



SAPA-CT 2nd Annual Conference Highlighted U.S.-China Cooperation in Pharmaceutical World

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New Haven, CT—The Connecticut Sino-American Pharmaceutical Professionals Association (SAPA-CT) has successfully organized the 2nd Annual Conference on March 22, 2015 at Yale University. With more than 200 attendees, this year’s conference spotlighted the cooperation between U.S. and China’s biopharmaceuticals, emphasizing the rising opportunities beyond the manageable challenges.

The 2014-2015 President, Dr. Charles Xie who recently relocated to Shanghai as Head of Clinical Development, Boehringer Ingelheim China, opened the morning session in a recorded video, congratulating all attendees for a productive event. The audience then experienced the contagious excitement when Dr. Yongmei Li, the 2015-2016 President of SAPA-CT, stepped up and welcomed all the attendees. Dr. Li briefed the organization’s history and reiterated the mission of the organization: To serve the biopharmaceutical community by promoting scientific exchange and business between U.S. and China at the individual, organizational, and governmental levels (Fig. 1). This mission was well elaborated when John Schuyler from Connecticut District Export Council reviewed thirty-year history of CT-Shandong, China relationship from the government angle.



Figure 1. Dr. Yongmei Li was elected as President of SAPA-CT, 2015-2016.



Figure 2. Dr. John Houston (upper left) attributed Bristol-Myers Squibb’s recent success to innovation; Dr. Susan Froshauer (upper right) shared her experience and passion for non-profit organization; Dr. Milind Deshpande demonstrated Achillion’s commitment to HCV treatment.

The morning scientific symposium session, “Global Development of Pharmaceutical and Biotechnology Industry”, featured three distinguished speakers: John Houston, Ph.D., Senior Vice President, Disease Sciences & Biologics, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, Milind Deshpande, Ph.D., President and CEO, Achillion, and Susan Froshauer, Ph.D., President and CEO, Connecticut United for Research Excellence (CURE) (Fig. 2). Dr. Houston attributed the company’s huge success in immuno-oncology field to the focused strategy with the innovation at the core. Dr. Deshpande demonstrated Achillion’s strength and global cooperation in a highly competitive field, Hepatitis C virus treatment, and reported the unparalleled result on HCV treatment. Dr. Froshauer, citing herself in the career context and her passion for CURE as example, encouraged scientists to participate



actively in the pharmaceutical community and explained how this service can help to build a portal between CT and China bioscience.

The afternoon session examined the challenges biopharma need to overcome to achieve sustainable growths: 1) Can healthcare innovation and value-based healthcare thrive together? –A talk given by Everett Hoekstra, Senior Vice President, Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma, Inc; 2) Biopharma in U.S. and China are undergoing divergent changes in many aspects. How do both sides benefit from each other in the next decade? Dr. Shoufeng Li, CEO of Aucta Pharmaceuticals, LLC shared his experience in operating a start-up company and how he managed to orchestrate resources from both sides to make Aucta successful; 3) Lastly, Dr. John Jasper from Nature's Fingerprint disclosed their unique approach to protect biopharmaceutical process patent through ambient distribution of light stable isotypes (Fig. 3).



Figure 3. Dr. John P. Jasper (upper left) provided an exclusive solution to protect biopharma process patent; Everett Hoekstra (lower left) debated the symbiosis of innovation and value in healthcare; Dr. Shoufeng Li (right) explained why U.S. and China could benefit from each other in the pharmaceutical world.

The meeting was barely closed on time when the last session on career development received unprecedented engagement from the audience. Personal experience to achieve career goal was shared from the following leaders: Dr. Philip Zhang of Milstein Zhang & Wu LLC, Mr. Yirong Wang of Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Dr. Yu Cheng of Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma, Inc, Dr. Peter Farina of Canaan Partners, Mr. Yugang Rong of Sichuan Kelun Pharmaceutical Research Institute, and Dr. James Jin of Biocytogen LLC (Fig. 4). The topics cover career success in corporate setting and adventure in entrepreneurship. In a highly dynamic biopharma world, these topics were highly anticipated and the outcome was unparalleled.



Figure 4. Leaders of diverse background shared experience in career success and entrepreneurship: (from left to right) Dr. Philip Zhang, Mr. Yirong Wang, Dr. Yu Cheng, Dr. Peter Farina, Mr. Yugang Rong, Dr. James Jin.

In the evening, Dr. Susie Cheng delivered a speech on US patent application. She outlined the basic procedure with real-world case studies that attracted heightened attention from the audience. This topic has been proven very instructional to the innovators who plan to further their business by securing a lot in the intellectual world.



Sino-American Pharmaceutical Professionals Association – Connecticut

This one-day conference has proven itself fruitful in many aspects: more than 200 attendees (thirty percentage increase over last year; Fig. 5), distinguished speakers with inspiring presentations on innovation and community service, career development forum engaging Ph.D. students, post-doctoral researchers, and biopharma professionals, and entrepreneur spirit incubating next wave of biopharmaceutical start-ups (Fig. 6). To continue our commitment in serving the community, SAPA-CT will host serials of workshops, career development forums, and outdoor gathering/BBQ through the year. We will also work closely with CURE, Chinese Association for Science and Technology-Connecticut (CAST-CT), Chinese American Professors Association (CAPA-CT), the US-China Center and other organizations to promote the awareness of bioscience in local community. Please visit our website for frequent updates (www.sapa-ct.org).



Figure 6. Speakers, volunteers, and EC members celebrated the success of the symposium.

The 2nd Annual Conference was only made possible with supports from speakers, volunteers, SAPA-head quarter (SAPA-HQ), and our dedicated Executive Committee members. We want to thank all the leaderships from HQ and other chapters for their constructive suggestions. We look forward to working together to promote SAPA-CT to a new level (Fig. 7).

Further information can be found [here](#).

Photos were kindly provided by volunteers at Yale University: Liming Guan, Chengxing Huang, Qiao Lu, Qi Shen, and Hao Yan.

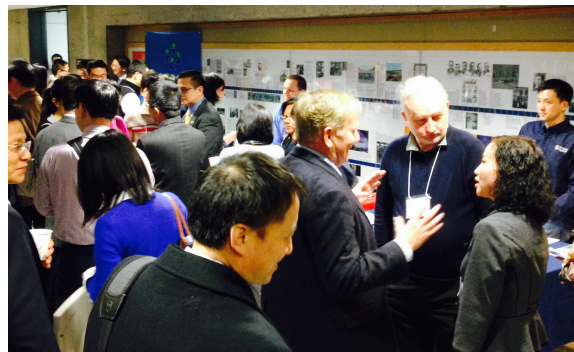


Figure 5. Speakers, vendors, and attendees interacted during the break session.

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Figure 7. Leaderships from HQ, NE, GP, and CT were well united at SAPA-CT 2nd Annual Conference.