



NEWSLETTER

Winter/Spring 2014

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Letter From the President

Dear AACT members,

It is with tremendous excitement that I report to you about the successful AACT delegation for the 6th national congress of toxicology of Chinese Society of Toxicology (CSOT-VI) held on November 12-15 in Guangzhou, the third largest city in China with a population over 15 million. CSOT has nearly 9000 members now and this turned out to be their largest conference with about 1,500 people in attendance.

Prior to CSOT-VI, the delegates toured the Pharmaceutical Sciences department at Sun Yat-Sen University (informally known as Zhongshan U) on Nov 11 and made a few presentations at the "International Drug Toxicology" symposium organized by that department for us. During CSOT-VI, a total of 8 oral presentations were then made by the delegates with 3 of them given at the "Drug Safety Evaluation" session which had a surprisingly large attendance of nearly 300. Furthermore, 4 AACT delegates visited the "South China Modern Chinese Medicine Park" in Zhongshan, a city with about 3 million people, and had dinner with the city mayor. Since some delegates either were able to arrange their own financial support or could not go, the 9 delegates that went ended up utilizing only 3 travel awards (recipients: Xuefeng Ren, Luoping Zhang, Yan Zhang) although 5 were arranged. The delegates felt great about making the scientific exchanges and the new contacts. Already, we have received invitations to participate in drug development symposium and contribute to scientific publications in China. I wish to thank the ICTF members for planning the early part of the event and look forward to additional plans in the near future.

With the completion of these international activities and a new membership record of 250, it looks like AACT is starting another great new chapter. Looking ahead, we will co-sponsor with the Korean SIG a career workshop to be held on March 25 (Tue) at 7:30 am at the 2014 SOT. A symposium on "Natural Medicinal Alternatives in Developing Countries" is being put together with the excellent leadership of Yi and Ping in a collaborative effort with another SIG for 2015.

Please mark your calendar for our annual reception on March 24 (Mon). It would be a wonderful opportunity to chat with each other in Phoenix.

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AACT Annual Meeting and Reception

Time: March 24 (Mon) 6:00 PM

Location: Sheraton Hotel

AACT Distinguished Chinese Toxicologist Lectureship Award

Dr. Li-jie Fu, M.P.H., Ph.D, ATS Fellow

Senior Director of Business Development and Regulatory Advisor
Shin Nippon Biomedical Laboratories, Ltd. (SNBL)

“Career vs. business - personal experience in the US and China”

Time : March 24 (Mon) 5:00 pm

Location: Sheraton Hotel

A 2014 Career Workshop co-sponsored by AACT and KTAA

Once again, AACT and KTAA will sponsor a Career Workshop during the SOT annual conference in Phoenix, Arizona. The workshop will be held at 7:30-9:00 AM on Tuesday, 25 March 2014, at the Phoenix Convention Center (Room 227). Breakfast will be provided to attendees. The workshop is a continued effort by AACT/KTAA to provide members career guidance and information following the past two successful career workshops. This year, we have invited three excellent speakers to discuss and share their respective thoughts and experiences with topics including the current job market for toxicologists by Terry Leyden, a management career path for toxicologists by Victoria Tu, and a career path as a research professor in academia by Luoping Zhang. The three presentations will be followed with a Roundtable Discussion. Please join us for the Workshop (Yi Jin).

Report of AACT Delegate Team to China SOT

Luoping Zhang

School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720

Normally, the beautiful city of Guangzhou, China is warm, sunny and quite pleasant in mid-November. No less beautiful in the drizzly rain with which we were welcomed due to typhoon *Haiyan* in Southeast Asia, Guangzhou was home to the 6th National Congress of the Chinese Society of Toxicology (CSOT-VI), which brought together the most acclaimed toxicological scientists and leading experts in China, from November 12-15, 2013.

With substantial support from SOT in the form of two Global Initiative Travel Awards, the American Association of Chinese in Toxicology (AACT) sent an official team of 9 toxicologists, including *Edward Chow, Yi Jin, Jianxiang Li, Li Li, Xuefeng Ren, Zhengyu Yin, Luoping Zhang* (myself), *Yongbin Zhang, and Yun Zhang*, to participate in CSOT and to share the expertise and enthusiasm of AACT. Our chairperson, Dr. Edward Chow (Allergan), and vice-chair, Dr. Yi Jin (Novartis), had organized 3 telephone-conferences before the trip and planned additional related events beyond CSOT-VI. Most of the AACT delegates gave oral presentations either at the plenary session or during symposia or other formats. The congress fostered a culture of communication and collaboration, with each member interacting with and engaging potential new AACT/SOT members and contributors in Guangzhou.

As one of the two awardees, I am grateful to have had this unique opportunity to meet many of my past and current collaborators in China and also to present results of our long-term collaborative efforts in a talk titled *Previous, Current and Future Studies of Environmental and Occupational Exposures to Toxic Chemicals: Biomarkers, Systems Biology and Exposome Approaches*. During an engaging discussion with another speaker in my symposium, we recognized the potential to build a mutually interesting new project. The speaker and her group immediately and insistently invited me to visit their center - Shenzhen CDC. Two hours later, we were aboard a high-speed train to Shenzhen. This additional and unplanned trip was fruitful, enabling us to build the foundation of a future collaboration, although I regrettably missed a chance to say goodbye to many of my friends, including my AACT teammates at CSOT-VI.

Overall, despite the rainy start, the 6th annual CSOT conference in Guangzhou, China left all participants feeling enthusiastic, encouraged and inspired. We are confident that the interactions we had with Chinese toxicologists had a positive impact on both the CSOT attendees and the organizers. We hope to further these relationships, and expand our collaborations in the years to come. We thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to present our scientific work and projects as well as the chance to meet Chinese toxicologists and potential future collaborators in China. Serving on the AACT delegate team was an extremely rewarding experience that we can only hope to repeat soon in the next CSOT meeting.



Photos of AACT Delegation in Guangzhou



Group picture at Zhongshan University



Opening ceremony by Dr. Zhou



Some of the speakers at the drug tox session



Some of the audience at the drug tox session



With CSOT officers



Visit to Modern Chinese Medicine Park

Congratulations to the newly elected AACT Board Members!



President-Elect:
Ching-Hung (Gene) Hsu
PhD, DABT
Shanghai InnoStar Biotech Co., Inc



Councilor:
Xuefeng Ren
MD, PhD, MPH
State University of New York, Buffalo



Councilor:
Victoria Tu
PhD, MBA, DABT
Revlon Consumer Products Corp.



Postdoctoral Representative:
Qiangen Wu
PhD, DABT
Indiana University Bloomington

AACT Officers (2013-2014)

President: Edward Chow

President-Elect: Yi Jin

Secretary: Weimin Gao

Treasurer: Ching-Hung (Gene) Hsu

Immediate Past President: Diana J. Auyeung-Kim

Councilor(1): Ping Peng

Councilor(2): Sherwin Yan

Postdoc Rep: Xianai Wu (newsletter editor)

Student Rep: Kathy S. Xue (newsletter editor)

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Immediate Past President: Edward Chow

Councilor(1): Xuefeng Ren

Councilor(2): Victoria Tu

Postdoc Rep: Qiangen Wu (newsletter editor)

Student Rep: Kathy S. Xue (newsletter editor)

AACT Committees

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or joining any of the committees and working for AACT, please contact the chairs:

- **Award Committee:** Sherwin Yan
- **Finance Committee:** Gene Hsu
- **Membership Committee:** Weimin Gao
- **Program Committee:** Yi Jin
- **Nominating/Election Committee:** Diana Auyeung-Kim

Members of ICTF

- **Chair:** Edward Chow
- **Vice-Chair:** Yi Jin
- **Secretary:** Tao Chen
- **China Rep:** Zhengyu Yin
- **East Coast Rep:** Qingdong "Karin" Ke
- **EU Rep:** Zhichao Dang
- **Japan Rep:** Jianxiang Li
- **Other members:** Mingli Chen, Yong Li

How to join AACT

- To join AACT and SOT, go to: <http://www.toxicology.org/ms/join.asp>
- Non-SOT members can still become an AACT member. Application form is available from Weimin Gao (weimin.gao@tiehh.ttu.edu)

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

