



Joint Research and PhD Training in Life Sciences between the Wuhan University and the University of Helsinki

Brief introduction of the joint project

Starting Date: 1 st March, 2005	End Date: long-term collaboration
Cost: shared by participating universities	
Participating organizations in joint education and symposium: University of Helsinki (including the Institute of Biotechnology, Biomedicum Helsinki, Graduate School in Integrative Life Sciences) Biocenter Finland, the umbrella and coordinating organization for Finnish biomedical institutions. Biocenter Kuopio (BCK), University of Eastern Finland, Biocenter Oulu (BCO), University of Oulu, BioCity Turku, University of Turku & Åbo Akademi University, Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland FIMM, University of Helsinki, Institute of Biomedical Technology (IBT), University of Tampere.	
My main research collaborators: Prof. Dennis Bamford, Dr. Tero Ahola, Prof. Mart Saarma, Dr. Li Tian, Prof. Mikael Skurnik (all University of Helsinki) and Prof. Ilka Julkunen (University of Turku, and Finnish Institute of Public Health and Welfare)	

After I relocated from the University of Helsinki to Wuhan University (WHU) in late 2002, I started to promote the collaboration between Wuhan University and the University of Helsinki (UH). In 2003, an official bilateral collaboration framework agreement was signed between the two universities. Since then, collaboration between WHU and UH has been rapidly growing, including staff and student exchange, joint education and research, and joint symposiums in several scientific disciplines such as life sciences (biology and medicine), law, mathematics and geosciences. I have been heavily involved in the bilateral collaboration in the field of life sciences in many perspectives. As the main coordinator on the Chinese side, we have initiated several joint programs. In 2005, we started Joint Symposium for Graduate Students (names as Summer School at Helsinki side) in Life Sciences between WHU and UH, and now it has expanded to 5 other Finnish Universities and 4 other Chinese universities (Peking University, Shanghai Jiaotong University, Suzhou University and CAS Graduate University). Each year, 10-20 graduate students have chance to attend the event. In 2008, we started the Sino-Finn Life Science Forum which is held alternatively in China and Finland each year. With this forum, scholars from both Chinese and Finnish scientific institutions have the chance to meet and set up joint collaborations. This year, the Sixth Sino-Finn Life Science Forum will take place in Helsinki in August. In 2012, one further agreement was signed between the WHU and UH to establish the Joint Sino-Finn Life Science Centre at the Wuhan University. All these joint programmes largely promoted the research collaboration between the two sides.

In my research, I have close collaboration with several laboratories in Helsinki and Turku, focusing on understanding the infection and pathogenesis of emerging RNA viruses such as SARS coronavirus and highly pathogenic influenza virus. We have obtained joint research fundings from the Academy of Finland, China Natural Science Foundation (NSFC), Juselius Foundation, and German DFG. We have revealed several novel mechanisms in viral replication and immune responses, and established high throughput platform for screening antiviral inhibitors. Such work would contribute to better preparedness for newly emerging viral diseases. The study results have been jointly published in different prestigious journals such as PNAS and PLoS Pathogens.

Profile of the Testimonial Speaker



Prof. Deyin Guo obtained his doctorate degree in microbiology at the Braunschweiger University of Technology (Technische Universität Braunschweig) in Germany in 1995. He then moved to the University of Helsinki for postdoctoral research and was nominated as docent in virology in 2001. In 2002, he became a professor in microbiology at Wuhan University. He has also taken several administration positions, including vice dean for graduate education and for research at the College of Life Sciences, director for Modern Virology Research Center, associate director of National Key Laboratory of Virology. Currently he acts as the dean of the School of Basic Medical Sciences, WHU.

His research is focusing on the infection, replication, immune escape and pathogenesis of emerging RNA viruses (mainly SARS coronavirus) and gene therapy of HIV/AIDS based on genetic modification of hematopoietic stem cells. He has obtained several prestigious research awards and fundings. He is the receiver of the funding for Excellent Young Investigators, and belongs to the leading scientists of National Key Basic Research Program (so called "973" program). He also acts as a member of several national committees of experts for counseling and evaluations.

Quote

“Joint research and education in life sciences are mutually beneficial and can lead to better life for us all”

— Prof. Guo Deyin