First SCLS-CBIS Joint Life Science Research Workshop: Frontiers of Cancer Research Held in Tsinghua University, Beijing

The first SCLS-CBIS Joint Life Science Research Workshop, Frontiers of Cancer Research, was held in Tsinghua University on March 5th, 2017. This workshop was co-sponsored by Academic Works and Publications Committee of Academic Divisions of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), SCIENCE CHINA Life Sciences(SCLS), and Tsinghua University (THU) School of Medicine, the Chinese Biological Investigators Society (CBIS). It was undertaken jointly by THU School of Medicine, the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC), and Tsinghua-Peking Center for Life Sciences. Scientific program of the Workshop was organized by Prof. Lei Li from MDACC, Prof. Guo-Min Li from University of Southern California/THU School of Medicine, and Prof. Xin Lin from THU School of Medicine.

Prof. Lei Li, also an overseas member of SCLS editorial board, declared the opening of the workshop by welcoming all participants and introducing the objectives and themes of the SCLS-CBIS Joint Life Science Research Workshop series. Dean of THU School of Medicine, Prof. Chen Dong gave a welcome remark and introduced THU School of Medicine, which has recently celebrated its 15-year anniversary. On behalf of SCLS Editor-in-Chief Prof. Dacheng Wang, SCLS vice Editor-in-Chief Xiaofeng Cao, a CAS member and a professor at Institute of Genetics and Developmental Biology, CAS, introduced the journal and the partnership between SCLS and CBIS. Relevant leaders of Academic Divisions of CAS and SCLS attended the opening session.

Twelve scientists and physician scientists, including internationally recognized leaders, presented their ongoing research works during the workshop. The subject of the presentations covered the broad spectrum of cancer research, including DNA damage repair in cancer cells, cancer cell signaling pathways, mechanisms of cancer metastasis, cancer therapy, new platforms for drug discovery and cancer proteomic profiling, and the multi-center clinical trials in advanced B cell lymphoma treatment.

Prof. Mien-Chie Hung from MDACC gave an outstanding keynote speech “Marker-guided Combination therapy of PARP inhibitors and development of immuno checkpoint therapy”, introducing two recent works from his lab that may substantially expand and improve the efficacy of cancer immunotherapy. Other speakers included Profs. Junjie Chen, Lei Li, Luhua Wang and Cullen M. Taniguchi of MDACC, Guo-Min Li, Lee Zou from Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center, Harvard Medical School, Xiang Zhang from Baylor College of Medicine, Jun Qin from State Key Laboratory of Proteomics, National Center for Protein Sciences, Yeguang Chen and Qiaoran Xi from THU School of Life Sciences, and Dong Wang from THU School of Medicine. The workshop contained four sessions, and Drs. Xin Lin, Yeguang Chen, Lee Zou, and Luhua Wang acted as session chairs.

In addition to the twelve research presentations, Prof. Margaret McDonald from University of Pittsburgh (UP), on behalf of Prof. Arthur S. Levine, Senior Vice Chancellor for the Health Sciences and Dean of the School of Medicine, discussed the pioneer partnership in medical research and education between UP School of Medicine and Chinese universities, including THU School of Medicine and Xiangya School of Medicine, Center South University.

Most of the 400 plus participants of the Workshop were students and scientists from universities and research institutions such as Tsinghua University, Peking University, Peking Union Medical College, CAS.
Institute of Biophysics, and CAS Beijing Institute of Genomics, other institutions outside Beijing. The speakers discussed with the audience and among each other on frontiers, key issues and future directions of cancer research in a lively atmosphere.

The partnership between SCLS and CBIS officially began on January 2016. The two organizations are committed to hold the SCLS-CBIS Joint Life Science Research Workshop series annually or semiannually. The Workshop on Frontiers of Cancer Research is also part of the “Frontiers of Science and Technology Workshop” chartered by CAS Academic Divisions, and enthusiastically supported by CAS Academic Works and Publications Committee. The SCLS-CBIS workshop series aims to provide a platform for scientists at China and abroad to communicate new discoveries in life sciences and opportunities to explore new collaborations in their common interests. At the same time, the workshop series will serve the purpose of promoting the advancement of Chinese life science research and the internationalization and impact of SCLS.

To further consolidate the workshop, SCLS invites the speakers to contribute articles on the topics they spoke about and will publish a special issue under the theme of “Frontiers of Cancer Research”, please check http://link.springer.com/journal/11427 for further updates.