FACTS

Faculty Association of Chinese in Translational Neuroscience

July/2014

The 4th Annual Chinese Neurotrauma Scholar Association (CNSA) Symposium (From Dong Sun)

The 4th Annual Chinese Neurotrauma Scholar Association (CNSA) symposium was successfully held on June 29, 2014 at the Marriott Marquis hotel in San Francisco, CA. The annual CNSA symposium is a satellite meeting of the Annual Symposium of the National Neurotrauma Society (NNS). This year's symposium was organized by CNSA committee members Drs. Xu Xiaoming, Chen Jinhui from Indiana University, Shi Riyi from Perdue University, Kevin Wang from University of Florida, Sun Dong from Virginia Commonwealth University, and Kou Zhifeng from Wayne State University. Following a continental breakfast, Kevin Wang had a few opening remarks where he welcomed the speakers and the audiences. Sun Dong who chaired the research presentation then introduced the five invited distinguished faculty speakers. Among the speakers was Professor John Zhang from Loma Linda University who introduced the audience to the new "toilet" concept of vascular neural network following subarachnoid hemorrhage. Professors Timothy Duong from University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, and Jiang Quan from Henry Ford Health System discussed the application of multimodal MRI in examining the progression of brain neuropathological changes and to track transplanted cells in experimental TBI studies. Dr. Paul Lu from the University of California San Diego presented stunning images showing the regeneration potential of transplanted neural stem cells

following spinal cord injury. Dr. Simon Xie from AfaSci Research Laboratory introduced his invention, the SmartCage, discussing the advantages it offers for animal behavior assessment. Following the faculty speakers, Kou Zhifeng chaired the student /postdoctoral presentation and presented a $400 award certificate to the two winning postdoc scholars. The symposium came to an end with a few closing remarks from Dr. Xu Xiaoming.

Since it was introduced to the neurotrauma society, the CNSA satellite symposium has been an active forum for promoting communication, collaboration, and research development pertaining to neurotrauma and other related topics among Chinese neurotrauma scholars both nationally and internationally. The CNSA was organized five years ago by the committee members following a dinner gathering. In 2011, this satellite meeting officially became part of the NNS scientific program. With the financial support of our sponsors, this event is free and open to all NNS attendees. This year's symposium was supported by the Journal of Neural Regeneration Research and AfaSci Research Laboratory. With the conclusion of the 2014 symposium, the organizing committee is already geared up to prepare for the 5th symposium which is going to be held in Santa Fe New Mexico on June 27th, 2015. We invite all our fellow Chinese scholars to join us!

Promotions and Awards

Congratulations to Dr. Hua Su for her promotion to Professor

Dr. Hua Su has recently been promoted to Professor in Residency at the University of California, San Francisco. She is also the Associate Director of basic research in the Center for Cerebrovascular Research. Her research interests include: (1) modeling and exploring the pathogenesis of cerebrovascular malformation (AVM), and developing new therapies to treat it, and (2) the interaction of peripheral and brain injuries.

The etiopathogenesis of brain AVM has not been fully elucidated. Animal models are a powerful tool for testing

mechanistic hypotheses and new therapeutic strategies. Her laboratory has successfully developed several adult onset brain AVM mouse models that phenocopy human brain AVM, using conditional deletion of putative disease-causative genes plus focal angiogenic stimulation. These are the only adult onset models available to date. Using these models, her team has identified several mechanisms that are involved in brain AVM pathogenesis and new therapeutic targets. Currently, they are testing new therapies, including an innovative gene therapy strategy for the treatment of brain AVM.

Her laboratory has also demonstrated that long-bone fracture triggers an innate immune response systemically and locally in the brain, which causes cognitive decline and exaggerates neuronal damage in the ischemic brain. They are trying to understand how peripheral injury influences brain function, and develop strategies to mitigate the adverse response.

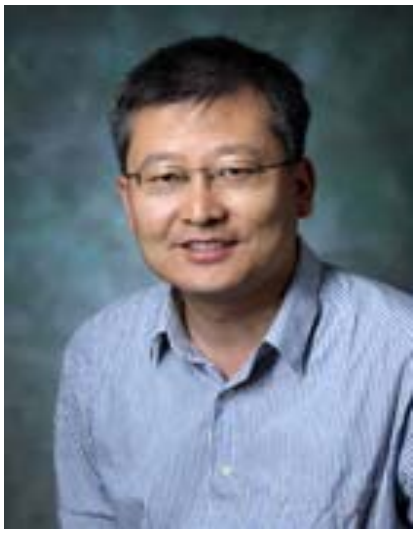
Congratulations to Dr. Xiangping Chu for his promotion to associate professor

Dr. Xiangping Chu has been recently promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Dr. Chu obtained his medical degree from Jiangsu University School of Medicine (Former Zhenjiang Medical College) in 1989, and received his Master of Science and PhD from Fudan University Shanghai Medical College (former Shanghai Medical University) in 1996 and 1999, respectively. After his PhD training, Xiangping received his postdoctoral training in Robert S. Dow Neurobiology Laboratories, at Legacy Research Institute in Portland, OR with Dr. Zhi-Gang Xiong from 2000 to 2007. He was awarded with a postdoctoral fellowship by the American Heart Association (AHA) in 2002, a Grant-in-Aid in 2004, and a scientist development grant in 2007, also from the AHA. During this period, Xiangping was promoted to Research Associate, Senior Research Associate, and Assistant Scientist (equivalent to Assistant Professor). In the beginning of 2008, he was recruited by the University of Missouri Kansas City School of Medicine as a tenure-track Assistant Professor. He set out to establish and lead an independent and advanced electrophysiological laboratory as a valuable expansion of the school's neuroscience program. His main research interests are to understand the role of ion channels (especially acid-sensing ion channels) and membrane receptors in the pathogenesis of various neurological disorders, such as stroke and drug addiction, using a wide array of techniques, such as electrophysiology, fluorescent imaging, molecular biology, cell toxicity assays and behavior tests. His research projects are supported by the NIH and AHA, respectively. He has now been promoted to Associated Professor with tenure.

Dr. Chu has published 51 peer-reviewed articles with a H-index of 18, and 3 book chapters. He is currently serving as an editorial board member of the International Journal of Physiology, Pathophysiology & Pharmacology, ISRN Physiology, and Advances in Neuroscience. He has been

serving on grant study sections for the American Heart Association, Ataxia Foundation of United Kingdom, and University of Missouri Research Board. He has also a reviewer for over 30 journals.

Congratulations to Dr. Jian Wang for his promotion to associate professor



Dr. Jian Wang has recently been promoted to Associate Professor. Dr. Wang was trained as a neurologist and neuroscientist in China. He graduated from the Medical College of Henan University (1990) and obtained a doctorate in neurology from Sun Yat-sen University of Medical Sciences (1999). He then carried out his postdoctoral training at Stony Brook University (2001-2004) and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (2005). In 2006, when he was at the Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, he was promoted to the rank of Instructor, to Assistant Professor in 2008, and to Associate Professor in 2014.

Dr. Wang's research program focuses on understanding the mechanisms that may contribute to injury after stroke (hemorrhagic and ischemic) and traumatic brain injury and potential therapeutic modalities for protecting the brain from such injury. Dr. Wang has been successful in securing extramural funding in this area of research, and he is currently the Principal Investigator on two NIH R01 awards, and one American Heart Association (AHA) award. He has published 73 peer-reviewed articles and has been a member of NIH and AHA study sections. He has also served as a reviewer for the Alzheimer's Association, American Institute of Biological Sciences, and over 36 SCI journals.

Congratulations to Dr. Guohong Li who recently received a NIH RO1 grant

Dr. Guohong Li is a tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Neurosurgery at LSU Medical Center-Shreveport, Louisiana. Dr. Li's laboratory studies inflammation and immunity in animal models of disease, including ischemic stroke, traumatic brain injury, and carotid artery stenosis. Dr. Li's research efforts are supported by grants from the NIH, AHA, and several other foundations.

Dr. Li has been recently awarded a RO1 grant from NIH-NINDS to investigate immune mechanisms of ischemic stroke. This application aims to investigate spleen immunocytes in stroke-mediated brain injury. Specifically, it investigates the novel role of CD147-Cyclophilin interactions in stroke-induced spleen immune dysfunction and stroke pathology.

Congratulations to Dr. Renyu Liu who recently received a NIH RO1 grant

Renyu Liu MD, PhD, is a practicing anesthesiologist and an assistant Professor at the Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the Director of Preoperative Medicine and is also the co-Director of the Penn-China Anesthesia Partnership Program. Dr. Liu is the current vice president of the International Chinese Academy of Anesthesiology (ICAA). Dr. Liu's major research interests include opioid pharmacology and preoperative medicine. Dr. Liu is also actively developing multiple compounds for potential clinical practice. He is also the founder of Cetazam Therapeutics LLC, which seeks to develop novel compound(s) for the treatment of brain maladies.

This current 5 year NIH R01 grant will fund Dr Renyu Liu's lab as they develop alternative tools and approaches to investigate the structural and functional relationship between opioids and the human mu receptor. This project will yield water-soluble variants of the human mu receptor for structure-function studies in solution conditions, and a novel system investigating direct interactions between an opioid ligand and mu receptor without radioactive ligands or the requirement of mammalian cells.

Meeting Information

Introducing the 3rd Pangu Stroke meeting (John Zhang)

Clinical and basic science stroke research activities in China have blossomed in the past ten years, evidenced by multiple large stroke conferences, and many publications in Stroke, JCBFM and other top neuroscience journals. There has also been a development of translational stroke research, and most importantly, significant improvements in the clinical management and prevention of stroke. In addition, dramatic improvements have been made to the basic science research infrastructure. To meet the challenges posed by this rapid development of stroke research in China, it was decided that there had to be a way to help influence the direction this research would take. Discussions between overseas and mainland Chinese stroke researchers resulted in a new high level, but small scaled meeting.

The first meeting was held at the Pangu Hotel in Beijing in October 2012, co-chaired by Drs. Xunming Ji from Beijing Xuanwu Hospital, and John Zhang from Loma Linda University in California. About twenty well respected stroke researchers from the United States were invited to meet with about 30 of their colleagues from mainland China, all funded by NSFC. The key NSFC officers, Erdan Dong and Heqi Cao participated and strongly supported this conference. The second

Pangu Stroke meeting was held in May 2013 in Shanghai, prior to the 2013 Brain Symposium, with more than twenty well established stroke researchers from North America, Taiwan and Hong Kong attending alongside about 30 NSFC funded stroke researchers from mainland China.

The third Pangu meeting will be held October 2014 in Beijing, and this time there will be something new. At the meeting, ten Associate and Assistant Professor level researches from the United States will participate alongside ten to twenty "young" stroke researchers from mainland China. A detailed program is under development.