missions, particularly in light of to the recent political climate, a Long-Range Planning Committee was formed with Linheng Li, President-Elect of the SCBA, and Shan-Lu Liu, President of the SCBA Virology Division and leading author of the SCBA open article published in Science last year, as co-Chairs of the Committee. They will provide updates on their activities in future issues of the Newsletter.

Secondly, the SCBA website is rather dated and there was consensus for a need to modernize our website. In this regard, I

am grateful that Zhe “Zion” Han, who was the Chair of the Membership Committee during the previous term, has graciously agreed to serve as our new webmaster. He has spent a great deal of effort exploring options and has identified a suitable platform for our website migration. A newly designed website with expanded functionality will be arriving in the near future.

Last but not least, a Finance Committee chaired by Yong Xu, the current SCBA treasurer, has also been formally established that will collectively manage the SCBA finance. Please read his remarks for detailed information.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to these individuals and the committee members for their dedicated service.

In response to the ongoing political situation that has impacted our SCBA members and Chinese bioscientists in America at large, several local SCBA members and myself held a meeting with NIH Deputy Directors Lawrence Tabak and Mike Lauer on February 12, 2020 in Bethesda. During the hour-long meeting, we shared our views and voiced our concerns. The key to take away from the meeting is that NIH continues to encourage international collaboration, including collaboration with China.

During my trip to DC, I also had the opportunity to meet with the DC/Maryland Chapter leadership and present a trophy to Yun-Bo Shi, the founding Editor-in-Chief of the SCBA official journal *Cell and Biosciences*, to thank him for his 10 years of exemplary service. It was a wonderful gathering and thank you DC Chapter for your hospitality.

Finally, as you know, the New Year and, indeed, the new decade, started with the coronavirus outbreak that has become a pandemic. I know many of you have shown your kindness and generosity during this extraordinary time. Unfortunately, certainly individuals have been playing the blaming game and their classless and irresponsible behaviors have affected the Asian Americans here, us included. The SCBA Council has been monitoring the situation and we decided to join force with other Chinese organizations in signing the attached open letter to President Trump in late March.

Please stay safe and stay healthy. I am confident that we will get through this crisis kinder and stronger.



*Dr. Hui Zheng, SCBA President*

### Notes from SCBA Secretary

Dear SCBA members,

I am delighted to present the first SCBA newsletter in 2020 as the new Secretary. I'd like to take this opportunity to ask for your contributions to future newsletters. If you have

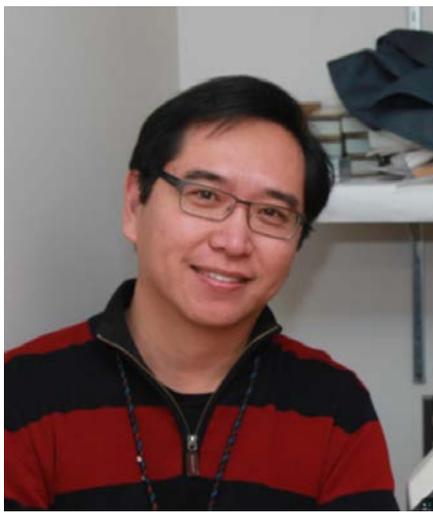
news and photos from events and activities of SCBA local chapters and divisions, please send them to me. I hope that this newsletter will continue to be an effective platform to highlight SCBA activities, promote discussions and interactions, and bring all SCBA members together.

During the first three months of 2020, the leadership team of SCBA has extensively discussed how to strengthen the society in the coming years. As you know, SCBA was founded in 1984 by a few prominent bioscientists in North America. Since then, SCBA has grown tremendously and its membership, influences and activities have reached far beyond North America. The leadership team of SCBA has recognized the need to revisit the missions of our society, and to revise them to better guide the current and future society activities. Dr. Linheng Li, President-elect of SCBA, and Dr. Shan-Lu Liu, President of the SCBA Virology Division, will head a Long-range committee to revise the bylaw and missions of SCBA. We will share the progress of this committee in future newsletters.

A second major task initiated by the new leadership team was to overhaul the SCBA website. Dr. Chris Lau, Co-Executive Director of SCBA, has graciously managed the website for many years. Dr. Zhe 'Zion' Han, Chair of the SCBA Membership Committee from 2018 to 2019, will lead the effort to modernize the website. We expect to see many exciting improvements of the website soon.

Finally, the SCBA leadership team has begun to discuss the planning for the next biennial symposium. Although a number of options were looked at, further discussions become necessary because of the unexpected COVID-19 crisis. We will keep you updated on the planning of the symposium.

I know that many SCBA chapters and members are actively contributing to the fight against COVID-19. Please let us know your stories. I hope to highlight some of them in the next newsletter.



*Dr. Lee Zou, SCBA Secretary*

The kids are at home. Someone you know may have get infected or even passed away... Since my hometown is Wuhan and my parents live there, I have been watching the development of this pandemic almost since day one. Thus, I have the confidence that as long as we stay together and watch for each other, we will prevail, as our colleagues in Wuhan did. Let's all stay positive and productive, and try to contribute to this global fight against the coronavirus.

### **Notes from SCBA Treasurer**

Dear Fellow SCBA Members,

I am thrilled to have this opportunity to serve the SCBA as Treasurer for the term of 2020-2021. From the December of 2019 to January of 2020, I have been working with Dr. Pan Zheng (Immediate Past Treasurer), and Dr. Ying Zhang (Past Treasurer) to finish a series of documentations for access to bank accounts and to update the Periodic Report to Office of Secretary of State.

With approval of the Council, a new Finance Committee has been assembled, including Drs. Pan Zheng, Ying Zhang, Yvonne Wan, Ji Luo and myself. We held the first committee meeting on February 26 to review the current balance of SCBA accounts and also discuss about various topics including tax return, quarterly financial reports and investment choice.

In addition to the routine duties (e.g. collection of membership dues), I have been working with Dr. Zhe "Zion" Han, the new webmaster, to outsource the SCBA website and membership management. In addition, we provided sponsorship to the SCBA Indiana Chapter First Annual Meeting.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted all of us in many ways. The labs are closed. The schools are closed.



*Dr. Yong Xu, SCBA Treasurer*

## Notes from Editor-in-Chief of Cell & Bioscience

Dear Fellow SCBA Members,

The journal Cell & Bioscience was founded in 2010 as the SCBA society journal with the leadership of Kuan-Teh Jeang, the President, and Yun-Bo Shi, the Treasurer, of SCBA at that time. Through the hard works of the leadership team, including KT, Yun-Bo, Juliann Kiang, the Secretary, T-C Wu and Richard Zhao, the Co-Executive Directors, the journal was established with the Biomedical Central (BMC) Publishers as a free access journal. I am grateful to have the opportunity in meeting the COOs and discussed the journal establishment and other matters with them during a trip to Washington DC in June of 2010 (Figure 1). With Yun-Bo Shi as the Editor-in-Chief and active guidance of KT Jeang, it has developed into a premium journal among the Chinese bioscientists in North America as well as other scientists world-wide. It now commands a reputable five-year impact factor of 3.561.



Figure 1. Meeting in June 7, 2010 in Bethesda. L to R, front row, Juliann Kiang, Chris Lau; back row, KT Jeang and Yun-Bo Shi.

For the past ten years, Yun-Bo Shi has worked diligently in building up and maintaining the scientific standards and prestige of the journal in tiredness manners. Regretfully, he has indicated his desire to step down effective of December 31, 2019. He has made a significant and commendable impact to the Society, we will surely miss his editorial expertise, scientific knowledge and judgement in management of such a diverse scientific journal. We are truly grateful for his service to the Society. In recognition of his distinguished service, the current SCBA President Hui Zheng has traveled to Washington DC and presented to Yun-Bo Shi a certificate of appreciation and a trophy for his important contribution to SCBA (Figure 2).

I am grateful for the trust of the COOs and the SCBA Council in appointing me as the Editor-in-Chief of the Cell & Bioscience journal, effective January 1, 2020. I understand the magnitude of the works ahead and will try my best to accomplish the responsibilities endowed onto me. As one of the Editors of the journal since its inception, I have learned a lot in the management of the editorial chores of the journal. However, I am fully aware that Yun-Bo has left a pair of significantly large shoes for me to fill. I have a steep learning curve in the management of the journal. I am glad to have the opportunity in meeting and discussing the issues and learning from Yun-Bo during a trip to Washington DC



Figure 2. President Hui Zheng presents a trophy to Yun-Bo Shi for his distinguished service as the Editor-in-Chief of the SCBA society journal Cell & Bioscience.

in November, and a visit with Dong-Yan Jin, the Associate Editor-in-Chief, in Hong Kong in December of last year. Yun-

Bo has provided a significant amount of advice on the logistics and useful insights; and Dong-Yan has provided numerous suggestions on maintaining and improving the administration and review processes of the journal. I am truly grateful for their important advice and inputs. It has been close to 3 months now, and I have learned and am still learning a lot. I am truly grateful for all the Editors in their efforts and suggestions in helping me through this transition period. As we progress along, I will be reaching out to them and the Editorial Board for advice and suggestions in maintaining, improving and advancing the scientific standing and merits of the journal in the near future.

My fellow SCBA Members, Cell & Bioscience is the society journal and it belongs to every member. There are numerous ways you can participate and help in fostering the scientific prestige and merits of the journal. Your contributions could include submissions of important research manuscripts and reviews on advances in your respective specialties, referring colleagues for submission of their manuscripts, serving as guest editors of special topic issues, and accepting invitations to serve as reviewers for the journal. In addition, we are in the process of expanding the database of reviewers for the journal and will be grateful if any of you can volunteer and/or recommend colleagues/associates to serve in such capacity for Cell & Bioscience. Please send your suggestions, voluntary service or recommendations of colleagues to me at:

[chris.lau@ucsf.edu](mailto:chris.lau@ucsf.edu). I will greatly appreciate, if you can include some relevant information, such as names of nominees/volunteers, academic appointment(s) and affiliation(s), contact information, and a list of personal key words of expertise for the reviewer 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*

Yours sincerely,

Cosigned by Hui Zheng, SCBA President

---



**An Open Letter to President Trump**

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President,

The undersigned Chinese American organizations respectfully call on you and members of your Administration to cease using expressions like “China virus,” “Chinese virus” or “Wuhan virus,” when referring to the novel coronavirus. Your continued use of such terms serves only to stoke xenophobia and racism, stigmatize Chinese and Asian Americans, and even, in some cases, put our lives in danger. This cannot and must not continue.

Mr. President, this pandemic clearly demonstrates that we are living in an interconnected world. Beating this pandemic thus calls for historic and unprecedented international cooperation. No government or public official, whether in Beijing or Washington DC, should pitch conspiracy theories, play the blame game or use the opportunity to score political points. Doing so is petty and ultimately irresponsible in this time of crisis. The United States should rise to the occasion, as we have always done in the past, and lead the world in addressing the crisis rather than sink into an abyss of rancor and hostility that ultimately benefits no one.

At a recent press conference, you said “We must sacrifice together because we are all in this together, and we will come through together.” We could not agree more. One way to start would be for you to take your own advice and refrain from using geographic and ethnic descriptors to refer to a virus that, whatever its origin, is now ravaging 177 countries and territories around the world.

Let us work together, Mr. President, to defeat this pandemic.

---

**News Photo: SCBA President with members of the D.C. Chapter**



---

**News: A COVID-19 taskforce of the SCBA Texas Chapter**

SCBA-Texas Chapter (SCBA-TX) has formed a taskforce on COVID-19 with the goals of promoting education and scientific discussion about COVID-19 and helping our members, as well as our community, to overcome difficulties during this pandemic. The members of the taskforce now include Xiaodong Cheng (UT Health), Paul Chiao (MDACC), Bingliang Fang (MADCC), Yun (Nancy) Huang (TAM-IBT), Jianhua Yang (BCM), Jin Wang (BCM), Meng Wang (BCM), Yong Xu (BCM), and Michael Zhu (UT Health).

The taskforce has set up a website ([www.scba-tx.org](http://www.scba-tx.org)) and a twitter (@txscba) account, where articles and videos about COVID-19 are posted. These social media platforms aim *"to provide evidence-based knowledge and their scientific support to the general public and help our beloved community to combat the COVID-19 pandemic."* Please follow us on these platforms.

The SCBA-TX COVID-19 taskforce is also looking for volunteers and recommendations of the people, especially physicians, who can join the them and/or contribute to articles and videos that can be placed on the social media platforms. Please send emails to [scba-tx-covid19@googlegroups.com](mailto:scba-tx-covid19@googlegroups.com).

*Michael X. Zhu*

---

**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. Meng-Qiu Dong, NIBS\*  
 Dr. Wei Qiu, Loyola University Chicago  
 Dr. Ren-He Xu, University of Macau  
 Dr. Qi-En Wang, The Ohio State University  
 Dr. Xiaohua Wu, The Scripps Research Institute  
 Dr. Mengwei Zhang, University of Texas Health, San Antonio  
 Dr. Ji Zhang, Indiana University School of Medicine  
 Dr. Zi Zhang, Indiana University School of Medicine  
 Dr. Wei Du, West Virginia University School of Pharmacy  
 Dr. Lei Yang, Indiana University School of Medicine  
 Dr. Xinna Zhang, Indiana University School of Medicine  
 Dr. Daohong Zhou, University of Florida Health Cancer Center  
 \*International

**Regular Membership:**

Dr. Haofeng Ji, UCLA  
 Dr. Peng Jiang, Tsinghua University\*  
 Dr. Tatsuo Kido, UCSF  
 Dr. Feng Li, South Dakota University  
 Dr. Kui Li, University of Tennessee  
 Dr. Jade Teng, University of Hong Kong  
 Dr. Xiaochun Teng, The First Hospital of China Medical University  
 Dr. Ying Xiao, Medical School of Zhejiang University\*  
 Dr. Xiaohong Xu, Chinese Academy of Sciences\*  
 Sr. Zhihong Yang, Indiana University  
 Dr. Yuxia Zhang, University of Kansas Medical Center

Dr. Zhi Zhong, Medical University of South Carolina  
 Dr. Liqin Zhu, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital  
 \*International

**Trainee Membership:**

Yuan Li, Stanford University  
 Junjie Zhang, Indiana University School of Medicine  
 Kai Yu, National Institutes of Health  
 Tao Zhen, National Institutes of Health  
 Yuan Li, Stanford University School of Medicine  
 Andrew Barszcyk, University of Toronto  
 Shaoqi Zhu, George Washington University  
 Sujun Chen, University of Toronto



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.SCBAociety.org/>.

Newsletter Editor: Lee Zou, Ph.D.  
 ([LZOU1@mgh.harvard.edu](mailto:LZOU1@mgh.harvard.edu))

Production Editor: Chris Lau, Ph.D.  
 ([chris.lau@ucsf.edu](mailto:chris.lau@ucsf.edu))

Copyright © 2020.  
 Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America.

Publish your next research article in

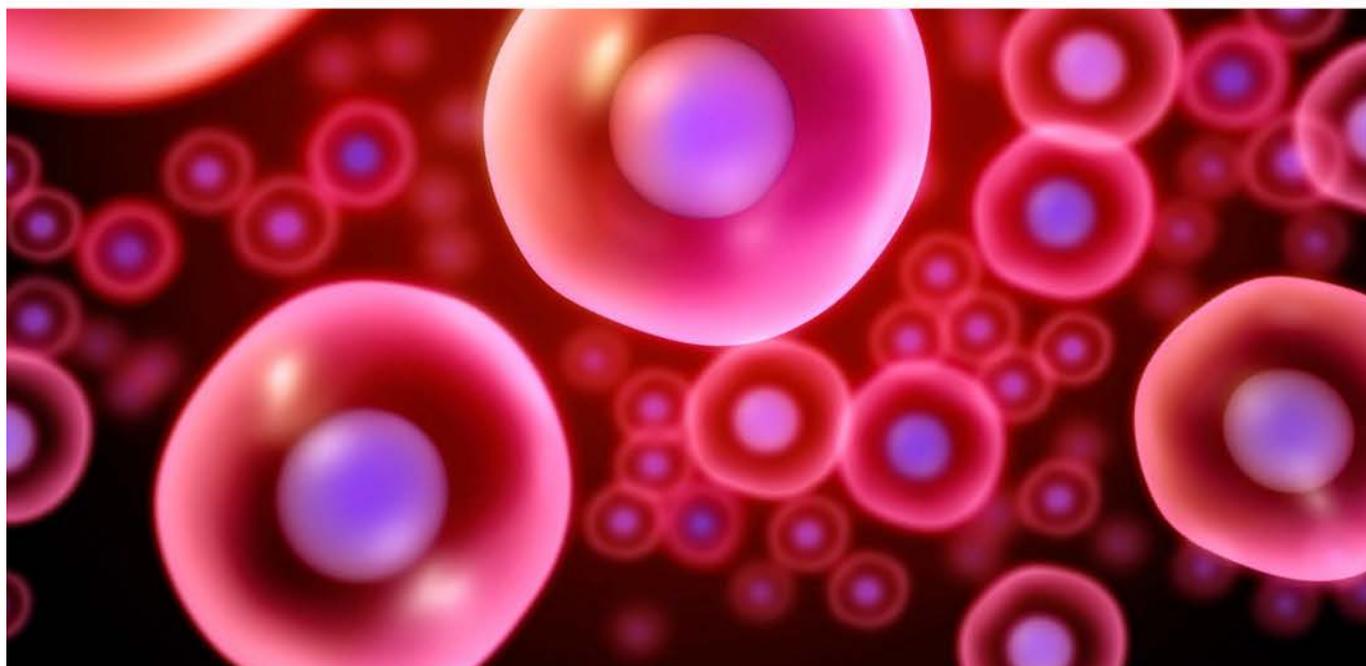
# Cell & Bioscience

Average time to first decision 35 days

Editor-in-Chief: Yun-Fai Chris Lau (USA)

5-year  
IMPACT  
FACTOR  
3.561

2-year  
IMPACT  
FACTOR  
3.355



*Cell & Bioscience* is an open access, peer-reviewed journal that encompasses all areas of life science research.

Official journal of the [Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America](#).

美洲華人生物科學學會   
Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America

Don't forget, if your institution is a member of BioMed Central you are entitled to a discount for publishing in *Cell & Bioscience*.



[cellandbioscience.com](http://cellandbioscience.com)



[biomedcentral.com](http://biomedcentral.com)