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Letter from Editor

Dear Readers of TBI,



As you have come to expect, our journal continues to bring useful information covering a broad range of topics in biopharmaceutical fields with a strong favor of bridging the information flow between the United States and China. With a good mix of news digest and commentary and review articles, I hope you will find this issue of particular interest to you.

The biopharmaceutical fields continue to be very dynamic and fast moving. A lot have happened over the past a few months. One of the significant developments was the successful initial public offering of Wuxi PharmaTech (ticker symbol: WX). The astonishing development of the company was briefly recapped

in the article which I have opportunity to provide. I find it particularly refreshing in reading the commentary by Guo-Liang Yu, in which he gives an in-depth analysis of the factors that might have contributed to the impressive growth of the business and the successful debut of Wuxi PharmaTech at the New York Stock Exchange. News Commentary is a Column we would like to incorporate more frequently into the future issues.

Another interesting challenge we often encounter in the rapid changing landscape of the biomedical and biopharmaceutical fields is the new terminologies and vocabularies. The need to communicate accurately in both English and Chinese, has never been greater. In this issue we have introduced a testing case, called "Say it in Chinese". Please let us hear your input on how we can make it more useful and have a broader coverage.

Intellectual property (IP) is the life line of a biopharmaceutical business. This topic is well represented in this issue. A timely discussion concerning follow-on biologics, or biosimilars, is given by Phillip Zhang. The article by Heping Zhou deals with the relationship between IP protection and innovation. He also expresses his views on how policy setting, under the circumstances that are most relevant to the Chinese pharmaceutical business, can allow for adequate IP protection while stimulating, rather than hindering, creativity and innovation.

We are fortunate to have several informative review papers covering a variety of research topics in this issue. The paper co-authored by Professor Duan et al focuses on Traditional Chinese Medicine. In addition to providing a survey on the resource distribution, cultivation and production of herb medicine, the status of natural product chemistry, phytochemistry research in conjunction with management of the medicinal herbs is assessed. Lizhen He gives a detailed account on the different approaches and the challenges in the development of HBV therapeutic vaccines. Ye Fang, an expert on the technology of label-free optical biosensors, introduces to us the powerful new tool and its application in both biochemical and cell-based assays at many stages of the drug discovery process.

Last but not least, writing this letter gives me an opportunity to thank all of you for your efforts and supports to the TBI journal by contributing articles and being loyal readers. I would also like to take this time to thank the Executive Council members of CABS for choosing me to serve as the next CABS President. Together, we will be successful.
Truly Yours,

Leping Li