Introduction to the Korean Biophysical Society (KBPS)

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Brief history and organization of KBPS

The Korean Biophysical Society (KBPS) was established in 1992. Since Professor Hyung Man Kim from the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) was elected as the inaugural President of KBPS, 12 leading Korean biophysicists have served as the president for KBPS over the last 27 years. They were as follows: Chin Ok Lee (Department of Life Science, POSTECH), Dae Yong Uhm (Department of Physiology, Sungkyunkwan University School of Medicine), Sa-Uk Gang (School of Biological Sciences, Seoul Nat'l University), Do Han Kim (Department of Life Science, GIST), Young Kee Kang (Department of Chemistry, Chungbuk Nat'l University), Soo-Wan Chae (Department of Pharmacology, Medical School of Chonbuk Nat'l University), Myeong-Hee Yu (Korea Institute of Science and Technology), Wontae Lee (Department of Biochemistry, Yonsei University), Iksoo Chang (Department of Brain & Cognitive Sciences, DGIST), Kyeong Kyu Kim (Department of Molecular Cell Biology, Sungkyunkwan University School of Medicine), and Chul-Seung Park (School of Life Sciences, GIST).

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The KBPS steering committee is essential to cover the Society's activity including scientific affairs, planning and financing, member services, and communication and publishing. Since biophysics is a multidisciplinary science aimed at understanding biological phenomena from the perspective of physics, the different members of the KBPS steering committee have a range of scientific expertise in areas as diverse as structural biology, computational biology, electrophysiology, imaging and single-molecule biophysics (among other areas). The current web site for the KBPS is www.koreabiophysics.net.

International and domestic collaborations

The KBPS has been actively involved in collaborative international meetings. The East Asian Biophysics Symposium (EABS) was developed in the early 2000s to promote collaboration with Chinese and Japanese Biophysical Societies. The EABS later went on to become the Asian Biophysics Association (ABA) in 2006. The KBPS hosted the eighth ABA symposium in Jeju, Korea, and the former KBPS president, Professor Young Kee Kang was elected as the president of ABA in 2015.

Also, the KBPS and the Biophysical Society of Taiwan R.O.C. have been co-organizing bilateral biophysics conferences from 2013. In 2017, the third Taiwan-Korea Bilateral Biophysics Conference was held in at I-Shou University, Gaoshung, Taiwan, in parallel with the 22nd Annual Conference of the Biophysical Society of Taiwan. In the meeting, ten speakers from each country shared recent advancements in biophysical science ranging from single molecule to neurodegenerative disease.

The KBPS is also actively expanding domestic collaborations with other scientific societies within Korea. One such collaborative effort, the International Symposium of Federation of Korean Societies for Molecular and Biomedical Sciences (FKSMBS) was initially co-organized by the Korean Society for Protein Science (KSPS), the

Korean Magnetic Resonance Society (KMRS), and KBPS. The first FKSMBS meeting was held at Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) in Seoul, June 2016. Three plenary lectures were given by Professors Yeon-Kyun Shin (Iowa State University), Christian Griesinger (Max-Planck Institute), and Lucia Banci (University of Florence). In addition, 33 talks in seven sessions and 87 posters were presented. The second FKSMBS meeting was co-organized by KSPS, KBPS, and DGIST, and held at DGIST in Daegu, August 2017. In total, 38 talks in ten scientific sessions and two plenary lectures (Uhtaek Oh, KIST; Iksoo Chang, DGIST) were presented in the second FKSMBS meeting. After having two joint FKSMBS meetings, the KBPS put further effort in expanding this collaborative spirit to other Korean Societies. To this end, the Korean Crystallographic Association, the Korean Society for Structural Biology, the Korean Chemical Society Division of Life-Science Chemistry, the Korean Society for Protein Science, and KBPS decided to organize the Federation of Korean Societies for Biomolecular Sciences (FKSBS). The first conference of FKSBS was held in Ehwa Women's University in Seoul, Jan 2019. The conference was organized with three plenary lectures given by Professors Hak-sung Kim (KAIST), Senyon Teddy Choe (University of California, San Diego), and Injae Shin (Yonsei University). Supporting these plenary sessions were ten symposia with 43 talks and 99 posters. The first FKSBS' scientific sessions covered topics including structural biology with NMR, x-ray

crystallography and cryo-EM, chemical crystallography, chemical biology and protein engineering, protein modification and quality control, proteins and diseases, structure-based drug discovery, membrane proteins, and computational biology. These joint activities among Korean societies stimulate collaboration among scientists with various scientific backgrounds. Also, more than 200 students and postdoctoral fellows that attended the conference became exposed to the multidisciplinary nature of biophysical science.

We keep discussing the future of FKSBS in order to both consolidate interaction among the scientific Societies in Korea and provide a collaborative platform for researchers. Additionally, we intend to actively participate in ABA symposia to continue international collaboration among Biophysicists in Asia.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest Hyun-Ho Lim declares that he has no conflict of interest. Kyeong Kyu Kim declares that he has no conflict of interest. Chul-Seung Park declares that he has no conflict of interest.

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

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