



THE ASSOCIATION OF  
CHINESE PROFESSOR  
IN MANITOBA

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#### CONTENTS

Welcome from the President: Past and Future	1
Member Profile	2
Members' Biography	4
Past Events	5
Future Events	8

# ACPMB Newsletter

曼省华裔教授协会

HTTP://WWW.ACPMB.ORG

DECEMBER 2011

## Welcome from the President: Past and Future

It is my pleasure to report recent activities of our association. The change of presidency was completed in our general meeting held on September 11th, 2011 at the Summer Palace Chinese Restaurant on Pembina Hwy. I am very glad to have the opportunity to serve our members for one year. At the meeting, Dr. Simon Liao was elected as the President-elect and Dr. Ganghong Tian was elected as a board member. Dr. Canming Hu was appointed as treasurer for one year to replace Dr. Simon Liao. It was a wonderful event and twenty five members with their family attended the dinner. Thank you for all your support and we are looking forward to more members at our Chinese New Year's celebration.

It is unbelievable that four months have passed since I assumed the presidency and Christmas is just around the corner. In the past four months, there were two events organized by the Association besides the celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival. The first event was the visit of a delegation from Hebei North University. President Dr. Li Zhang and Director of International Education Exchange Centre Dr. Tong Xu spent two days at our university and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with President Dr. David Bernard. All board members were able to meet

President Zhang and Director Xu on September 29th. As you may remember, a group of our members visited the Hebei North University in June 2011. The second event was the NSERC grant writing workshop. On October 7th, Dr. Kanzhi Liu, Dr. Liqun Wang and Dr. Christine Wu led the discussion. They presented and discussed how to prepare successful proposals for the NSERC Discovery Grant and the Collaborative Health Research Projects (CHRP) Programs. It was a well-attended event and an interest in writing grant application was recognized during discussion period. Our association was invited to a dinner banquet by the Consul-General of China in Toronto on November 9th 2011 and we were one of the eight Chinese organizations in Winnipeg to be present at the banquet.

I would like to see more activities take place; however, the association is a volunteer organization and we are looking for



ACPMB board members 2011-2012

fresh ideas from our members. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to contact any board members. In terms of future activities, we are planning to have a workshop on tenure and promotion application in the spring. We are also planning to have a network meeting between our organization and other organizations who are interested in collaboration between Canada and China. I hope this event will showcase the achievements and activities of collaboration between our members and their Chinese counterparts.

Finally, I like to thank all of our members for supporting the association and contributing to the activities. It is our organization and it is our re-

sponsibility to keep it strong. On behalf of the board of ACPMB, I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Yuewen Gong, President of the ACPMB 2011-12



## Member Profile: Professor Xiao-yuan Dong

### Mentor to Chinese Women Economists

On November 9, 2011, Dr. Xiao-yuan Dong, ACPMB president Dr. Yuewen Gong, board member Dr. Ying Kong and ACPMB president-elect Dr. Simon Liao met informally at Asian City restaurant. As Simon said, "Professor Dong was one of the pioneers of Chinese professors in Manitoba, but she has kept a very low profile in spite of her great contributions to higher education of economics in Canada and China." Quiet and modest as usual, Xiao-yuan told us stories of her Chinese "complex". In 1983, Dong came to University of Alberta for her graduate studies in economics. After she received her Ph.D, Xiao-yuan started teaching and research in Economic Development, Econometrics and Applied Microeconomics. Chinese economic reform provided her with a platform for her research on Chinese economic policy, strategies, and economic growth. Thus, Dong developed her expertise in Chinese economics with particular interest in development and gender.

Asked why she was interested in gender studies in economics, Dong said she discovered that the status of Chinese women was not only deteriorating in

labour markets but also in educational institutions as indicated by lower employment rates and lower wages. She stated that economics is still a male-dominated profession. Women scholars have less influence than their male peers in economics. Dong said that the recent financial crisis has raised serious concern about research methodology of mainstream economics, which promulgates unfettered markets, relies too heavily on abstract mathematical models, and assumes human beings behave as if they are self-centered, socially detached individuals. Is this a particularly "male" way of thinking?

"Chinese economists need to pay more attention to gender issues, but they have not," said Dong. In 2002, with a grant from the Ford Foundation, Dong started organizing a training program for young Chinese women economists at China Center for Economic Research (CCER) at Peking University. Its purpose was to teach Chinese female economists to apply modern research techniques to study the impacts of economic policies on women. Each year the Ford Foundation receives more than 40,000 proposals but only gives out 2,000 grants. But Dong received three grants for ten consecutive years from 2002 to 2012. During this period, more than 200 women scholars have received research training and mentoring from the program and some of them have become leading researchers in their

fields in China.

“How do you run the training program?” Dong’s research found that women teachers usually taught introductory level courses. Usually they taught these courses year after year. They also had more teaching hours than men. As a result, they had no chance to enhance their theoretical application and less time for their research. In order to improve their teaching and research skills, every summer the program invited top scholars for lectures, seminars, and workshops. At the same time, she mentored a dozen of young female economists for research and international publications.

“Since you have teaching commitments at the University of Winnipeg, how did you manage to mentor them?” Dong said, “It is not an easy job. First I help them develop a sound research plan and supervise them to carry out the research. Then I help them with their papers for publications. Seeing them lack in research methodology, and writing skills, I feel sympathetic with them. Telecommunication shortens physical distance. Sometimes polishing their papers takes more time than writing my own. Most of my time was spent editing their papers.” In addition to helping and supporting women economists in China, Dong is also productive in her own research: she published 33 articles in peer reviewed journals, and co-edited 5 books in the past ten years. For her contributions to the University, its students, and the academic community, the University of Winnipeg awarded Dong the Erica and Arnold Rogers Award for Excellence in Research and Scholarship in 2006. This prestigious award started in 1987 and each year only one recipient was granted the award and the presentation takes place annually at Convocation. Dong was the only Chinese professor who received this award.

Asked whether her research makes her a better teacher, Dong said her research has classroom benefits for her University of Winnipeg students. “It has made my lectures more interesting to the students.” Besides her classroom teaching, she also gives public lectures about China and other Asia Pacific countries, bringing her global perspective to the community beyond the University. She also told us that IDRC will provide support for the training

program at CCER starting 2012, and with the new support, her female economist training program will produce more and more scholars, whose perspective of the economic world is different from male. “Maybe female economists have a better solution to the global economic crisis,” Dong said with a smile and confidence.

“How do you manage your time for both teaching and research?” With her research grant, Dong teaches fewer courses so that she has more time for her research and publications. Although she likes gardening, she has almost no time to enjoy her garden. Last summer she did manage to grow flowers. Luckily, Dong has a very supportive husband and a cozy home in Winnipeg. Her children have grown up, but none of them took up Dong’s profession. Her son joined the Canadian army after he received his engineering degree, and her daughter works as a medical doctor and lives in the US.

In a 2008 report, the Royal Economics Society found that 22% of academic economists are female, and 17% are from ethnic minorities. As a visible minority, Dong is outstanding in the economic world east and west. With her training program, there will be more and more visible minority women economists. By Ying Kong



## Academic Biography of Xiao-yuan Dong

Xiao-yuan Dong is Professor of Economics at the University of Winnipeg in Canada and Adjunct Professor at Peking University in China. Her research focuses on the impacts of China's economic transition on labor and gender inequalities. Her work has been published in a variety of journals, including *Journal of Political Economy*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, *World Development*, *Feminist Economics*, *Canadian Journal of Economics*, *Cambridge Journal of Economics*, *New Left Review*, *Journal of Development Studies*, *China Economic Review*, *Economics of Transition*, etc. She has co-edited two books on China's agri-

cultural development and gender and China's entry to WTO in English language and three books on China's transition, feminist economics, informal employment, care provision, and empirical methods for gender research in Chinese language.

Dr. Dong is a founding member and co-director of the Chinese Women Economists Research Training Program at the National School of Development of Peking University. She has served on the board of directors of the International Association of Feminist Economics since 2007 and is an associate editor of *Feminist Economics*.

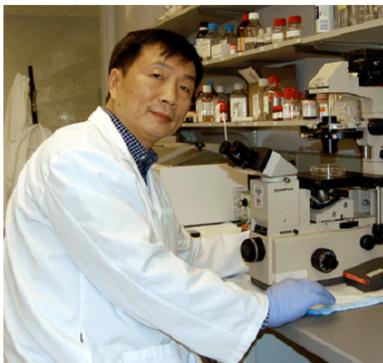


Simon Liao, Ph.D.  
Professor  
Applied Computer Science,  
The University of Winnipeg

## Biography of Simon Liao

Dr. Simon Liao graduated from Beijing Normal University in 1982. He enrolled into the M.Sc. and Ph.D. programs in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Manitoba, in 1986 and 1988, respectively. In 1991, Dr.

Liao joined the Department of Business Computing, which was renamed to Applied Computer Science in 2003, University of Winnipeg. Dr. Liao has mainly worked in the fields of Pattern Recognition and Image Processing.



Ganghong Tian, M.D., Ph.D.  
Senior Research Officer  
Institute for Biodiagnostics, NRC

## Biography of Ganghong Tian

Dr. Ganghong Tian obtained his Medical Doctoral degree from School of Medicine, Wuhan University in 1982. He then spent three years in Surgery Resident Program at the First Affiliated Hospital of the university. In 1985, he enrolled into a M.Sc. program of the Department of Surgery, Wuhan University. During the graduate studies, he spent two years in the Department of Biological Chemistry, School of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University to study energy-required conformational changes of muscular contractile proteins. In 1988, Dr. Tian entered a Ph.D. program of University of Ottawa under supervision of Dr. Graham Mainwood and Dr. Roxanne Deslauriers. During his Ph.D. period, his research focused mainly on ischemia and reperfusion injury and optimization of perfusion medium and conditions for improvement of

donor heart preservation. In 1994, Dr. Tian became an Assistant Research Officer in Institute for Biodiagnostics, National Research Council in Winnipeg. From 1994 to early 2000s, Dr. Tian worked mainly on the development of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) techniques for assessment of myocardial viability. In recent years, Dr. Tian's research has been focusing on development of new nanoparticle for tracking of implanted stem cells, particularly the nanoparticles that can be visualized by both MRI and positron emission tomography (PET). He and his team also study efficacy of adipose-derived stem cells in treatment of heart failure. Dr. Tian's research programs have been supported by Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba, and National Research Council.

## Summer Visit to China

In the summer, (June 4 to June 13, 2011), a group of ACPMB members visited three universities in China for scientific exchange and international symposia. The members included Drs. Qingjin Peng, Simon Liao, Yuewen Gong, Jiming Kong, Xiaojian Yao, Jiuyong Xie, Qiang Zhang, and Xi Yang.

A part of the group (Peng, Liao, Zhang and Yang) first visited Quilin Electronic University in Quilin City from June 4 to June 8. They were warmly welcomed by Vice-presidents Dr. Li Siming and Dr. Ou Yangshan, and colleagues in the faculties of electronic engineering, mechanical and biological and environmental sciences. Dr. Liao gave a talk on in the faculty of electronic engineering which was well received by a big audience of more 100 students and faculty. Dr. Peng and Drs. Zhang and Yang were hosted by the faculty of mechanical engineering and the faculty of biological and environmental sciences, respectively, and had discussions with graduate students and faculty on broad topics of scientific research and education in North America. The group also toured Lijiang river, various caves in Quilin and Yangshuo and watched the famous natural stage show Liu Sanjie. Dr. Liao initiated and coordinated the visit to Guilin.

The group then moved to Zhanjiakou on June 8 to

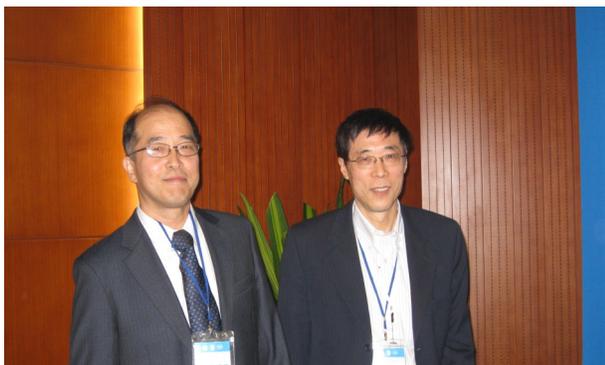
participate in the international symposium on current sciences co-sponsored by Hebei North University and our association. Two more members, Drs. Gong and Kong, joined the group in the symposium. All of these six members gave talks in the symposium on their research fields, along with three faculties from Hebei North University. More than 400 students and faculty attended the symposium. At the opening ceremony the president of Hebei North University, Dr. Li Zhang and the president of our association, Xi Yang gave remarks, together with the vice mayor of Zhangjiakou city. The news of the symposium was released and reported in various newspapers and websites. The members also visited the library and the centre of research of the university and had group discussions with students and faculty in the faculties of medicine, sciences and agriculture. The visitors also toured Yungang cave, a world heritage site.

After ending the activities in Zhangjiakou on June 11, several members, Drs. Yao, Xie and Yang visited Tianjin Medical University and had an international symposium in the faculty of basic medical sciences. All of the three members talked about their research in the symposium which was co-chaired by Dr. Jie Yang, the dean of basic medical sciences, and Dr. Xi Yang, the president of our association. (Xi Yang)



## The 1st China-Canada Symposium on Atherosclerosis and Cardiovascular Disease

Members who regularly attend our annual scientific meetings will know that for the past three years, the CSATVB and the Chinese Atherosclerosis Society (CAS) have exchanged visiting speakers, viz. Dr. George Liu (Peking University) was a guest speaker at our annual meeting in Toronto in 2008; Dr. Heyu Ni (University of Toronto) and Dr. Daniel Sparks (University of Ottawa) were guest speakers at the CAS meeting in Huhehaote, Inner Mongolia, in 2009; Dr. Zhisheng Jiang (University of South China) was an invited speaker to the Montreal meeting in 2010. It was therefore a natural progression that the two societies should arrange a scientific meeting together. At meetings of the CSATVB Council in 2010, this objective was proposed successfully by Councillor Garry Shen (University of Manitoba) and the Council agreed unanimously to give support.



The first CCSACD was organized by Dr. Zhisheng Jiang on behalf of the CAS, and Dr. Garry Shen on behalf of CSATVB, and was held in the China Hall of Science and Technology situated in the centre of Beijing, only a short distance from the Forbidden City. Financial support to partially assist the cost of travel for Canadian trainees was provided by the CSATVB, the University of Manitoba, the University of Ottawa and the University of Calgary; sponsors within China provided support to Chinese trainees to attend the meeting. As my wife and I were visiting China (primarily to see my daughter and her husband who live in Beijing) in September, I had the pleasure of attending and reporting on the meeting. Over 100 registrants were in attend-

ance, of which approximately 30 were from Canada. The opening ceremony was administered by officials from both societies and included Ms. Ivy Feng, a Health Relations Specialist from the Canadian Embassy. Having absorbed the speeches of welcome and jostled for refreshment afterwards, we were then able to concentrate on the science. The meeting consisted of seventeen 30-minute, 'state-of-the-art' plenary presentations on all aspects of cardiovascular disease and given by selected speakers from both societies over the two days of the meeting. The plenary speakers from the CSATVB were Drs. Murray Huff (University of Western Ontario), Garry Shen, Khosrow Adeli (University of Toronto), Heyu Ni, Xilong Zheng (University of Alberta), Zemin Yao (University of Ottawa), and Scott Lear (Simon Fraser University). In addition, there were two sessions for short presentations and two poster sessions which were presented largely by trainees.

The Canadian prize winners for oral presentations were Dr. Michael Czubryt (University of Manitoba) and Qiaozhu Su (University of Toronto). The poster winners were M. Sundaram (University of Ottawa), H. Gu (University of Alberta), Ms. Pei Yu (McMaster University) and Ms. Joanne Hsieh (University of Toronto). The awardees were selected by Award Committee led by Dr. Mark Hatton and invited judges. (Garry Shen)

Dr. Garry Shen (University of Manitoba) co-chaired the 1st China-Canada Symposium on Atherosclerosis and Cardiovascular Disease, Beijing, September 23-25, 2011.



# ACPMB 2011 General Meeting



The general meeting was held on Sunday, September 11, 2011 at 6:00 pm. A dinner party to celebrate the Moon Festival was combined with the meeting. More than 50 people came to the meeting and party. They enjoyed the discussions, conversation, and the delicious feast at Summer Palace Chinese restaurant. (Qingjin Peng)

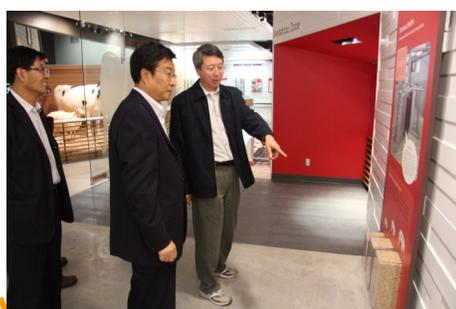


## Delegation from Hebei North University visits Winnipeg

A delegation from Hebei North University visited Winnipeg in September 2011 in return to our visit there in June. President Dr. Li Zhang and Director of the International Education Exchange Centre Dr. Tong Xu spent three days at the University of Manitoba and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with President Dr. David Barnard. Qiang Zhang and Yuewen Gong showed them the Faculty of Agriculture, the Fort Garry Campus, and the Bannatyne medical faculty. All board members were able to meet the President Zhang and Director Xu on September 29th. (Qingjin Peng)

## Workshop for NSERC and CHRP Grant Application

A workshop for writing NSERC and CHRP Grant applications was held on Oct. 7, 2011 at the Fort Garry campus. Dr Kan-Zhi Liu shared his experiences in successful applying for CHRP grants, and Drs Liqun Wang and Qiong Wu shared their knowledge as committee members reviewing applications for the NSERC Discovery Grant. Eighteen members attended the workshop. (Qingjin Peng)



## Member involved in collaborative research in Brazil

Increasing evidence suggests that periodontitis may be associated with increased risk of other systemic diseases like heart disease and diabetes. In addition to the advancements achieved in the diagnosis of periodontitis using optical spectroscopy, the team led by Dr. Kan-zhi Liu (Senior Research Officer at National Research Council Canada and Professor at the University of Manitoba), along with other dental professionals across several continents, is currently gearing up to use their newly innovated periodontal diagnostic tool to look at systemic diseases. One of their goals is to determine whether optical spectroscopy can detect local periodontal hemodynamic alterations in diabetic patients due to the vascular complications in gingival connective tissue.

Inspired by the large patient population, the high incidence of periodontal disease, and long term productive collaborations in Brazil, last month (October) Dr. Liu led a team to Sao Paulo. The mission was successful! With the professional assistance of several skilful and dedicated dental graduate students and periodontal specialists, a to-



### Planned Future Event

There are two activities planned for 2012. The first will be a spring Workshop on Tenure and Promotion.

The second will be a Networking meeting between ACPMB and other organizations who are interested in collaboration between Canada and China.



tal of 65 subjects with both diabetes and periodontitis, along with 15 healthy volunteers, were recruited in a short 10 day visit. Approximately 500 periodontal sites from these subjects were examined and corresponding spectra acquired and GCF samples obtained - it would have taken at least two years if this work had been carried out in Winnipeg. At the end of the visit, Dr. Liu delivered an invited lecture to the graduate students and staff at the Dental Research Division of Guarulhos University, summarizing the emerging role of optical spectroscopy in the diagnostic field of inflammatory periodontal diseases. The IBD team's overall impression about Brazil was very positive regarding the friendly people, and unique and tasty food. One exception was the weather – it rained every weekend, reminding them that the distinctive spring weather was appropriate for the legendary rain forest. This mission was financially supported by a CHRP grant from NSERC and CIHR. (Kan-Zhi Liu)

### Chinese New Year Dinner Party

The ACPMB will hold the annual Chinese New Year Dinner Party on Saturday January 28, 2012 on 6:30pm at the North Garden Restaurant. Please register by email to Dr. Qingjin Peng at [pengq@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:pengq@cc.umanitoba.ca).

## Visit of Dr. Yulai Zhou from Jilin University

Dr. Yulai Zhou Associate Dean (Research) and Professor of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Institute of Regenerative Medicine of the Jilin University visited the Faculty of Pharmacy and Regenerative Medicine Program of the Faculty of Medicine in September 13-19, 2011. He gave a presentation of “Overview on Regenerative Medicine Research in Jilin University” and was received a Visiting scholar certificate from Dr. Patrick Choy, Senior Advisor of the President of the University of Manitoba and the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. (Yuewen Gong)



## Winnipeg is Gaining Attention from Universities in China As a Center for Research and Education

Over the past few months, a number of universities in China sent their delegations to Winnipeg to seek for potential collaborations on scientific research and training of graduate student and postdoctoral fellows. Among them, a delegation led by the president of Nan Hua University, Dr. Gebao Wen, spent two days (25th and 26th of October 2011) in Winnipeg to visit University of Manitoba and National Research Council. During their visit, the delegation had an extensive discussion with Drs. Patrick Choy, Yuewen Gong, Ken-zhi Liu and Ganghong Tian in areas of medical research and training of young scientists. With great interest, they also observed some cutting-edge research activities and the state-of-the-art facilities.

Every member on the delegation was extremely satisfied with the outcome of the trip and also grateful for the hospitality provided by local Chinese scholars. As a part of the agreement, a few collaborative research programs will be initiated in the near future.

To fulfill its mandates, the Association of Chinese Professors in Manitoba will continue its efforts to facilitate exchange and collaborative programs in research and advanced education between China and Manitoba. (Ganghong Tian)



### First Summer Study Trip to China

Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Winnipeg will have their first field study trip to China in summer 2012. This program will be hosted by Shanghai Normal University and it is a fruit of our collaboration between universities in Canada and China. For detailed information, please contact our board member, Dr. Ying Kong at [y.kong@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:y.kong@uwinnipeg.ca)