April 2023

# Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 1

## Letter from the President



Dear SCBA members and friends,

As cherry blossoms and magnolias bloom around Seattle and the last snowflakes fall atop the mountain passes, spring is upon us. Also approaching without much fanfare is that the Seattle Chinese Biomedical Association (SCBA) is proudly striding into its 30<sup>th</sup> handsome year.

Entering 2023, SCBA welcomed several fresh changes after enduring a prolonged period defined by the pandemic, economic turmoil, and geopolitics, which are highlighted below:

- 1. The election of a new President and Secretary General duo at the start of the year, and establishment of a new Board structure with distinct specialty functions. The new executive team features young and dynamic board members taking a more proactive role.
- 2. Initiation of new forms of academic salons.
- 3. Organization of academic seminars with international outreach.
- 4. Planning of educational programs geared towards young researchers and students.
- 5. Preparation for expanded industry outreach with biotech/biopharmaceutical communities.

With the COVID pandemic waning, travel restrictions loosening up, and international exchanges

resurging, SCBA is situating itself once again to take on the opportunities and challenges in promoting academic communication, cultivating social interactions, and professional growth for Chinese scholars, entrepreneurs, physicians, students, and beyond.

I welcome you all to join the SCBA extended family with rejuvenated energy, passion, volunteering spirit, academic excellence, and industrial rigor to make our working and living environment more productive and enjoyable for our community, our future, and the next generation.

Warm regards

Qiang TIAN, MD, PhD President, SCBA

# SCBA New Leadership Team

On January 1st, 2023, the SCBA held its first board meeting in 2023. In this meeting, the new leadership team was elected, as listed below. To better serve our members and the community, the new leadership team has initiated strategic plans for the yearly activity and events, as well as reaching out for new resources to promote communication for all the members locally and beyond.

#### **SCBA Executive Board Members**

President: Qiang Tian Secretary-General: Mei Xu Treasurer: Yingzhang Chen Deputy Secretary: Qingxin Mu

**Senior Director of Industrial Relations:** Lei He

China Representative: Tianyun Wang

**Director of Education:** Jie An

Director of Innovation Program: Yuanyuan Shi

Academic Consultant: Xiaodong Wang

Legal Consultant: Jiahan Zhu

Other Members: Dayong Gao, Guangrong Qin,

Baohai Shao



## Initiation of Academic Salons

At the first board meeting, the new executive leadership team decided to initiate a series of academic salons. Organized by Dr. Guangrong Qin, the first academic salon was held online via Zoom on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The main topic of this salon was: "Application of Artificial Intelligence in Biomedical Field". The attendees include researchers from universities, research institutes, biotechnology companies, and business development personnels of start-up companies, etc. mainly from the Great Seattle area. During the salon, the attendees extensively discussed the hot topics in the field, such as: existing application areas of artificial intelligence and machine learning in medical research, constraints of artificial intelligence in biomedical applications, potential opportunities in the context of existing artificial intelligence developments, etc. For future academic salon activities, the participants suggested sharing specific discussion topics in advance and inviting at least one professional in related fields to present their research.

#### March Academic Seminar

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the SCBA held an academic seminar via VooV meeting. This academic seminar was organized by Dr. Tianyun Wang from Peking University, the China Representative of the SCBA and co-hosted with the School of Basic Medical Sciences, Peking University. In this seminar, we invited two speakers: Dr. Chunfu Xu (Professor at the

National Institute of Biological Sciences), who presented his research with the title "Computational Design of Transmembrane Channels and Beyond", and Dr. Yafei Mao (Associate Professor at the Bio-X Institutes of Shanghai Jiao Tong University), who presented his research with the title of "Understanding adaptive traits neurological disease in primate evolution with longread sequencing". This is the first academic seminar in SCBA history that was cohosted together with a China institute. Dr. Qiang Tian, President of the association, and Dr. You Wan, Professor and Dean of the School of Basic Medical Sciences of Peking University, delivered welcome speeches at the beginning of the seminar. More than 150 attendees from Seattle, Beijing, Shanghai, and other places in the US and China attended this online event.



## 2022 Young Investigator Award

In November 2022, the association announced the 5 recipients of its first Seattle Chinese Biomedical Association-SinoBiological Young Investigator Award. The award is co-sponsored by Sino Biological and is established to recognize early-career members who have made significant contributions to their respective fields of biomedical research. Each award consists of a certificate and an honorarium of \$500. In 2022, the awards were presented to five outstanding young investigators: Dr. Shen Ren (junior faculty at Seattle University and UW), Dr. Pei Wang (junior faculty at UW), Dr. Gang Li (postdoctoral fellow at UW), Dr. Ting Wang (postdoctoral fellow at UW), and Dr. Wei Chen (PhD student at UW at the time of the award).





## 2022 Annual Conference

The 2022 Seattle Chinese Biomedical Association All-members Annual Conference was held on December 3, 2022 via in-person and Zoom at the University of Washington South Lake Union Campus. The theme of the conference was focused on biomedical imaging including its applications in basic, clinical, and translational research. We invited three outstanding experts in the field from the University of Washington to present their research. Dr. Feng Zhang, Research Assistant Professor at the Department of "Interventional Radiology presented Imaging-Guided Cancer Treatment", Dr. Ruikang Wang, Professor and George and Martina Kren Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology Research, shared his research on "Novel Biomedical Diagnostics using OCT Optical Technology", and Dr. Xiaohu Gao, Professor of Bioengineering, presented their recent findings on "Precision and Targeting Drug Delivery".

During the annual conference, the association hosted its inaugural Young Investigator Award Ceremony. Two of the awardees also presented their research at the conference: Dr. Ting Wang presented "The role of TLR7 in the pathogenesis of human SLE" and Dr. Wei Chen presented "Development of cellular flight recorder."

Lastly, Dr. Haodong Xu, the Immediate Past President of the association gave the annual report to the participants.

#### Volunteers Needed

Greetings, Everyone!

To better serve our community, we are looking for talents with expertise in the following areas to help us improve our services.

- Website design or Graphic design
- Writing (English + Chinese)
- IT support

All work done by either SCBA officers or volunteers is unpaid so far. But you will benefit a lot from working in such an organization. Working with such a group of talented, passionate, and successful professionals will also provide you with opportunities to expand your options for the future.

If you are interested, please send your resume and a brief self-intro to office@scbahome.org. If you know someone who might be interested, please feel free to forward this message to them.

Thank you, and we look forward to having you join us!

With warm regards,

SCBA Board