

INTRODUCTION TO THE SPECIAL SECTION IN MEMORY OF DR. BRITTON CHANCE

Tao Li Tian Xia



Hanged on the wall outside the office of Dr. Chance at the University of Pennsylvania is a thick plaque ($\sim 4 \times 1.5$ feet) dedicated to Dr. Chance by his students at his 90th birthday, saying 桃李天下 (Tao Li Tian Xia). This is a traditional Chinese idiom praising great teachers. 桃李天下 literally means “peaches and plums all over the world”. In the tradition of Chinese culture, this is a high remark used for great masters who have nurtured so many students (peaches and plums). The number of students and the achievements of the students are indicators of the greatness of a teacher. It is well known that Confucius had about 3000 students and 72 of them were scholars with extraordinary abilities.

Apart from his extraordinary achievements in science, engineering and sailing, Dr. Chance was

also a great educator. He was regarded as a big teacher by thousands of students and researchers all over the world, many of them later on became the leaders in different research fields. Regardless of the gender, ethnicity, nationality, religion, etc. of the students, he always paid special attention to the growth of the students and took care of their career development. From 1996–2006, in addition to his active research activities, Dr. Chance organized and led a summer program at Penn for minority high school students to teach them science and how to do research. He was already 90 years old in 2003.

Another quintessential contribution of Dr. Chance to the world was his active promotion of scientific exchange and cooperation between the West and the East. With his tireless guidance and

through many personal trips, he had helped multiple institutions and research labs in Asian countries/regions to establish and conduct frontier scientific research. For example, at the age of over 85 years old, Dr. Chance visited China frequently to dedicate himself to the establishment and development of the Britton Chance Center for Biomedical Photonics (BC-CBMP) in Huazhong University of Science and Technology in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. He had been maintaining over 10 years of solid collaborations with BC-CBMP in various programs of scientific research, personnel training, management, and international cooperation. Influenced and supported by Dr. Chance, the biomedical photonics research in China is developing at an amazing speed and catching up with the advanced level of international research. To appreciate his enthusiastic support to China's development of biomedical photonics, his cooperation and friendship, the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs of China granted Dr. Chance the "Friendship Award", and the government of Hubei Province granted him the "Chime Bell Award" in September 2008. His contribution to the scientific cooperation between the West and East was further recognized in 2009 by the International Science and Technology Cooperation Award, China's highest national honor given to foreign scientists. Owing to his research, teaching and leadership, biophotonics has boomed all over the world.

Dr. Chance has left with us invaluable legacies. His life, work and great impact on science, education and international cooperation will be remembered forever. As his students and/or collaborators, we are obliged to carry on his spirits and legacy to make further scientific innovations and progress for the benefit of mankind.

Two JIOHS issues have been published in memory of Dr. Chance in April and July. In this third issue of JIOHS with a special section dedicated to Dr. Britton Chance, we have included 2 reviews, 2 original research papers and 4 personal reflections. In total we have published 26 manuscripts in three consecutive JIOHS issues. We are particularly thankful to all the authors and reviewers for the wonderful contributions. We also appreciate greatly the valuable assistance from JIOHS editorial office and publisher. Last but not least, we thank Prof. Qingming Luo for giving us this unique opportunity to commemorate Dr. Chance — his life, time and legacy.

JIOHS Guest Editor

Lin Z. Li, PhD

Principle Investigator

Britton Chance Lab of Redox Imaging

Johnson Research Foundation

Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics

Molecular Imaging Lab, Department of Radiology

University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia, PA19104, USA

JIOHS Assistant Editor

Ling FU, PhD

Professor

Britton Chance Center for Biomedical Photonics

Wuhan National Lab for Optoelectronics

Huazhong University of Science and Technology

Wuhan, Hubei 430074, China