



Editorial

Fresh Air in the JCR Editorial Team

The Journal of Controlled Release (JCR) is excited to announce the appointment of Professor Zhiyuan Zhong as a new Associate Editor of the Asian Office. He represents how China has become one of the most influential countries in our modern world.

Professor Zhiyuan Zhong is a distinguished professor and chair of Soochow University Biomedical Polymers Laboratory. He received his Ph.D. in 2002 from the University of Twente in the Netherlands under the supervision of Professor Jan Feijen (who is one of the founding editors of JCR), and his research has focused on biomedical polymers, nanomedicine and targeted cancer therapy. He has been very active in the drug delivery field through his service as an Associate Editor for Biomacromolecules, and as an organizer of the Symposium on Innovative Polymers for Controlled Delivery (SIPCD) since 2010 held biennially in Suzhou, China. Through his excellent research, Professor Zhong has received many awards, including Biomacromolecules/Macromolecules Young Investigator Award, the Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award (from the Humboldt Foundation), Award for Breakthrough Technologies in Drug Delivery Systems in Asia (Japanese Society of Drug Delivery System), National Ten-Thousand Talent Award, and National Outstanding Young Scholar Award. He was recognized as a Highly Cited Researcher in Pharmacology and Toxicology by Clarivate Analytics and as a Fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering in 2018. Professor Zhong also worked as the Vice President of Suzhou BioBay, a Biomedical Park in China, and co-founded a biomedical company, AK Cell Biopharma Co., Ltd., for clinical translation of his findings.

The changes in the editorial team of JCR in the last 3 months have been breathtaking, thanks to Mrs. Fernanda Ogochi, the JCR publisher. Four new Associate Editors have been appointed in the Americas and Asian offices. With all these fast changes, one may ask:

“Are you happy in this modern world?
Or do you need more?
Is there somethin’ else you’re searchin’ for?”
(Shallow, Song by Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga)

The answer is, “Yes, we are happy. But we need more, and we are actively searching for something that can fill the void in our understanding”. To be precise, the understanding on how to make drug delivery systems that can cure cancers, Alzheimer’s diseases, heart attacks, diabetes, and more.

The two Associate Editors from China, Professors Zhiyuan Zhong and Xun Sun, together symbolize Chinese philosophy of yin and yang. All things we do in the drug delivery field are inseparable, intimately intertwined, mutually complementary, balanced, and harmonious. This

concept of dualism seems to have been lost in this modern world where too much emphasis and weight have been given to the numbers, such as the number of publications, the amount of funding, and h-index, to name a few. The creativity and uniqueness of individual scientists are replaced by such numbers. This number game has to end, as it does not serve any good to the society. Confucius said, “Petty people are those who are self-absorbed and ignore the good of the society. They may be smart people, but they have only selfish interest. To be unacknowledged or misunderstood by others and yet to harbor no resentment, is this not indeed the mark of an exemplary person?” [1].

Mere study means little, and we need to put our knowledge into practice. The pleasure of scientists comes from studying and then finding opportunities to make use of it [1]. When we all become exemplary persons, the world will indeed become more prosperous. The four new exciting editors of JCR, Professors Christine Allen, Yoon Yeo, Xun Sun, and Zhiyuan Zhong, embody the will of JCR to support the drug delivery scientists to be compatible to each other, and yet constructively critical, for achieving something new. Benjamin Ferencz, the last Nuremberg prosecutor alive, said, “Nothing new ever happened before [2].” Let’s try to do something new, instead of copying what others do with only incremental changes for the sake of improving our numbers. We the scientists should transcend the numbers, bringing in real changes in the lives of those who need our drug delivery systems.

References

- [1] R.A. LaFleur, *The Analects of Confucius*. The Teaching Company, (2016), p. 215 <https://guidebookstgc.snagfilms.com/4642_AnalectsOfConfucius.pdf>.
- [2] 60 Minutes. What the last Nuremberg prosecutor alive wants the world to know. (2019) <<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/what-the-last-nuremberg-prosecutor-alive-ben-ferencz-wants-the-world-to-know-60-minutes-2019-06-30/>>.

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