



American Chinese Pharmaceutical Association Newsletter

美洲華人藥學會通訊

Editor: James W. Shaw, Pharm.D., M.S.

December 2002

Message from the President Jinn Wu, Ph.D.

I hope that all of our members had a great summer. It is my pleasure to report to you that in the past three months, ACPA co-sponsored several significant events. These include the Annual Dinner Meeting as well as a joint meeting with the Sino-American Pharmaceutical Association (SAPA).

The SAPA-ACPA Phytoceutical and TMC Symposium was held on August 3, 2002 at The Edward Nash Theatre, North Branch, New Jersey. There were approximately 400 attendees at the meeting of whom roughly 100 attended our session. The session was chaired by Quenyi Zheng, Ph.D. and Jinn Wu, Ph.D. Professor Hui Yongzheng, President of the Shanghai Innovation Center of Traditional Medicine, gave an overview of traditional Chinese Medicine. Dr. Patrick Kung, founder and CEO of PhytoCeutica, gave a presentation entitled "Developing Botanical Drugs for Cancer Therapy." Dr. Yie Lu, Director of the Advanced Institute of Medicine in California, presented on issues related to the development of botanical drugs for treating cancer. Dr. Qunyi Zheng, Executive Vice President and Director of Research and Development for Pure World Botanicals, presented on issues related to the development and marketing of herbal extracts. Finally, Dr. Shiew-Mei Huang, Deputy Office Director for Science, CDER, FDA, gave a presentation entitled "Herbal Medicine and Western Drug Interactions." The symposium was well attended, with a high degree of interaction between

the speakers and attendees.

The 2002 ACPA Annual Dinner Meeting was held on Tuesday, November 12 at the Bright Pearl Seafood Restaurant in Toronto, Canada. The event started at 6:30 p.m. A ten-course banquet was served, followed by the 2002 ACPA President's report and a keynote speech. There were 114 attendees, most of whom were employed in the pharmaceutical industry, academia, the FDA, or clinical pharmacy. A few graduate students and post-doctoral researchers also attended the meeting.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Lawrence J. Lesko, Director of the Office of Clinical Pharmacology and Biopharmaceutics for the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. Dr. Lesko's presentation was entitled "The Clinical Pharmacogeneticist – A New Health Profession?" The presentation was well received and was followed by numerous questions from the audience. After Dr. Lesko's speech, door prizes were awarded to those audience members who correctly answered questions relating to the presentation. We will try to obtain a copy of Dr. Lesko's presentation materials so that we can distribute these among the Association's members.

Overall, the annual dinner proved to be another enjoyable and successful event for our organization in 2002. The feedback I have received from the meeting's attendees has been overwhelmingly positive.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the ACPA Program Committee Chair, Dr. Shiew-Mei Huang, for orchestrating the dinner meeting and

inviting our keynote speaker. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to XenoBiotic Laboratories, Inc. and its staff for assisting us in registering attendees and coordinating the meeting. Finally, I wish to thank Dr. Yih-Chain Huang, Ms. Ellen Yu Chan, Dr. Wei Yin, Dr. Charlene Ng, and Dr. Kai Zhang for their assistance.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to Eddie Hong, MBA, Public Relations Committee Chair, for his work in developing the survey that was recently sent to our members and analyzing the responses. The results of this survey are summarized in the current issue of the newsletter. We would like to encourage our members to recruit more new members and to assist us in finding volunteers to serve the Association.

It is time for us to elect officers for the forthcoming year. Along with this newsletter, you will find two election ballots, one for ACPA President-Elect for 2004 and the other for ACPA Treasurer for 2003-2004. Please cast your vote as soon as possible. We welcome any suggestions for the organization. Members may write their comments directly on the ballots.

**A Thought after Reviewing the
“ACPA Survey Report”
Jonas Wang, Ph.D.**

My fellow ACPA members, I appreciate having the opportunity to serve as President of ACPA in 2003. After 30 years of life in the pharmaceutical R&D industry, I am working now as a venture capitalist responsible for the life science/biotechnology business.

As a venture capitalist, I deal mainly with financial managers and technology developers. I spend over 70% of my time traveling and attending meetings. As such, my contact with ACPA members is rather limited. However, this unique aspect of my career may help me in promoting the interconnectedness of ACPA in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore.

A few weeks ago, we all received a copy of the “ACPA Survey Report” drafted by Mr. Eddie Hong. Eddie has done an excellent job in drafting the

survey and analyzing the responses. We owe him a great deal of gratitude for the wonderful work he’s accomplished. The survey confirmed my fear that I am the only member of ACPA practicing as a venture capitalist, so I am now truly a minority in the organization. After witnessing the wonderful performance of our current President, Jinn Wu, I can only hope to do as good a job as he has. One thing I know for sure is that I need your help. Without your help, I will be a lonely soldier doomed to fail.

The results of the survey will provide us with a clear understanding of our members’ needs and expectations and will help us to develop a strategy and action-steps for a better and stronger organization. The report clearly shows that ACPA is comprised of a group of highly educated and experienced professionals. Fifty percent of our members have a Pharm.D. degree, 23% have a Ph.D. degree, 15% have an R.Ph., 2% have an MS/MA degree, 6% have a BS/BA degree, and 4% have an MBA. The survey also shows that these professionals are spread among an array of disciplines. Twenty-seven percent of ACPA’s members work for privately-held companies, 19% work for publicly-held companies, 17% are in academia, 9% are in government, 13% are with non-profit private/public organizations, and 15% work in other areas. Sixty-two percent of ACPA’s members are pharmacists, and 21% are pharmaceutical scientists. Forty percent of our members have over 20 years of experience, 19% have between 16-20 years of work experience, and 19% have between 11-15 years of experience. The major areas of expertise of ACPA’s members include clinical science, analysis, pharmaceutical production and technology/drug delivery, PK/PD/drug metabolism, regulatory affairs, economics, and marketing management.

The results of the SWOT analysis indicate that we are lucky to have a dedicated core group of members devoted to the organization. The results suggest that ACPA is a diversified group with inadequate membership growth due to competition from other Chinese-American associations. There are two areas of strength that I think we should use to our benefit. The first is that ACPA has strong ties with hospitals and the pharmaceutical industry in both the U.S. and Asian pharmacy societies. The

second is that ACPA is non-political, credible, and has historically received support from FDA/academia/industry.

The results of the survey clearly indicate that ACPA should continue to foster the professional development of Chinese-American pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists, and students in the U.S. The results also suggest that ACPA should focus on becoming the largest global pharmaceutical association, with members of Chinese heritage in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore. To enhance interconnectedness, we can develop specialist teams to be sent to Asian countries for technology transfer or cross-fertilization. We may also adopt methods of electronic communication to foster ACPA's visionary role in the telecommunications revolution for teaching, research, practice, and career placement/development. Electronic communication will provide good coverage of our field's contributions as well as provide professional scientific and technical exchanges at the international level.

The results of the survey provide us with direction for future conferences and workshops, such as CE programs, disease management, traditional Chinese medicine, distance learning, funding applications, integration of traditional pharmaceutical science and biotechnology, intellectual property/legal protection, and pharmacoeconomics. For U.S. regional meetings, ACPA will invite appropriate speakers for the above-mentioned topics to satisfy our members' interests. One thing worth mentioning here is that our next international conference will be held concurrently with a celebration of the 50th anniversary of National Taiwan University's College of Pharmacy from August 1-3, 2003 in Taipei, Taiwan. The College of Pharmacy at the National Taiwan University is the leading pharmacy school in Taiwan. Many of its alumni have been very successful in the pharmaceutical profession in the U.S. and Asia. This international conference will offer an excellent opportunity for U.S. ACPA members to interact with our members in Asia. I would encourage every member of ACPA to attend this important event.

I was somewhat disappointed that the response rate

for our survey was only 29%. This level of response is not unheard of when conducting survey research and, given our sample size, would appear to be representative. Still, I expected more from our members. The overall poor response suggests that our members do not have confidence in ACPA and may not care much about what the organization is trying to do for them. We need to find a resolution to improve our members' confidence level as well as their desire to participate in the organization. Based upon the survey results, the 2002-2003 ACPA officers should formulate strategies and an action plan to meet our members' needs and expectations.

Again, I want to thank Eddie for the excellent job he's done for us.

Report from the Nomination Committee Marina Chang, R.Ph.

The Nomination Committee has enclosed an election ballot and statement from each candidate with this issue of the newsletter. It is very important that you vote for one of the named candidates or write in the name of the individual for whom you wish to cast your vote. We strongly encourage all ACPA members to cast their vote and return the ballot to Mrs. Marina Chang, 18525 Azalea Drive, Derwood, MD 20855-1438 by December 22, 2002.

Summary of Symposium on Biomedical Technology Development Shiew-Mei Huang, Ph.D.

On September 28 and 29, 2002, five Chinese-American professional associations organized a symposium entitled "Biomedical Technology Development." The five associations included the American Chinese Pharmaceutical Association (ACPA), Metropolitan Washington, DC chapter of the Chinese American Professionals Association (CAPA), International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA), Society of Chinese Bioscientists of America (SCBA), and Taiwanese Bioscientists Association (TBA). The National

Science Council of Taiwan and the Science Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) provided support for the meeting.

The symposium was organized to address critical issues pertinent to biotechnology research in the post-genomics era. The objectives of the conference were to (1) facilitate the exchange of valuable experience and ideas among those attending the meeting and (2) foster technology transfer and communication among representatives from the biotechnology industry, academia, and regulatory agencies in the US and Pacific regions. Following welcoming remarks from Dr. Shiew-Mei Huang, President of CAPA and the conference chair, and Dr. Yaw-Nan Chen, Director of the TECRO Science Division, Dr. Ellson Chen of Vitagenomics (Taiwan) delivered a keynote presentation entitled "Pharmacogenomics: A Trend in the Post-Genome Era for Personalized Medicine." This was followed by many high-caliber speakers and panelists from the U.S. and Taiwan who discussed the following five critical areas:

- 1) Emerging biotechnology and vaccine development
- 2) Current biotechnology investment in Taiwan and Europe
- 3) Biochip technology and data mining

- 4) Pharmacogenetics, pharmacogenomics, and biomarkers
- 5) Taiwanese biopharmaceutical industry: key learnings from the past and hopes for the future

Biosketches and abstracts for the speakers can be found at <http://capadc.net>.

The conference was attended by more than 120 individuals from industry, academia, and various government agencies. As indicated in the concluding remarks of Drs. Huang and Chen, the conference was highly successful and appeared to achieve its objectives by promoting intense scientific discussions and networking among the attendees. Many scientists were clearly excited about the information presented and discussed at the conference. In addition, numerous meaningful exchanges of scientific ideas took place among participants from diverse disciplines including the biotechnology/pharmaceutical industry, academia, and regulatory affairs.

At the end of the meeting, participants received a special treat. Following a ten-course Chinese dinner, the attendees listened to a presentation given by world-renowned forensic scientist, Dr. Henry Lee. His humor and fascinating presentation of cases won the hearts and respect of the audience members.

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