

Profile: The Chinese Biopharmaceutical Association (CBA), USA

The Chinese Biopharmaceutical Association — USA (CBA) is one of the largest Chinese-American professional associations in the United States (www.cba-usa.org). Founded in 1995, CBA is an independent, nonpolitical, not-for-profit professional organization led by its volunteer-based board of directors and executive committees.

HISTORY

On a sunny spring day in 1995, a group of young Chinese-American scientists gathered in Rockville, MD, to found the Chinese Biopharmaceutical Association (CBA), USA. One year later, the new-born association held its first annual conference in Washington DC. More than 200 scientists attended from the United States and China along with journalists from a number of newspapers and magazines, including *Nature*.

The majority of CBA's founders were among the first group of Chinese students that came to the United States. Under their leadership, the CBA has grown rapidly. In 1996, most of the members were junior scientists, research fellows, and students originally from the People's Republic of China. By 2007, CBA had more than 600 active members from the United States, China, Singapore, Canada, and Japan; 62 institutional members; and 10 regional chapters in the United States and China. Most CBA members are scientist-entrepreneurs. Nearly 80% of CBA members have a PhD or an MD.

To recognize those individuals who have made a significant impact on the biopharmaceutical industry and to further enhance the visibility of CBA, in 2003 CBA established the "Brilliant Achievement Award." Early recipients were Dr. Kenneth Fong, founder and former CEO of Clontech (2003);

Dr. Nancy T. Chang, founder and CEO of Tanox, (2004); Dr. Frederick Frank, vice chairman and director of Lehman Brothers Inc. (2005); and Dr. Paul Schimmel, member of the Academy of Sciences and the Ernest and Jean Hahn professor at the Skaggs Institute for Chemical Biology at the Scripps Research Institute (2006). In 2007, the award went to Dr. Jing Lou, cofounder and CEO of 3SBio, a leading biopharmaceutical company in China, recognizing his achievement in the Chinese biopharmaceutical industry. It was the first time this award was given to a scientist based in China.

Since its founding, the CBA has played an influential role in the Chinese biopharmaceutical industry. In 2006, on CBA's 10-year anniversary, the Chinese Shandong Education Television station came to the United States and reported on it. The report was widely broadcast in China, giving the organization further recognition, not only in the biopharmaceutical industry, but also within the general population.

During the past decade, the Chinese biopharmaceutical industry has grown dramatically, and a number of advantages have attracted many of the world's top pharmaceutical companies to China. To enhance collaboration between the biopharmaceutical industry in China and the United States, and to further strengthen CBA's influence in the biopharmaceutical fields, the CBA is planning to hold its 13th annual conference on 28–29 May 2008 in Shanghai.

MISSION AND VISION

CBA promotes career advancement and collaboration among Chinese-American biopharmaceutical professionals, as well as technology transfer and business collaboration among different countries and

regions, especially between the United States and China, as well as other countries and regions in the Pacific Rim. To fulfill its mission, the CBA periodically conducts a wide spectrum of activities in the United States and China. Its annual conference attracts hundreds of scientists, entrepreneurs, VP investors, and representatives from government agencies. The annual gala and workshops on career advancement are also very popular.

Promoting Collaborations: Since 1996 CBA has been regularly sending delegations to China to offer classes and workshops and hold symposia and forums. To support professional organizations in China, CBA sponsors and cosponsors conferences held in China, including Bio-Forum International Symposia in Shanghai; Biopharmaceutical Development Forum-Healthcare Industry Forum in Beijing; and the International Symposium on Pharmaceutical and Biotechnology in Fuzhou.

CBA also helps arrange delegations from China to visit universities, research institutes, and biopharmaceutical companies in the United States. Each year, the association receives a number of delegations from Chinese universities, organizations, companies, and government agencies.

A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE

CBA's goal is to advance the biopharmaceutical science and technology — and, ultimately, to benefit human health — by serving as a bridge between academia and industry; between basic science and transferable technology; and between the United States and China, as well as other counties and regions in the Pacific Rim. ►

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