

Chinese worm community made delightful wiggles in Hefei September 6 to September 8, 2013

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Some two hundred and forty members of the Chinese worm community gathered together for the 3rd Chinese *Caenorhabditis elegans* meeting at School of Life Sciences, University of Science and Technology of China.

The meeting started in the evening of 6th September, with keynote presentation delivered by Dr. Zhang Hong, a prestigious researcher in the field of autophagy and now an investigator in the Institute of Biophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences. In the next two days in Hefei, the scientific sessions with about forty talks around autophagy, cell death, lipid, metabolism, neuroscience, development, gene expression, longevity, innate immunity, applications, methods, and some other topics were well attended, and the discussions were intense and thought provoking. Seventy posters from about thirty labs were also presented during the meeting.

What impressed us as exciting are the broad topics in the talks and posters. Presentations about “unconventional” subjects such as iron regulation, hygrosensation, noncoding RNA, new methods and applications, genome and tran-

scriptome of pinewood nematode, and survey of *Caenorhabditis* in China triggered heated discussions and idea exchanges. We regard this as a positive sign in that the research fields of our Chinese worm community are moving, evolving, and expanding.

The meeting ended with an award session, and twenty four graduate students and postdoctoral trainee were awarded for their excellent platform presentations or fabulous posters. These awards include a cash prize and a worm (warm) round of applause from the audience. Congratulations to all the recipients of these awards.

The 1st Chinese *C. elegans* meeting was held in Beijing in 2007, and the 2nd in 2011 also in Beijing. It was during the 2nd meeting that the Chinese worm community decided to have this meeting biennially, aiming to stir up communications within the growing community. Now, with schools starting up again, we all go back to our institutions, well nourished with feedback and ideas from the meeting. We look forward to seeing all relevant researchers at the 4th Chinese *C. elegans* meeting in Beijing, 2015.

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