Preface

The Sixth Sino-US Chemistry Professors Conference: A catalyst for interaction and collaboration

With the continuation of the tradition, the Sixth Sino-US Chemistry Professors Conference, co-organized by Zhejiang University (Professor YanGuang Wang as the chair) and CAPA (The Chinese-American Chemistry & Chemical Biology Professors Association, USA) (Professor Qian Wang as the co-chair) was successfully held in Hangzhou, China, on June 15–17, 2010. The conference was hailed a great success. We are particularly indebted to the local host Professor YanGuang Wang, the Department of Chemistry at Zhejiang University and the Chemical Society of Zhejiang Province for their outstanding efforts and financial support of this wonderful event. Conference participants included approximately 160 professors from China, the United States and other countries, and 200 students mainly from Chinese universities and institutions. One hundred and twenty five research presentations were delivered across the fields of chemistry, chemical biology and material/nanoscience in the intense two-and-a-half day meeting in two parallel sessions of organic synthesis, and chemical biology and material/nanoscience and technology. To our delight, many new and exciting research results from young and energetic chemists were reported. In the conference banquet ceremony, Professors LiHe Zhang, Zhen Huang and Wei Wang announced and conferred the 2010 CAPA distinguished awards for scientific accomplishment to Professors Qiang Cui (University of Wisconsin, Madison) and Jian Liu (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) from the United States, and Professors Ning Jiao (Peking University) and Lei Liu (Tsinghua University) from China.

The success of the conference undoubtedly further increases its influence and catalyzes interactions and exchanges among chemists well beyond the CAPA community. This clearly establishes its status as a premier international conference. Keeping this in mind, Professor Qian Wang, with input from CAPA board members, initiated the establishment of criteria for the selection of future conference locations, which were recently approved by the CAPA board.

CAPA is a relatively young non-profit professional sci-

entific organization. It was founded in 2002 by Professors BingHe Wang, Lin Pu and Zhen Huang. With the support of chemists in the United States, China and other countries, CAPA has become a highly influential voice in the chemical community. The founders established goals for CAPA as follows: (1) to promote communication; (2) to provide peer support; (3) collectively identify and address common concerns that are unique to Chinese-American chemistry and chemical biology professors; and (4) facilitate interaction among the United States, China and the world for academic and student/scholar exchanges, and collaboration opportunities in the general fields of chemistry, chemical biology and materials. To reach these goals CAPA provides a number of opportunities for the CAPA community to attend events, such as the American Chemical Society (ACS) national meetings, the CAPA-ACS symposium, the annual CAPA conference and the Sino-US Chemistry Professors Conference. CAPA has also initiated two award series to recognize distinguished faculties and professors for their research excellence in chemical sciences. The Distinguished Junior Faculty Award is awarded to junior faculties in the United States, and the Distinguished Faculty Award to professors from China and the United States.

Since its establishment, CAPA has served as an important bridge and catalyst for scientific communications among/between Chinese scholars overseas and in China. Currently, CAPA has more than 300 members holding faculty positions in research universities throughout the United States. To provide a better and more efficient service to its members, the official CAPA homepage (<http://capa-chem.webs.com/>) has recently been completed with significant efforts by Professors Xiaodong Shi, Xi Chen and Zhen Huang, and support from the CAPA board members and CAPA community. Moreover, we are pleased to announce that a new president, Wei Wang, director, Xi Chen, and secretary, Qian Wang, have been elected to lead CAPA. Finally, please join us in thanking the past CAPA president Professor Zhen Huang for his excellent leadership, service, and contributions to CAPA.

Through the collaboration of CAPA and *Science China Chemistry*, a select group of papers from the previous Sino-US Chemistry Professors Conferences was published as a special topic in *Science China Chemistry* [1]. These papers were edited by Professors BingHe Wang, Lin Pu and Zhen Huang. We would like to acknowledge the support from Professor LeMin Li, the Editor-in-Chief of *Science China Chemistry*, and the wonderful help and assistance from Dr. XiaoWen Zhu in publication of these papers. The current new special topic of *Science China Chemistry* followed the success of this previous publication, and we are honored to serve as guest editors for this topic. We are grateful to all the authors who participated in the Sixth Sino-US Chemistry Professors Conference and have contributed to this issue. The current special topic consists of 16 papers (two review and 14 original research articles), which report cutting-edge research in the fields of organic synthesis, bioorganic and medicinal chemistry, chemical biology and nano-biotechnology.

In the last issue Professor Chuan He's article was chosen as the cover paper [2]. In this issue, we have selected Pro-

fessor Richard P. Hsung's manuscript for the cover of this special topic of *Science China Chemistry* [3]. Again, we would like to sincerely thank Professor LeMin Li for his constant support and the Editorial Director, Dr. XiaoWen Zhu, for her outstanding work in planning, organizing and editing.

- 1 Wang BH, Huang Z, Pu L. The Sino-US chemistry professors conference: History and outlook. *Sci China Chem*, 2010, 53(1): 1–2
- 2 Yi CQ, He C. AlkB recognition of a bulky DNA base adduct stabilized by chemical cross-linking. *Sci China Chem*, 2010, 53(1): 86–90
- 3 Figueroa R, Feltenberger JB, Guevarra CC, Hsung RP. Two remarkable epimerizations imperative for the success of an asymmetric total synthesis of (+)-aigialospirol. *Sci China Chem*, 2010, 54(1): 31–42

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WANG Wei, received his B.S. in chemistry in 1988 from Nanjing Normal University, China, and his M.S. in organic chemistry from Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1993. He obtained his Ph.D. from North Carolina State University in 2000 before carrying out his postdoctoral studies at the University of Arizona. He is an associate professor in the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at the University of New Mexico and a professor at the Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica. His current research interests span from organic synthesis, molecular imaging, and drug discovery to chemical biology.

HE Chuan, Ph.D., is a professor in the Department of Chemistry and Institute for Biophysical Dynamics at the University of Chicago, and a Cheung Kong Professor in the Department of Chemical Biology at Peking University. He received his B.S. (1994) from the University of Science and Technology of China and his Ph.D. in chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2000. After being trained as a Damon Runyon postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University from 2000–2002, he joined the University of Chicago as an assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry, and was promoted to full professor in 2010. He is also a member of the University's Cancer Research Center. His research spans a broad range of chemistry, chemical biology, microbiology, biochemistry, structural biology and cell biology.

PU Lin, received his B.S. in chemistry from Sichuan University in 1984. He then obtained a Doering Fellowship (CGP) for graduate study in the United States and enrolled in the Department of Chemistry at the University of California San Diego in 1985. Under the supervision of Professor Joseph M. O'Connor, he obtained his Ph.D. in 1990. From January 1991 to November 1992, he studied in Professor Henry Taube's laboratory at Stanford University as a postdoctoral fellow. From November 1992 to August 1994, he joined Professor Robert H. Grubbs' research group at California Institute of Technology to continue his postdoctoral training. In the fall of 1994, he was appointed as an assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry at North Dakota State University. He moved to University of Virginia in 1997 as an associate professor in the Department of Chemistry and became a professor of chemistry in 2003. He was appointed as the Changjiang Chair Professor at Sichuan University by the Ministry of Education, China, in 2005. He is a member of the editorial board of *Science China Chemistry*. The research projects in his laboratory focus on the design and synthesis of novel chiral molecules and macromolecules for applications in areas such as enantioselective fluorescent sensors, asymmetric catalysis, and electrical and optical materials.