

# Translational Neuroscience Symposium Report

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On November 15, 2014, we (Drs. Karen Shanor, Woody Lin and Renyu Liu) successfully hosted the [FACTs](#) (Faculty Association of Chinese in Translational Neuroscience) Translational Neuroscience Symposium in Washington, D.C. This unique international symposium was convened to present up-to-date information in translational neuroscience and build strong networks and well-coordinated efforts for effective programs within the limited funding environment.

Thanks to Dr. Heather D. Sheets, the Campus Dean of the Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Washington DC Campus for her gracious support and outstanding coordination, we were able to host the half-day event in her beautiful Washington DC campus facility - an environment that encouraged innovative thinking and enthusiastic discussions. Moreover, the Chicago School staff volunteers graciously extended their service to allow our lively conversations to continue past “closing time”.

The symposium expert team included basic scientists, entrepreneur neuroscientists, physicians, NIH program directors, and technology transfer specialists. Part of that expert team got together for the photo below.



From Left, Hangting Zhang, Simmon Xie, Woody Lin, Heather A. Steinman, Hao Wang, Jieli Chen, Karen Shanor, Yan Xu, and Renyu Liu

The Symposium opened with a message of greeting from Dr. Jun Chen, the president of FACTs, and a video greeting from Dr. John Zhang, the immediate past-president of FACTs welcoming the attendees.



In a room packed with enthusiastic participants, Dr. Ling Wei introduced FACTs and elaborated upon the organization's vision and achievements.





Dr. Yan Xu presented some of the latest entrepreneurial strategies for bringing neuroscientific research to the general public.



Dr. Simon Xie shared his experience of successfully moving his translational research into commercialization.





Three NIH program directors were in the event to advise participants for government guidelines and resources supporting innovation in translational neuroscience. Dr. Hao Wang spoke of new programs to support therapy and device discovery and development, and Dr. Elena Koustova (shown below) delineated many of the NIH resources available for translational neuroscience.



We had many lively and interesting discussions throughout the Symposium as exemplified in the three photos below.



NIH program directors, Dr. Woody Lin (left) and Dr. Hao Wang (right) respond to attendee questions.



Dr. Heather A. Steinman (right) discusses technology transfer.





Over forty people participated in the smooth-running program. It was enthusiastically agreed that we should have a Symposium again next year and this was the start of many important and successful scientific collaborations. Here is a group photo for some of the attendees.



We reconvened at a nearby restaurant for a delicious feast including lobster and wine as a dinner reception for the symposium. Lively conversations and plans for collaborations continued at this dinner reception attended by more than fifty people and hosted by Dr. Woody Lin. A fantastic conclusion to an innovative and memorable Symposium!

We appreciate all the volunteers including Ms. Crystal Green, MPH, Doctoral Candidate, from the International Psychology - Trauma Services and Mr. Andrew Jennings, Administrative Assistant at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Dr. Chunhua Chen and Dr. Qing Wang from Dr. Renyu Liu's Lab at the University of Pennsylvania and Weijie Wang from Dr. Ying Xu's Lab at the University at Buffalo.

#### **Examples of positive impact:**

**“ I attended the FACTs translational neuroscience symposium in Washington DC. I have learned a lot from the talks and made many new friends. This great organization brings Chinese neuroscientists together and provides us with an unparalleled platform to communicate with each other. I wonder, may I apply to join this prestigious organization FACTs? “**

**“I really enjoyed the symposium, and it would be my great pleasure if I could join and contribute to FACTs. Thank you very much and I look forward to hearing from you!”**

### **Disclaimer**

**This international translational neuroscience symposium is organized by the **Faculty Association of Chinese in Translational Neuroscience** (FACTs) in collaboration with the Chicago School of Professional Psychology DC Campus; partially sponsored by the **Penn-China Anesthesia Partnership Program** co-directed by Dr. Renyu Liu and Dr. Joshua Atkins in the Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine; supported by the journal of “**Translational Perioperative and Pain Medicine**”**