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## Letter from Editor



**Dear Colleagues,**

The year of 2007 has been filled with many surprises and breakthroughs in biopharm research and development. This year's Nobel Prize followed last year's focus at genomic sciences and awarded three internationally prominent scientists who in a sync developed gene knock-out animal models. Anyone who worked at the area of drug target identification and disease models knows how much these knockout and later knock-in technologies advanced our knowledge of molecular mechanism of diseases and drug actions. We are very privileged to have Dr. Sen Wu from Professor Mario Pecchi's lab and Professor

Dr. Yau-sheng Tsai previously from Professor Oliver Smithies' lab to describe for us not only the technologies themselves but also how life is like working in a Nobel Laureate's laboratory with their own first hand and eye-witness experience.

With the advancement in genomic science, health issue is also becoming more and more personal. Why shouldn't it be personal? After all it is your body and mine. We are different at genetic level and influenced by the environments we live. For two thousand years Chinese relied on personalized diagnostics and personalized treatments. Modern technology brought us better understanding of diseases and offered industrialized products for healthcares. Recognition of the differences among us at molecular genetic level clearly leads to better and targeted therapies for disease treatments and preventions. Today, a handful of tests are available that can detect some of these genetic variations and predict how you're likely to respond to certain medications. Doctors are already using some of these tests to help customize treatment based on a person's specific genetic variations, particularly in the area of cancer. In this issue of TBI, we have invited several experts in the field of personalized medicine to discuss the feasibility, the technology and the applications of personalized medicine. This is the first time we discuss personalized medicine as an emerging topic, still at technical level. We hope these articles will lead to broad interest in variety of issues related to technology, business, economics and policy.

2007 has been an exciting and fruitful year for TBI as well. We received more articles from our members that made it possible for us to organize in-depth analysis on particular topic such as "Personal Medicine" in this issue. Our readership is expanding to more areas where Chinese American pharmaceutical and biotechnological professionals are working. They have been sending us encouraging and constructive feedback. There are also increasing number of companies expressed their desire to use this platform to promote their technology and products.

On behalf of the editorial team of TBI, I thank all of you for your support in the past year and wish you and your family very happy holidays and a new year with great successes!

Guo-Liang Yu, PhD  
Editor