The Biophysical Society of China strengthens international academic exchanges and collaborations

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As the current president of the Biophysical Society of China, it's my great honor to introduce the society. The Biophysical Society of China (BSC) is a constituent society of the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) and a non-governmental organization composed of the best biophysicists in China. It aims to promote the development of biophysics by organizing academic conferences and popular science education and publications, and improve the scientific level of the whole world. BSC has been growing rapidly in recent years and established dynamic links with several societies in and outside China. The membership has

maintained a growth rate of 30% on average for three consecutive years and reaches 12,000 in 2018.

BSC conferences

The Chinese Biophysics Congress started from 1964. It was quadrennial at the beginning, then became biannual and was finally promoted to an annual meeting in 2017. The Congress aims to stimulate the scientific exchange among global researchers and build up a communication platform for students and young scientists. The Congress is the largest academic conference in China in biophysical field and has been successfully held for 16 times so far. In 2011, the 17th International Biophysics Congress in conjunction with the 12th Chinese Biophysics Congress was held in Beijing. It was the first time for the International Biophysics Congress to launch in China. Nobel Prize winners and 3500 delegates from 41 countries and regions attended the Congress, making it a successful event with high impact. Since then, the Chinese Biophysics Congress has been transformed into an international

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congress. 17th International Biophysics Congress and the 12th Chinese Biophysics Congress (2011, Beijing)

BSC Thematic Meetings—BSC supports small-size meetings organized by sub-societies. These thematic meetings such as Symposium on Calcium Signaling in China (SCSC), Symposium on Membrane Biology, and Conference for Lipid Metabolism and Bioenergetics are unique and exciting because they focus on special area(s) and attendees can make extensive communication and in-depth discussion with more colleagues working on same topics. BSC also assists members in applying and organizing focused-topic meetings of international organizations. The 17th Symposium on Ca^{2+} -Binding Proteins and Ca^{2+} Function in Health and Disease held in Beijing in 2011 was co-organized by BSC and the Biophysical Society of USA. The Membrane Shaping and Remodeling by Proteins workshop in 2016 was co-organized with EMBO.

International collaborations

In July 1984, BSC officially joined the International Union for Pure and Applied Biophysics (IUPAB), and in 2011, BSC successfully organized the 17th International Biophysics Conference in Beijing. At the same time, Professor Zihe Rao, President of BSC, was elected as President of IUPAB (2014–2017) in the accompanying IUPAB General Assembling Meeting. Since then, a plenary lecture entitled by Bei Shizhang (a pioneer of biophysics in China and the founder of BSC) was confirmed as one of the entitled lectures on the International Biophysics Congress by the IUPAB council meeting. Professors Zihe Rao and Xiaoliang Xie were invited to deliver the Bei Shizhang Lecture in 2014 and 2017, respectively. Professor Xie was also the winner of BSC Bei Shizhang Award in 2015. To further promote the communication between Chinese and foreign scholars, at the

International Biophysics Congress in 2014 and 2017, BSC organized “China Night” reception to specially present Chinese culture and life science development in China. Over 100 people from different countries attended and gave high remarks.

BSC reception during 2014 IUPAB Congress

Professor Zihe Rao chairing the 2017 IUPAB General Assembling Meeting

Professor Zihe Rao giving a plenary talk on 2018 ABA symposium

Group photo of part of Chinese participants attending the 2017 IUPAB Congress

BSC is a founding member of Asian Biophysics Association (ABA). In May 2015, BSC organized the 9th Asian Biophysics Association Symposium in Hangzhou. Professor Xiyun Yan was elected as President of the Asian Biophysics Association (2015–2018). In December 2018, Professor Zihe Rao delivered an opening plenary talk on the 2018 ABA Symposium held in Melbourne, Australia. Several Chinese speakers nominated by BSC attended the conference and presented their scientific progress.

Professors Zihe Rao and Xiyun Yan with the organizers in 2019 ABA symposium

9th Asian Biophysics Association Symposium (2015, Hangzhou)

With the election of Professors Rao and Yan, BSC has participated more actively in activities of international organizations and played more important roles. To further improve the internationalization level and create a two-way exchange internationalization platform, BSC has made extensive efforts on establishing contacts with internationally renowned life sciences associations. From 2011 to 2018, most BSC thematic meetings were promoted to international level. On the 2017 BSC annual meeting, two international society sub-forums with the American Cell Biology Society (ASCB) and the Biophysical Society of Japan (BSJ) were well attended and received high evaluations.

BSC have built a long-term strategic partnership on the academic connection, membership reciprocity and other issues with the ASCB, such as promoting young scientists. In 2018, 10 best poster winners of BSC Annual Meeting obtained the sponsorship for ASCB annual meeting in United States. Based on a long-term annual bilateral session, BSC and BSJ established a platform of cutting-edge scientific issues for scientists on both sides. During the ABA meeting in Melbourne in 2018, BSC and the Australian Biophysical Society officially discussed the collaboration modes and decided to hold the first Sino-Australian joint session at the 2019 BSC Annual Meeting. Furthermore, BSC and the American Society of Biochemical and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) initiated the Epigenetic Regulation Symposium that will be held once a year and hosted alternately by BSC and ASBMB.

With the enhanced level of international collaboration, the Biophysical Society of China will continuously make efforts on exploring in-depth cooperation with more national societies to promote the prosperity and development of life sciences around the world.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest Tao Xu declares that he has no conflict of interest.

Ethical approval This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by the author.

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