



美洲華人生物科學學會



Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America

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Newsletter Editor: Kunxin Luo, Ph.D.

NEWSLETTER

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Letter from the SCBA President

Dear Fellow SCBA Members,

I hope you all have enjoyed the summer and are ready to embrace the beautiful fall and upcoming winter.

We had a great 18th international symposium in Boston in late July, with over 300 participants coming from the US and other parts of the world. From plenary sessions to theme-based workshops, and to the panel discussion and dialogue with NIH officers, the symposium is truly a success. I wish to thank the conference planning committee chair Dr. *Hui Zheng*, the scientific program committee co-chairs Drs. *Zhi-Ming Zheng* and *Lee Zou*, the conference webmaster Dr.

Renfeng Li, the SCBA co-executive directors Drs. *Chris Lau* and *Xi He*, as well as the conference planning committee members, program committee members, and local organizers for their incredible work.

After the Boston meeting, I received emails from our members regarding the continuing issue of racial profiling and federal investigations of Chinese American scientists, including some SCBA members. I had meetings with the leaderships of [Asian American Scholar Forum](#), [Chinese Biological Investigators Society](#), [APA Justice](#), and [Committee 100](#), and discussed the possible next steps we can take. I will update you the plans and strategies later.

One important progress of the SCBA in the last few months is the formation of two new chapters: One is the SCBA-Ohio Chapter, and another is the SCBA-Northern California Chapter – see news briefings in this issue of newsletter. Congratulations, and welcome!

SCBA currently has more than 2,500 members, including a dozen US National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and National Academy of Medicine (NAM) members. Here I would like to congratulate our SCBA members Dr. [Zhijian “James” Chen](#) and Dr. [Yang Shi](#) for their recent election into the National Academy of Medicine. Dr. Chen is also an elected member of NAS, and Dr. Shi is an elected member of American Academy of Arts and Sciences and also a past President of SCBA. Both are recipients of the SCBA Presidential award, the highest honor of our society. Congratulations!

Last but not the least, I wish to congratulate Dr. [Lee Zou](#), the former SCBA secretary, the Program co-chair and local organizer of the 18th Symposium in Boston, for his new position and appointment as [Chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology](#) at Duke University. Congratulations!

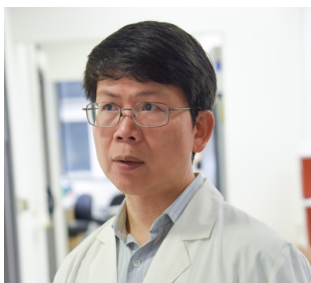
Shan-Lu Liu, MD, PhD
President
SCBA



Awards and Honors to SCBA Members

Drs. James “Zhijian” Chen and Yang Shi elected to the National Academy of Medicine

Congratulations to SCBA members Drs. James Chen and Yang Shi for the elections into the National Academy of Medicine for their outstanding achievements and contribution to basic and medical sciences.



Dr. Zhijian “James”

Chen is an investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and George L. MacGregor Distinguished Chair in Biomedical Science and professor, Department of Molecular Biology, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas. Dr. Chen studies mechanisms of cell signaling and host defense and has made several ground-breaking discoveries in how nucleic acids trigger immune responses. He discovered MAVS, the first mitochondrial protein known to be involved in immune defense against microbial infections and RNA viruses. He has also identified the DNA sensing enzyme cGAS and its product cGAMP and determined the important roles of the cGAS pathway in the immune response against DNA viruses, retroviruses, and bacteria as well as in autoimmunity.

Dr. Chen is a life-time member of SCBA since 2000 and has served on the SCBA award committee since 2022. He won the SCBA Presidential Award in 2019.

Dr. **Yang Shi** is professor and director of epigenetics, Cancer Research UK Oxford Centre, University of Oxford, Oxford, England, and member, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research. He was elected an EMBO member and to American Association for Cancer Research



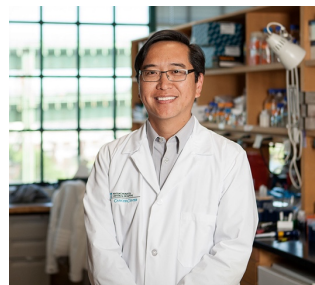
Academy in 2022. Dr. Shi is known for his pioneer work on histone methylation and epigenetic modification. He identified the first histone demethylase, LSD1, and changed the long-held dogma that histone methylation was irreversible. This groundbreaking discovery and subsequent contributions to the discovery of other demethylases have revolutionized the epigenetic field and have important implications in both basic research and in medicine.

Dr. Shi is a life-time member of SCBA. He served as the SCBA President in 2016-17 and as a council member from 2014-2019. Dr. Shi received the SCBA presidential Award in 2022.

Dr. Lee Zou named Chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology at Duke University School of Medicine

A big congratulation to Dr Lee Zou, who has been named the new chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology at Duke University School of Medicine. Lee has a long association with SCBA. He was the Interim Co-President of the SCBA Boston Chapter in 2017 and served as the Secretary of SCBA from 2020-2021. He has been a SCBA Council member since 2018. In 2022, He was the co-Chair of the program committee for the SCBA Symposium in Boston, and as a local co-organizer, his efforts helped to ensure the success of the SCBA symposium.

Currently, Lee is a Professor of Pathology at Harvard Medical School and Scientific Co-Director of the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer



Center. He is also the James and Patricia Poitras Endowed Chair of Cancer Research, and a co-leader of the Cancer Cell Biology Program of the Dana Farber/Harvard Cancer Center. His research focus is on the ATM and ATR checkpoint pathways in human cells. Lee will start his new position on February 2.

New Membership Report

Dear SCBA members,

We hope this message finds you well. It is great to see so many fellow SCBA members at the 18th SCBA symposium this summer in Boston! As the restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic gradually loosen up, we hope to see more of you in person at many activities organized by local chapters and divisions toward the end of 2022. We are also thrilled to see many new members joining the SCBA family in the past 10 months of 2022. We have **200 colleagues** from both North America and Asia who recently became lifetime or regular members. More than ¼ of them are trainees at different stages of their career! A supplement with the names of all the new

members will be shared later. Welcome to all new members!

Membership category	Region	Number
Lifetime member	North America	52
	Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan	3
Regular Member	North America	83
	Hong Kong, Taiwan	3
Trainee	North America	59
Total		200

Membership Committee:

Xin Chen (chair); Renfeng Li (webmaster)

Hong Chen, Hongbing Wang, Jin Wan

New SCBA-Ohio Chapter

Ohio is one of the major biomedical research hubs in the Midwest, boasting a large number of outstanding Chinese bioscientists. The Ohio Chapter of the SCBA was established in September of 2022 with members from The Ohio State University, Case Western Reserve University, University of Cincinnati, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, University of Toledo and others. Officials for the term 2022-2024 of the SCBA-Ohio Chapter were nominated by the working group members, which include Drs. Chen Gu, Zihai Li, Shan-Lu Liu, Qing Lu, Lin Mei, Jiang Wang, and Zhenghe Wang. A formal ballot was sent to and approved by sixty-one members in Ohio. The current leadership team is composed of Dr. **Tsan Sam Xiao** (President), Dr. **Junran Zhang** (Secretary), and Dr. **Xiaoting Zhang** (Treasurer).



The leadership team had the first meeting on September 24th, 2022, to discuss membership, selection of advisory board members, and plans for future academic and social activities. The mission of the Ohio Chapter is to promote bioscience research and recognition of Chinese bioscientists, to facilitate professional networking and collaboration, and to provide career opportunities for our members within and beyond Ohio.

As part of SCBA, the Chapter will serve as a voice to represent and promote our members, as well as to increase the awareness of issues of concern to the community of Chinese bioscientists.

New SCBA-Northern California Chapter

The Bay Area Chinese Life-science Investigators Forum (BACLIF) joined SCBA as its Northern California Chapter

BACLIF is a non-profit organization established in 2018 with the goal of promoting the scientific communication and collaboration among Chinese American faculties in the great Bay Area. Currently, BACLIF serves a growing body of 55+ faculty members from UCSF, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, Stanford University, and the Buck Institute for Aging Research. The BACLIF members are active in a wide range of fields, including neuroscience, biophysics, regeneration, genetics, molecular/cellular biology, bioengineering, cancer biology, etc. The career stages of the BACLIF members range from junior assistant professors to HHMI investigators and members of US National Academy of Sciences. The goal of BACLIF is to build a vibrant community for Chinese American faculties to maximize the success of each member in both research and leadership in the biomedical fields. We are very excited that one of our long-term members, Dr. **Kang Shen**, was recently named director of the Wu Tsai Neurosciences Institute at the Stanford University.

To achieve the goal, BACLIF hosts bimonthly half day seminars in Menlo Park with members sharing their exciting research programs, resources, and techniques followed by an informal dinner to increase the

interactions among faculties. In addition, the BACLIF members enjoy annual retreats with both formal talks and informal social events throughout the day. This forum has been very successful in promoting collaborations among the BACLIF members and beyond. This is reflected by numerous co-authored publications and co-PI grants among BACLIF members that would not be possible without this platform. For example, early this year, Dr. **Lin Tian** from UC Davis and Dr. **Na Ji** from UC Berkeley, both long-term BACLIF members, won a joint award from W. M. Keck Foundation to develop a deeper understanding of when and where neurochemicals release in the brain and how these complex signals shape the function and structure of neural circuits.

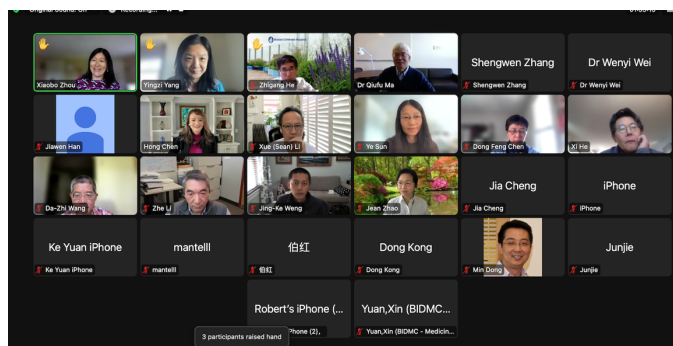


With shared goals and missions, the BACLIF is excited to join the national SCBA community as the SCBA-Northern California Chapter to promote the communication and collaboration across the country and different fields. We believe that becoming a local chapter of SCBA will boost the interactions between BACLIF members and the national community of SCBA to share opportunities and resources for the success of members in both research and leadership. The future is bright!

Update from the SCBA-Boston Chapter

The SCBA-Boston Chapter (Boston Biology and Biotechnology Association) holds a special virtual seminar

On September 21, 2022, a special seminar was held to celebrate the achievement of Dr. **QiuFu Ma**,



Professor of Neurobiology at Harvard Medical School. Dr. QiuFu Ma gave an overview of decades of research, which focuses on two major areas: mapping the pain pathways and exploring how acupuncture works. His group has been using genetic tools, electrophysiological recordings, and novel behavioral assays to characterize spinal pathways that transmit clinically relevant pain signals. More recently, his group has been studying how stimulation of somatosensory neurons by electroacupuncture drives autonomic nervous reflexes that can in turn modulate local or systemic inflammation. This work has recently been published in Nature (2021 Oct; 598(7882):641-645). These new studies explore the modern neuroanatomical basis underlying the acupuncture practices and help to develop new systems biology approaches to treat diseases and chronic pain.

SCBA members and his colleagues congratulated Dr. Ma for his achievements and wished him every success in his future endeavors. In the end of this event, a

lunch celebration was held at the My Happy Hunan Kitchen in Brighton, MA. Also among the attendees are Dr. Jia Cheng, Scientific Editor from Cell, and Dr. Zhaodong Li, Scientific Editor from Cancer Cell.



Update from the SCBA-Virology Division

SCBA-Virology Division holds 2022 Semi-Annual Meeting and elect new leadership

The SCBA-Virology Division (aka the Association of Chinese Virologists in America, ACVA) had its 2022 semi-annual meeting during the 18th SCBA Symposium held in Boston (July 28-31, 2022). More than 30 division members attended the symposium and presented their research in virology-related sessions. At the division meeting, Dr. **Haitao Guo**, the current President of SCBA-Virology Division summarized the major events and activities that the Virology Division has had since the beginning of year 2022, as well as highlighted the members' significant scientific recognitions and achievements, including Dr. **Pei-Yong Shi**'s tremendous contributions to the COVID-19 research and vaccine development. Furthermore, the newly elected division officers for term 2023-2024 were announced as follows:

Renfeng Li, Ph.D. – President Elect
Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

Yizhi Jane Tao, Ph.D. – Secretary Elect
Rice University, Houston, TX

Wei Jiang, M.D. – Treasurer Elect
Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC

In addition, Drs. **Shan-Lu Liu** and **Zhi-Ming Zheng** received Outstanding Leadership awards for their services as Founding President and Honorary President of SCBA-Virology Division/ACVA, respectively. In the meeting, members also discussed common questions and general concerns of Chinese American scientists, as well as future directions and plans of the Virology Division. After the SCBA meeting, the SCBA-Virology Division had a gathering dinner in Boston downtown, about 35 division faculty and trainees attended the dinner, plus special guests Drs. **Harvey Alter**, **Louise Chow**, **Thomas Broker**, **Xiao-Fan Wang**, **Xinnian Dong**, **Kun-liang Guan**, and **Xi He**.



Editor's update from Cell & Biosciences

Dear SCBA Members,

We are pleased to report that *Cell & Bioscience*, the SCBA society journal, has advanced significantly in recent years. Noticeably, it received an **Impact Factor of 9.606 for 2021**. We are grateful for all your support as

well as those of the scientific community who have faith in our journal. The success suggests that *Cell &*

Impact Factors Through the Years

Year	Journal Impact Factor	JIF without Self Cites	5 Year Impact Factor
2021	9.606	9.535	8.113
2020	7.133	6.980	6.302
2019	5.026	4.921	4.443
2018	3.355	3.332	3.561
2017	3.405	3.314	3.566
2016	3.294	3.221	3.416
2015	2.883	2.649	3.188
2014	3.630	3.457	3.443
2013	3.210	2.988	3.210
2012	3.000	2.561	3.000

Bioscience

has become a valuable platform for biomedical investigators to report scientific findings. It

also posts challenges for the Editorial Board to evaluate expeditiously the submissions. This demand exerts a heavy load on the Editors, editorial board members and reviewers, who are working on a voluntary basis as experts in respective fields. In order to identify solutions for these challenges, an Editorial Board meeting was held on September 19, 2022, via Zoom. The discussion is briefly summarized in the following.



Editorial Board Meeting 9/19/2022

The Editor-in-Chief, Dr. **Chris Lau**, presented a comprehensive overview of the journal with information on the numbers of submissions, acceptance, published articles and rates of acceptance, as well as geographical distributions of submissions and reviewers. Importantly, the recent acceptance rates for the past two years had been

about 15%, suggesting that only high-quality manuscripts are likely to be accepted for the journal.

With the significant increases in both submissions and impact factor in recent years, additional Editors have been recruited to supplement areas of expertise currently lacking. The full list of Editors is as follows:

Chris Lau (Editor-in-Chief), University of California, San Francisco

Dong-Yin Jin (Associate Editor-in-Chief), The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Ying E Zhang (Associate Editor-in-Chief), National Institutes of Health

Lin Mei (Associate Editor-in-Chief), Case Western Reserve University

Jia Chen, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Ruey-Hwa Chen, Academia Sinica, Taiwan

Wanjuan Chen, National Institutes of Health

Wen-Xing Ding, University of Kansas

Zhe Han, University of Maryland

Wanjin Hong, Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology, Singapore

Yi-Ping Hsueh, Academia Sinica, Taiwan

Jim Hu, University of Toronto, Canada

Peng Jin, Emory University

Kwok-Wai Lo, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Kunxin Luo, University of California, Berkely

Duaqing Pei, Westlake University, China

Yun Qiu, University of Maryland

Yufang Shi, Soochow University, China

Stephen Tsang, Columbia University

Xin Wei Wang, National Institutes of Health

Lixin Wei, The Second Military Medical University, China

T-C Wu, Johns Hopkins University

Yong Xu, Baylor College of Medicine

Zhi-Ming Zheng, National Institutes of Health

Huiping Zhou, Virginia Commonwealth University

All Editors, including the Editor-in-Chief, Associate Editors-in-Chief, Editors, and members of the Editorial Board serve on *renewable* terms, ranging from 3 to 5 years, thereby providing opportunities for review of the mutual commitments of the Editors and Editorial Board members with the journal in regular intervals. An Editorial Administrative Committee (Editorial Committee), consisting of the Editor-in-Chief (Chair) and the Associate Editors-in-Chief, is being established. As a group, the Editorial Committee will administer and make decisions on the daily business of the journal.

There was a discussion on reorganization of the Editorial Board membership. Due to the high volume of submissions to the journal, the Editorial Board will be mostly needed to assist the evaluation of the merits of these submissions. Again, a renewable term of 3-5 years will be implemented, similar to the Editors. All members are expected to participate in the review processes at least 3-5 times per year. The actual implementation of the reorganization is still pending with further refinements.

The Editor-in-Chief and the three Associate Editors-in-Chief serve as Section Editors of two classifications of their respective expertise. A streamline review process is being established. To lessen the loads of the current Editors and to increase the available expertise, we are actively recruiting qualified Editors/Board members/reviewers in scientific areas currently lacking in the Editorial Board. There was discussion on recruiting appropriate reviewers to assist the evaluation processes, there was a suggestion to approach members of SCBA to serve as reviewers and/or nominate junior faculty and postdoctoral fellows in their respective laboratories to participate in the review processes. Accordingly, we are appealing to all members to nominate any qualified individuals to participate as reviewers.

There was a discussion on providing discount on the Article Publishing Charge (APC) to SCBA lifetime members for publication in Cell & Bioscience. The Editorial Board was highly supportive of such possibility and had recommended a discount rate of 15-20% of APC for the SCBA lifetime members. Further, special allocation of APC waivers will be provided to those who are interested in organizing a thematic series consisting of reviews and research articles on a special topic in Bioscience. Those interested, please contact Chris Lau (chris.lau@ucsf.edu) for further discussion.

Due to the significant increase in submissions, the Editorial Board is exploring in creating a position of Executive Editor, who will assist the Editor-in-Chief and the Associate Editors-in-Chief in managing the editorial processes. The anticipated person will likely be a junior faculty or someone with a doctoral degree and experience in biomedical research who is interested in editorial work as a career development. He/she will work on a part-time basis at the first instinct. Those who are interested in such an opportunity, please contact Chris Lau (chris.lau@ucsf.edu) for discussion. Please also visit our journal website for further information about the journal. <https://cellandbioscience.biomedcentral.com/>.

The Editorial Board meeting was adjourned after close to 2-hour's fruitful discussion. As members of the Society, we are grateful for your continuous supports, and value your suggestions and voluntary service. Thank you in advance for submitting your manuscripts to Cell & Bioscience.

Chris Lau, Ph.D.
Editor-in-Chief



A welcome note from Executive Directors to 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.



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/>.

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Cell & Bioscience

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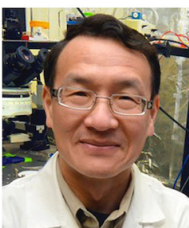
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Huiping Zhou, Virginia Commonwealth University, USA

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