Preface

The Eighth Sino-US Chemistry Professors Conference: A Forum for Chemistry and Chemical Biology

The Eighth Sino-US Chemistry Professors Conference, co-organized by Kunming Institute of Botany of Chinese Academy of Sciences (Professor Ninghua Tan as the Chairwoman), Yunnan University (Professor Hongbin Zhang as the co-Chairman) and CAPA (The Chinese-American Chemistry & Chemical Biology Professors Association, USA; Professor Qian Wang as the co-Chairman) was successfully held in Kunming, China on July 1–4, 2012. Over 260 professors from China and nine other countries (or areas) participated in this conference. Among the participants, many State Key Laboratories in China also have their representatives attending this year's conference and gave their support. There were three parallel sessions including over 120 oral presentations focusing on organic synthesis, natural products, medicinal chemistry, and chemical biology (Figure 1). As a tradition of this conference, Professor Lihe Zhang presented the 2012 CAPA Distinguished Junior Faculty Awards and the CAPA Distinguished Faculty Awards. The success of this conference should continuously serve the goals of “stimulating exchange and collaboration among researchers in the fields of chemistry and chemical biology, bridging the international research communities, and establishing this conference as one of the premier international forum in chemistry”.

Figure 1 The Opening ceremony of the Eighth Sino-US Chemistry Professors Conference, Kunming, Yunnan, China (July 1–4, 2012). Photo courtesy of Professor Ninghua Tan.

CAPA was formed in 2001. So far over three hundred professors have joined the association (<http://capa-chem.webs.com/>). The current officers of CAPA are Zucui Suo, Shaowei Chen, Xiangming Guan, and Xi Chen as the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Communication Director, respectively. This association is non-for-profit and apolitical. The primary goal of this association is to promote networking and information exchanges among overseas Chinese academic community. Interactions and activities will be organized at various meetings, such as the ACS National Meetings and the Sino-US Chemistry Professors Conference. So far, CAPA has co-organized eight Sino-US Chemistry Professors Conferences in China including the current one. The previous seven host organizations were: Tianjin University (June 13–14, 2005), Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry (July 8–9, 2006), Wuhan University (June 1–2, 2007), Peking University Health Sciences Center (June 12–13, 2008), Lanzhou University (June 28–30, 2009), Zhejiang University (June 15–17, 2010), and Guizhou University (June 28–30, 2011). In the summer of 2013, Sichuan University will be the local host of this meeting.

It is our great honor to serve as the editors of this special topic of *Science China Chemistry* to publish some selected work from the Eighth Sino-US Chemistry Professors Conference. In this issue, there are thirteen original research articles in the fields of organic synthesis, bioorganic and medicinal chemistry, and chemical biology. We thank all the people who participated in this conference and the authors who contributed their papers to this issue. Following are the three previously published special issues of *Science China Chemistry* for the Conferences: 2010, Vol. 53, No. 1, edited by Binghe Wang, Zhen Huang and Lin Pu [1]; 2011, Vol. 54, No. 1, edited by Wei Wang, Chuan He and Lin Pu [2]; and 2012, Vol. 55, No. 1, edited by Xi Chen, Zucui Suo, Zhen Huang and Lin Pu [3]. We are very grateful to Dr. Xiaowen Zhu and Professor Lemin Li at *Science China Chemistry* for their continuous support in the publication of these issues.

- 1 Wang BH, Huang Z, Pu L. Preface. The Sino-US chemistry professors conference: History and outlook. *Sci China Chem*, 2010, 53(1): 1–2
- 2 Wang W, He C, Pu L. Preface. The sixth Sino-US chemistry professors conference: A catalyst for interaction and collaboration. *Sci China Chem*, 2011, 54(1): 1–2
- 3 Chen X, Suo ZC, Huang Z, Pu L. Preface. The seventh Sino-US chemistry professors conference: Bridging international research communities in Chemistry. *Sci China Chem*, 2012, 55(1): 1–2

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WANG Qian received his B.S. degree in chemistry in 1992 from Tsinghua University. He obtained a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Tsinghua University in 1997 (supervisor: Prof. Yufen Zhao). After postdoctoral experiences with Prof. Manfred Schlosser at University of Lausanne (1997–1999) and Prof. M. G. Finn at the Scripps Research Institute (1999–2003), he started as an Assistant Professor at University of South Carolina in 2003, where he is currently the Robert L. Sumwalt Professor of Chemistry. The overall research objective of Dr. Wang's laboratory focuses on using chemical biology tools to probe intracellular activities and the development of hierarchically structured nanomaterials to study the cooperative response of cells to extracellular matrixes. Professor Wang published over 170 publications in peer reviewed journals and maintained an active research program with external funding from NSF, DoE, DoD, and NIH. Over the past 9 years, he has supervised over 30 graduate students, 26 postdoctoral research fellows and over 60 undergraduate students. He has received numerous awards, including the NSF CAREER Award (2008), the Alfred P. Sloan Research Scholar Award (2008), the Camille Dreyfus Teacher Scholar Award (2008), the CAPA Distinguished Junior Faculty Award (2008), the South Carolina Governor's Young Scientist Award (2009), the USC Rising Star Award (2010), and the Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (2013).

HUANG Zhen obtained B.S. and M.S. from Sichuan University and Peking University, respectively. He obtained Ph.D. from Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH, Zurich) in 1994, under the supervision of Prof. Steven Benner. Then, he joined Harvard Medical School as Research Fellow, under the supervision of Prof. Jack Szostak. He was hired by Brooklyn College in 1998 and promoted to Associate Professor. In 2004, he was recruited to Georgia State University and promoted to Full Professor. He is interested in structure-and-function study of Se-derivatized DNAs and RNAs, nucleic acid/protein crystallography, RNA microchip, nucleic acid-based cancer diagnosis and drug discovery.

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.