Asian Faculty Association at Yale (AFAY) Newsletter  
11/09/2023

Dear AFAY Members,

The November AFAY newsletter is here! Please join our Slack group and follow us on twitter (X) account @AFAYale. This letter will also be posted on our website here and in the AFAY Slack.

1. Board meeting. All board members and committee chairs attended the first board meeting on Oct 11, 2023. The board discussed goals for the future and planned multiple activities in the coming year. Professional Development Committee will be led by Yongli Zhang, Haifan Lin, and Xiaoyong Yang. Social Committee will be led by Shangqin Guo and Yasuko Iwakiri.

2. Our voice for the community.  
An email signed by the AFAY Board Members was sent to the Presidential Search Committee on Oct. 23rd to request adding Asian faculty to the search committee. This letter has been posted in the AFAY Slack.

3. Diwali celebration!  
Please join in a lamp lighting ceremony and enjoy Indian food and drinks on Friday, November 10 at 3-4pm at the West Campus Conference Center. Diwali is a popular and fun holiday for Indians. It denotes the Festival of Lights. It can symbolize the power of light, enlightenment or clarity over darkness or ignorance, good over evil, and can also be associated with gods like Lakshmi or mythologies. This activity is organized by Yale West Campus Administration. The flyer is attached.

4. Academic job application workshop.  
To demystify the academic job application process, AFAY is co-organizing a workshop with the Association of Chinese Students and Scholars at Yale (ACSSY) and BioCosmo, on Friday, November 10 at 3-5pm via zoom. AFAY members Hong Tang, Hoy Shen, Jing Yan and Mengxia Liu are four of the six faculty panelists. This is the first of the job search workshop series. To register and obtain zoom link, click here.

5. Yale-Zhejiang University Hematology Symposium.  
Together with the Center for Molecular and Cellular Oncology (CMCO) and Yale Cooperative Center of Excellence in Hematology (YCEH), AFAY is co-organizing a Science Symposium on Hematology, to be held at Fitkin Amphitheater, LMP 1094 on Monday December 4th at 10 am-4:30 pm. The symposium, focused on hematology, stem cell biology, and cancer biology, is a major scientific exchange between researchers at Yale and Zhejiang University. More details here and the schedule is attached.

6. Other recent activities:  
Reception at the Provost’s House on Oct 3, 2023 was attended by about 80 Asian Faculty members, enabling interactions between faculty across the University. President Peter Salovey
and Provost Scott Strobel highlighted the contributions from Asian Faculty, and Qin Yan introduced AFAY and announced several future activities.

Break Bread Together on Oct 17, 2023 was a successful multicultural food tasting event. Andrew Xiao hosted a table of Chinese food, while Jun Lu hosted a table of Korean food. Honoring the Legacy of Dr. Yan Fuqing, the first Asian graduate from YSM, took place on Oct 25, 2023. This historic event brought together leaders from Yale, Xiangya School of Medicine, Shanghai Medical College and Hunan provincial government. This event was co-organized by YSM and Yale-China Association, and the ceremony of unveiling Dr. Yan Fuqing’s bust was moderated by Qin Yan. See coverage in YSM news, Yale and the world News, Yale Daily News, Wenxue city blog.

7. AFAY members’ accomplishments in the news:
Congratulations to Drs. Yong-Hui Jiang and Jiangbing Zhou for receiving a $40 million grant from the NIH to develop novel gene therapy for brain diseases. More details here.
Congratulations to Drs. Yong-Hui Jiang, Jiangbing Zhou and Akiko Iwasaki for receiving the Yale Faculty Innovation Awards for bringing their discoveries to market and launching Yale innovation into the world. More details here.
Congratulations to our President Dr. Qin Yan for receiving the 2023 Outstanding Investigator Award from the American Society for Investigative Pathology. More details here.

8. Please spread the word about AFAY, and invite your colleagues to join!
AFAY’s draft bylaw approved on September 15th, 2023 is here. To become a member please click here. AFAY strives to promote the mission and core values of the University, advocate for its members, provide a support network for trainees of Asian descent, and foster academic and cultural exchange between Yale University and other institutions. AFAY is open to faculty members of all tracks and all ranks, regardless of ethnic background. AFAY membership stands at 211 and is counting.

With best wishes,

AFAY executive committee:
Qin Yan, Ph.D. Professor of Pathology
Yongli Zhang, Ph.D. Professor of Cell Biology
Siyuan (Steven) Wang, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Genetics and Cell Biology
Shangqin Guo, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Cell Biology