

April 10, 2015

Dear CAHON members and friends,



I am pleased to run for the office of the CAHON Presidency for the term of 2016-2018.

As the founding Chair of the board of directors of CAHON, I have witnessed the tremendous growth of our organization and the lasting impact it has made in the last 10 years over a range of topics related to hematology and oncology. Kudos to all of you for such an amazing achievement!

If elected by our CAHON members and confirmed by the CAHON Board of Directors, I will work with each and every one of you to continue the tradition of excellence in our organization, promote the mission of CAHON, and bring CAHON to the next level.

My mantra in my term will be Empowerment and Impact. I will work with the entire CAHON organization to empower our CAHON members in multiple domains of our professional lives including research, patient care, education, regulatory affairs and the pharmaceutical industry. I believe that by empowering CAHON members, we will be able to empower the patients we serve. Our impact in hematology and oncology, both in the United States, China and beyond, can then be enhanced seamlessly at the unprecedented pace.

I thank you for your support.

My personal warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Zihai Li". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Zihai Li, M.D., Ph.D.

CAHON lifetime member since 2005

Professor of Microbiology, Immunology and Medicine

Chairman

Department of Microbiology and Immunology

Sally Abney Rose Endowed Chair in Stem Cell Biology & Therapy

Program leader, Cancer Immunology Program

Hollings Cancer Center

Medical University of South Carolina

Charleston, SC

Encl.: Dr. Zihai Li short bio

Short Biography: Zihai Li, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Zihai Li (Chinese name: 李子海) obtained his M.D. from Henan Medical University, China, and his MS degree in immunology at Peking Union Medical College and the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences under the mentorship of the late Prof. Shaowen Xie (*aka* Samuel Zia, a Harvard-trained *Rickettsia* microbiologist who was regarded as the father of microbiology in China). Afterward, he earned his Ph.D. in immunology from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. He then completed his clinical training in internal medicine at the Montefiore Medical Center of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York, and in medical oncology at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and University of Washington, Seattle. After 11 years of running a NIH-funded tumor immunology laboratory at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine, he was recruited to his current institution in 2010 and is now a tenured professor and chair of Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the Medical University of South Carolina. Dr. Li is also an endowed chair in stem cell biology and the program leader of the Cancer Immunology program at the National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated Hollings Cancer Center in Charleston, South Carolina, USA.

Dr. Zihai Li is a board-certified medical oncologist who continues to provide clinical service to cancer patients whilst maintaining an active laboratory. His laboratory is primarily interested in the mechanism of immune regulation by the innate immune system in the context of cancer, infection, and autoimmune disease. His research team has made seminal contributions to understanding the immunological properties of heat shock proteins (HSPs) in cancer immunotherapy and immune tolerance. They provided the first genetic evidence linking the heat shock response to antigen cross-presentation and adaptive immunity; completed the first in-human study of personalized tumor-derived HSP70 vaccine for the treatment of chronic myeloid leukemia; and discovered that HSP

gp96 (known also as grp94 and HSP90b1) in the endoplasmic reticulum is the master chaperone for Toll-like receptors (TLRs). Furthermore, using genetic strategies, they have illuminated the importance of the subcellular localization of gp96 in regulating T cell tolerance and systemic lupus erythematosus. They uncovered several crucial aspects of the molecular mechanism of gp96 in folding TLRs, including their successful mapping of the TLR-binding domain of gp96 and molecular definition of the elusive co-chaperone in the process. In addition, they demonstrated the essential roles of gp96 in regulating the myeloid vs lymphoid fate determination. Recently, his laboratory has also developed interests in the biology and application of stem cells including pluripotent stem cells and adult stem cells in cancer, as well as in inflammation and tissue repair. They identified a crucial role of gp96 in Wnt and TGF β pathway, and thus in regulating intestinal homeostasis and regulatory T cell function respectively. The extensive work in gp96 (discovered its ATPase activity, peptide-binding properties, its co-chaperone CNPY3, its client-binding domain and its client network including integrins, TLRs, GPIb-IX-V complex, LRP5/6, and GARP) has positioned Dr. Li's team as one of the global leaders in this field.

Dr. Li has published on the topics of tumor immunology, immune tolerance, and HSP biology in journals such as EMBO J, J Exp Med, Immunity, Blood, J Clin Invest, J Biol Chem, Nat Med, J Immunol and Nat Commun. He is an elected member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation and served as a regular member for the NIH Innate Immunity and Inflammation study section. He is a member of ASCO Scientific Committee (2015-2018). He is also a co-founder and the founding chair of the board of directors of the Chinese American Hematologist and Oncologist Network (CAHON). Finally, Dr. Zihai Li has been serving as deputy editor of Journal of Hematology & Oncology, and co-editor-in-chief of Experimental Hematology & Oncology, since their launch in 2008 and 2012 respectively.