CBIS Announces Recipients of 2016 Awards

The Chinese Biological Investigators Society (CBIS) is pleased to announce the recipients of this year's Ray Wu Award, Young Investigator Award, and Teaching 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. Xiaoliang Sunney Xie, the Mallinckrodt Professor at Harvard University and the Director of BIOPIC at Peking University, for his contributions in single-molecule enzyme kinetics and gene expression, his transformative innovations in single-cell genomics, and his pioneering work on CARS microscopy that allows 3D imaging of live cells and organisms.

Dr. Xiang-Dong Fu, a Professor in the Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, University of California, San Diego, for his important contributions in elucidating the mechanism of RNA splicing as well as how regulatory RNAs and RNA binding proteins modulate gene expression.

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. Ling-ling Chen, a Principal Investigator at the Shanghai Institute of Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, for her contributions to the field of RNA Biology, particularly for revealing new classes of broadly expressed new lncRNA species, including snoRNA-lncRNAs and circular RNAs, as well as their biogenesis and functional potential.

Dr. Hai Qi, a Professor in the Institute for Immunology, Department of Basic Medical Sciences, School of Medicine, Tsinghua University, for his important contributions in the field of humoral immune regulation and seminal discoveries in T follicular helper and germinal center biology.

The Teaching Award recognizes a CBIS member who has contributed extraordinarily to education in biomedical sciences, particularly in China. This year's awardee is:

Dr. Chenjian Li, a Professor in the School of Life Sciences, Peking University. He is also an Associate Dean of the School and a Vice Provost of the university.

Awardee Biographies

Sunney Xiaoliang Xie, PhD
Mallinckrodt Professor
Harvard University Cambridge, MA, USA
Director
BIOPIC, Peking University
E-mail: xie@chemistry.harvard.edu

Xiaoliang Sunney Xie received a B.S. from Peking University in 1984, Ph.D. from the University of California at San Diego in 1990, and did postdoctoral work at the University of Chicago. He joined Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in 1992 and rose to a Chief Scientist there. In 1999, he was appointed full Professor at Harvard University and became the first tenured professor at Harvard from the People's Republic of China since China's reform in 1978. He is currently the Mallinckrodt Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at Harvard and the founding Director of Biomedical Institute of Pioneering Investigation via Convergence (BIOPIC) at Peking University.

Xie made major contributions to the emergence of the field of single-molecule biophysical chemistry and its application to biology. He also pioneered the development of coherent Raman scattering microscopy and single cell whole genome sequencing.

His honors include the Albany Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research, the U. S. Department of Energy E. O. Lawrence Award, the Biophysical Society's Founders Award, the Sackler Prize for Physical Sciences and the American Chemical Society's Peter Debye Award. Xie is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

****

Xiang-Dong Fu, Ph.D.
Professor
Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine
University of California, San Diego
Lo Jolla, California, USA
E-mail: xdfu@ucsd.edu

Xiang-Dong Fu is a Professor of Cellular and Molecular Medicine at University of California at San Diego. He earned his B.S. degree from Wuhan University in 1982 and his Ph.D. degree from Case Western Reserve University in 1987. After postdoctoral training at Harvard, he joined the faculty of UC, San Diego as an Assistant Professor in 1992. He rose to the rank of Associate Professor in 1998 and Full Professor in

2002. He did pioneering research in RNA processing, regulated gene expression at both transcriptional and post-transcriptional levels, and RNA genomics. He discovered the founding member of the SR family of splicing factor and elucidated their roles in constitutive and regulated pre-mRNA splicing. He also discovered the SRPK family of splicing kinases that are highly specific for SR proteins and elucidated a dedicated signaling pathway via these kinases to transduce growth factor signaling to the nucleus to regulate alternative splicing. He pioneered studies on cell fate switches mediated by regulatory RNAs and RNA binding proteins and revealed diverse mechanisms for their functions in mammalian genomes to activate or repress transcription during cellular reprogramming. Dr. Fu is a founding member of the Ray Wu Society. In keeping Dr. Wu's inspirit, he has been actively promoting science, especially RNA research, in China by interacting, collaborating, mentoring junior scientists. He has extensively participated in institutional reviews, study sessions, and organization of scientific meetings in China. He is now serving as the Director of Chinese Academy of Science Key Laboratory for Nucleic Acid Research at the Institute of Biophysics.

****

Ling-Ling Chen, PhD
Principal Investigator
Shanghai Institute of Biochemistry and Cell Biology
Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences,
Chinese Academy of Sciences
Shanghai, China
E-mail: linglingchen@sibcb.ac.cn

Ling-Ling Chen is an Investigator at the Shanghai Institute of Biochemistry and Cell Biology (SIBCB), SIBS, CAS. She obtained a B.S. degree from Lanzhou University in 2000, a M.S degree from Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, CAS in 2003 and a Ph.D-MBA dual degree from University of Connecticut in 2009. After one-year postdoctoral training at UConn Health Center, she was promoted as an Assistant Profession in residence there in 2010, and then joined SIBCB as a Principal Investigator in 2011. Dr. Chen studies long noncoding RNAs (lncRNAs), a giant and varied class of RNA molecules. She has made fundamental discoveries regarding the biogenesis and functional potential of several classes of lncRNA species. She pioneered methods for genome-wide characterization of non-polyadenylated RNAs, which led to the identification of broadly expressed intron-derived snoRNA-ended lncRNAs, circular intronic RNAs derived from intron lariats and circular RNAs produced from back-spliced exons by RNA pairing in flanking introns. These studies have uncovered unexpected types of lncRNAs with functional potential and roles for previously considered "junk" introns in shaping complex mammalian transcriptomes. She serves on Editorial Boards of Trends Genet and Genome Biol, and is the recipient of Liquqi Award from the Chinese Genetics Society (2015) and A-IMBN Research Young Investigator/Ken-ichi Arai Award (2016).

****

Hai Qi, PhD
Professor
Institute for Immunology
Department of Basic Medical Sciences, School of Medicine
Tsinghua University, Beijing, China
E-mail: qihai@tsinghua.edu.cn

Hai Qi is a Professor of Immunology in the School of Medicine at Tsinghua University. He obtained his B.M. degree from Beijing Medical University in 1996 and his Ph.D. degree from University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston in 2003. After completing postdoctoral training at NIAID/NIH, he joined the faculty of Tsinghua University as a tenure-track Associate Professor in 2009 and became a full professor in 2015. Dr. Qi has made fundamental discoveries in humoral immune regulation, particularly in the area of follicular T-helper cells and germinal center biology. He has made creative use of intravital imaging, combined with sophisticated mouse models, to uncover novel cellular dynamics and molecular mechanisms for B cell activation, T-B lymphocyte interactions, and germinal center reaction. His findings are highly significant for our basic understanding of how long-lived humoral immune memory is formed and for our quest of future vaccines to induce durable antibody protection against microbial infection. Dr. Qi is the recipient of several prestigious awards, including a Tian Jiazhen Life Science Innovation Award (2015) and a Cheung Kong Scholar Award (2015).

****

Chenjian Li, Ph.D.
Vice Provost, Peking University
Professor and Associate Dean,
School of Life Sciences, Peking University
li_chenjian@PKU.edu.cn

Dr. Chenjian Li is currently the Vice Provost of Peking University, and Professor and Associate Dean of School of Life Science, Peking University. Prior to his return to China, he was an assistant professor and associate professor at Weill Medical College of Cornell University (2003—2009), and then Aidekman Endowed Chair of Neurology at Mount Sinai School of Medicine (2010—2013). Dr. Li's scientific research focuses on exploring the molecular and cellular mechanisms of neurological diseases.

Parallel to research, Dr. Li is extremely devoted to education development and reforms, ranging from high school, undergraduate, graduate and medical student education. He was one of the organizers of the influential "Science Outreach Program" in USA. Since his return to China, he has played a leading

role in important initiatives such as the establishment of Cambridge-PKU Center for China Study, inauguration of Rhodes Scholar program in China, reform of college admission by holistic evaluation, design and implementation of liberal education curriculum at PKU, etc. He received many awards for excellence in teaching, including a student-voted “Pied Piper Mater” at Weill Cornell Medical College in 2006, and a student-voted “Best Teacher” at PKU in 2015.