

CBIS Announces Recipients of 2013 Awards

The Chinese Biological Investigators Society (CBIS) is pleased to announce the recipients of this year's Ray Wu Award and Young Investigator Award.

The Ray Wu Award was established by the society to honor the late Dr. Ray Wu, who not only had a distinguished scientific career but also nurtured a new generation of Chinese scientists in life sciences through his tireless effort in promoting scientific and educational exchanges between China and the United States. The Award recognizes CBIS members who have made fundamental discoveries in life sciences and/or significant contributions in promoting life sciences in China. This year's recipients are:

Dr. Xiao-Fan Wang, Duke University, for his pioneering research in the field of TGF- β Signaling and for unparalleled efforts in shaping policy and promoting research in life sciences in China.

Dr. Haifan Lin, Yale University, for seminal contributions to the field of Stem Cell Biology and RNA Biology and for efforts in promoting life science research in China.

The Young Investigator Award recognizes CBIS members who are in the early career stages but have already made remarkable contributions in their respective fields. This year's awardees are:

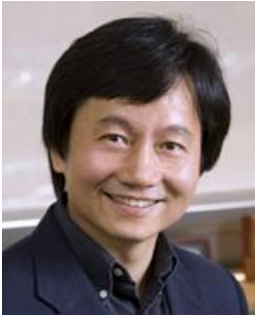
Dr. Yibin Kang, Princeton University, for contributions to the field of Cancer Biology, particularly for elucidating molecular mechanisms of cancer metastasis.

Dr. Feng Shao, National Institute of Biological Sciences, Beijing, for contributions to the field of Pathogen-Host Interaction, particularly for revealing novel biochemical mechanisms underlying bacterial virulence and host innate immunity.

Awardee Biography



Xiao-Fan Wang is the Donald and Elizabeth Cooke Professor of Experimental Oncology and a Professor of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology at Duke University Medical Center. He earned his B.S. degree from Wuhan University in 1982 and his Ph.D. degree from University of California at Los Angeles in 1986. After postdoctoral training at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he joined the faculty of Duke University Medical Center as an Assistant Professor in 1992. He did pioneering research in cellular signaling, DNA repair and cancer metastasis. In particular, he identified the genes encoding the type I, type II and type III receptors for transforming growth factor β (TGF- β) and further elucidated how this essential signaling pathway works as well as how it interacts with other major signaling pathways. Moreover, through his devotion and tireless efforts, Dr. Wang has been highly effective in China in shaping and implementing policy changes that have greatly improved the overall research environment, particularly in distributing and managing major research funds, in establishing fair and transparent evaluation systems for individual scientists and institutions, and in recruiting overseas talents. His efforts have also led to significant increases in stipends for graduate students and in the awareness of the importance of ethics and research integrity. He has received many awards, and his other academic activities include, among others, serving on the editorial boards of a number of scientific journals, such as an Associate Editor for the Journal of Biological Chemistry. He is also the past President of Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America (SCBA).



Haifan Lin is a Professor of Cell Biology, of Genetics and of Ob-Gyn and reproductive Sciences, and the Director of the Stem Cell Center at Yale University. He received his B.S. degree from Fudan University in 1982 and his Ph.D. degree from Cornell University in 1990. Following postdoctoral research at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, he joined the faculty of Duke University Medical Center in 1994, where he rose to the rank of Full Professor. He moved to Yale in 2006 to establish the Yale Stem Cell Center. Dr. Lin has made seminal contributions in elucidating the biology of stem cells, including providing experimental proof for the stem cell niche theory by demonstrating its existence and functional importance, the discovery of the Argonaute/PIWI gene family and their essential function in stem cell self-renewal and germline development, as well as the discovery and functional analysis of a novel class of non-coding small RNAs called PIWI-interacting RNAs (piRNAs), which was hailed by the *Science* magazine as one of the ten scientific breakthroughs of 2006. His findings have contributed significantly to a greater appreciation of the function of so-called “junk DNA” in the genome and a better understanding of epigenetic pathways. Dr. Lin has also devoted efforts in China by participating in peer review for distributing research funds, in evaluating research institutions, in mentoring graduate students and junior scientists, and in improving college and high school education. He has received many awards, and his other scientific activities include serving on the Editorial Boards of multiple scientific journals, and the Board of Directors or the Advisory Council of many societies, research institutions, and foundations, such as the Chinese Biological Investigators Society (2002-2008) and the International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR, 2009- present).



Yibin Kang is the Warner-Lambert/Parke-Davis Professor of Molecular Biology at Princeton University. He obtained his B.S. degree from Fudan University in 1995 and his Ph.D. degree from Duke University in 2000. After completing postdoctoral training at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, he joined the faculty of Princeton University as an Assistant Professor in 2004 and rose through the ranks to become endowed chair Professor in 2010. Dr. Kang has made fundamental discoveries in cancer biology, particularly in the area of tumor-stromal interaction in organ-specific metastasis of breast cancer. He established a series of elegant mouse models to dissect the molecular dynamics of tumor-stromal interaction as cancer cells disseminate to bone and other organs, break out of dormancy and establish overt lesions. These findings have not only elucidated the molecular mechanisms underlying cancer metastasis but also established new targets for therapeutic intervention. In recent years, he has expanded his research to the early phase of breast cancer progression and has uncovered the molecular connection between cell fate regulation, epithelial plasticity and metastatic progression. Dr. Kang is the recipient of several prestigious awards, including a Department of Defense Era of Hope Scholar Award (2006), the Vicek Prize for Creative Promise in Biomedical Sciences (2011), and the AACR Award for Outstanding Achievements in Cancer Research (2012).



Feng Shao is an Investigator at the National Institute of Biological Sciences, Beijing. He obtained his B.S. degree from Peking University in 1996 and his Ph.D. degree from University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 2003. After postdoctoral trainings at the University of California, San Diego, and Harvard Medical School, he joined the National Institute of Biological Sciences as an Assistant Investigator in 2005. He has made fundamental discoveries regarding molecular mechanisms of bacterial infection and host innate immune defense. He discovered several novel enzymatic activities used by bacterial type III secretion virulence effectors to induce novel posttranslational modifications on crucial host signaling proteins. His work on the macrophage inflammasome pathway and its role in anti-bacterial innate immunity has led to the identification of the long-sought cytosolic inflammasome receptors for bacterial flagellin as well as the type III secretion apparatus. His discoveries are not only highly significant for understanding bacterial pathogenesis but also have led to new understandings of eukaryotic signal transduction systems and the innate immune system in mammals. He is the recipient of several prestigious awards, including the International Early Career Award from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (2012), the DGHM Lecture Award from the German Society for Hygiene and Microbiology (2012), and the Young Investigator Award from the Protein Society (2013).