

In memory of Professor Hualiang Jiang



Prof. Hualiang Jiang (1965, 01-2022, 12)

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden and untimely passing of Professor Hualiang Jiang, who served as associate editor for *the Journal of Medicinal Chemistry* from 2009 to 2019. Professor Jiang was 57 years old.

Prof. Jiang was the first ever associate editor of the *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry* in China, and played a critical role in building the connection between the American Chemistry Society and the Chinese medicinal chemistry community.

Prof. Jiang served as a distinguished professor and the director general of the Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica (SIMM), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). He was internationally recognized for his outstanding scientific contributions to innovative computational method development for target identification, protein function prediction and rational drug design. The methods developed by Prof. Jiang and his group, ranging from drug-target interaction prediction based on large-scale molecular dynamics simulation, *in silico* "target fishing" approach for potential drug target identification, and computational method based on drug-target binding kinetics to guide novel drug design and efficacy evaluation, have been widely applied in global pharmaceutical companies and the academic community. Additionally, Prof. Jiang also discovered the druggable properties of a series of proteins and developed a number of drug candidates for multiple human diseases including pulmonary hypertension, schizophrenia, type 2 diabetes, erectile disorder and Alzheimer's disease. Several of these drug candidates have already been approved or are in active clinical trials.

Over his career, Prof. Jiang has published 604 research papers in prestigious journals including *Science*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, and the *Journal of Medical Chemistry* and served as the corresponding author in 233 of these papers. Prof. Jiang also has published 8 books as well as translated several English books into Chinese. Prof. Jiang was awarded numerous prizes for his pioneering and significant contributions to the fields of computer- and artificial intelligence-aided drug design (CADD& AIDD) in China, including the National Natural Science Award, the National Science and Technology Invention Award, and the Ho Leung Ho Lee Science and Technology Innovation Award. Professor Jiang was elected as an academican of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2017, the highest scientific honor in China.

Prof. Jiang was highly regarded for his commitment to teaching and mentoring. He has taught 3 pharmaceutical courses for more than 25 years at several universities,

trained more than 100 PhD students and was loved for his passionate dedication to science. Over the years, he has helped hundreds of young scientists and accomplished researchers from China and overseas in their scientific research through mentorship. Under his mentorship and through his timeless guidance and spiritual inspiration, many of his students are now leaders and stars in international pharmaceutical companies or research institutions in China and around the world.

Prof. Jiang was a devoted family man with deep respect for traditional Chinese family values. He was a talented poet and master of Chinese calligraphy and enjoyed a wonderful life perfused with both sciences and arts. Prof. Jiang was an unbelievable artist in cooking that allowed him to inspiringly present the ‘essence’ of a dish to those fortunate enough to enjoy his creations, and was loved by millions of people for his cooking art from the blogs he shared.

Prof. Jiang will be remembered as a talented scientist, devoted educator, and innovator and a man with many talents and will be sorely missed and remembered with great fondness. We offer our deepest sympathies and sincerest condolences to his family and friends.

Sincerely,

Ke Ding, PhD, Associate Editor of Journal of Medicinal Chemistry, Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry and Jinan University, China

Shaomeng Wang, PhD, Former Co-Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Medicinal Chemistry, University of Michigan, USA

Gunda Georg, PhD, Former Co-Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Medicinal Chemistry, University of Minnesota, USA

Philip Portoghese, PhD, Former Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Medicinal Chemistry, University of Minnesota, USA

Craig W. Lindsay, PhD, Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Medicinal Chemistry, Vanderbilt University, USA