SPEAKER INTRODUCTION
(In order of appearance)

Prof. Hong Wu

Peking University; Dean, School of Life Sciences

Dr. Hong Wu is Professor and Dean of School of Life Sciences, Peking University, and Senior Investigator of Peking-Tsinghua Center for Life Sciences. Before returning to China, Dr. Hong Wu was David Geffen Professor of Molecular and Medical Pharmacology and Director of Institute for Molecular Medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. Dr. Wu received her medical training from Beijing Medical College, China, and Ph.D. degree in Biological Chemistry from Harvard Medical School. After postdoctoral training as a Damon Runyon-Walter Winchell postdoctoral fellow at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, MIT, She joined UCLA as a faculty member. A major research focus of Dr. Wu's laboratory is to study the molecular mechanism of PTEN tumor suppressor controlled tumorigenesis. By generating tissue-specific PTEN deficient animal models, Dr. Wu's laboratory elucidated the important role of PTEN in regulating stem cell self-renewal, proliferation, and survival, as well as its roles in controlling the PI3K pathway. These models have been used for pre-clinical studies of new therapeutic agents and for identifying biomarkers for human cancers.

Prof. Dr. Hanno Wild

Bayer; Senior Vice President, Head of Candidate Generation & External Innovation, Drug Discovery

Prof. Dr. Hanno Wild is currently Head of Candidate Generation & External Innovation function of Drug Discovery, Bayer Pharmaceuticals, with major locations in Wuppertal and Berlin, Germany. In this role, he is responsible for the identification and optimization of low-molecular-weight drug candidates for all therapeutic research groups, for the chemistry of antibody-drug conjugates and antibody-thorium conjugates for cancer therapy, as well as for the generation and management of external partnerships and alliances. Prof. Wild, trained in chemistry, holds a Ph.D. as well as an honorary professorship of the University Bonn. After his studies of chemistry in Bonn and a postdoc fellowship (University of California, Irvine, USA, Prof. Larry Overman), Prof. Wild started his career with Bayer as a Medicinal Chemist in 1988. From 1994 to 1996 he was a delegate at the Bayer Pharma Research Center in West Haven, Connecticut, USA, focusing on cancer research including the project leading to the marketed product Nexavar. Soon after his return to the Wuppertal Research Center he assumed the position as section head at the Medicinal Chemistry Department of Bayer, responsible for the indication "Atherosclerosis" as well as for several collaborations in the field of compound acquisition and chem-/bioinformatics. From 2002 to 2006 he was Vice President and Head of the Medicinal Chemistry Department of Bayer HealthCare in Wuppertal, Germany and from 2006 to 2007, Prof. Wild served as Senior Vice President Discovery Europe, Bayer HealthCare before taking over his current role.

Dr. Ulrich Nielsch

Bayer; Vice President, Head of Cross Indication Platform, Drug Discovery

Dr. Ulrich Nielsch is currently Head of the Cross Indication Platform within the Therapeutic Research Groups of Drug Discovery at Bayer Pharmaceuticals. The function is located both in Wuppertal and Berlin in Germany. In this role, he is responsible for the technology groups Bioinformatics, Disease Genomics, Target Discovery Technologies, and Biomarker Research. Furthermore, discovery of new indications for Bayer's development compounds as well as the Contrast Media Research group are part of the Cross Indication Platform. Ulrich Nielsch was trained in Pharmacology and Toxicology in Sunderland and Guildford in the U.K. After receiving his Ph.D. in Pharmacology in Bristol, U.K., he moved on to his postdoc fellowships at Columbia and Rockefeller Universities, USA. Dr. Ulrich Nielsch started his career at Bayer as a Pharmacologist in 1991 in Cologne, Germany. From 1999 to 2001 Dr. Nielsch was in Boston at Millennium as part of the strategic alliance between Bayer and Millennium with the goal to identify novel drug targets for cardiovascular diseases. After his return to Germany, he was appointed department head for Thrombosis Research within the Cardiovascular Research Unit. From 2005 to 2007 he was Head of Target Research, and in 2007 Dr. Nielsch was appointed Vice President and Head of Common Mechanism Research, and in 2015 he took on his current role.

Prof. Hongquan Zhang

Peking University; Professor, Peking University Health Science Center

Professor Hongquan Zhang is the Deputy Director of Peking University Cancer Research Center and Head of Department of Human Anatomy, Histology and Embryology, Peking University Health Science Center. He is also the Director of Laboratory of Cancer metastasis Peking University Cancer Research Center. Dr. Hongquan Zhang completed his PhD in Molecular Genetics in 1991 at the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences in Beijing. From 1994 to 1998, he did his postdoctoral fellowship in Molecular Oncology at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston Texas, USA. In 2004, he established his research group at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. In 2008, he became Professor of Molecular Cell Biology and Tumor Biology and laboratory director in Peking University Health Science Center. His research interests were focusing on unraveling the roles of integrin-associated molecules in the control of cancer metastasis and cancer stem cells. He has published more than 70 peer-reviewed scientific papers, including Cell, Cell Stem Cell, Natural Cell Biology, Journal of Cell Biology, PNAS, EMBO Reports, Journal of American Society of Nephrology, Nucleic Acids Research, Molecular and cellular Biology, Molecular Biology of the Cell, International Journal of Cancer, British Journal of Cancer, and Journal of Biological Chemistry, etc.

Dr. Nicolas Guimond

Bayer; Head of Reaction Screening, Chemical Development, Drug Discovery

Nicolas Guimond was born in Québec city, Canada in 1985. He obtained his BSc in 2008 from Laval University (Québec, Canada). He then moved to the University of Ottawa (Ottawa, Canada) to undertake graduate studies under the supervision of Prof. Keith Fagnou, where he worked on Rh(III)-catalyzed C-H functionalization reactions until 2010. After the passing of Keith Fagnou in 2009, Nicolas worked on tethering organocatalysis reactions under the supervision of Prof. André Beauchemin. In 2012, he obtained his PhD and moved to Germany for postdoctoral studies in the group of Prof. Dirk Trauner in Munich. He thereby accomplished the biomimetic total synthesis of Betanidin. He was then hired by Bayer Pharma AG, and since 2014, is the head of the reaction screening laboratory in the Chemical Development department in Wuppertal, Germany. Besides chemistry, Nicolas has been playing badminton for more than 15 years and is a big fan of Lin Dan!

Prof. Chengqi Yi

Peking University; Professor, School of Life Sciences

Prof. Chengqi Yi was born in 1983. He obtained bachelor degree from Chemistry department of University of Science and Technology of China in 2005, and Doctor degree from Chemistry department of University of Chicago in the US in 2010, trained by the biochemist Prof. Chuan He. After graduation, he studied in the Biochemistry and Molecule Biology department of University of Chicago for Postdoctoral research, trained by the biochemist Prof. Tao Pan. In 2011, Prof. Yi got IUPAC Prize for Young Chemists. In 2012, Prof. Yi started working in Peking University as selected by the "Youth one-thousand Plan" (2nd batch). In 2014, Prof. Yi got the "Lv Ye Biomedicine excellent Young researcher Award" from Peking University, and in 2015, he got "Excellent Young Scientist Foundation project" from National Natural Science Foundation. Prof. Yi is dedicated to the mechanism study of Chemical modifications of nucleic acid in order to make broad and profound impact to a lot of central processes of life, and have already got a series of breakthroughs in Epigenetics field. So far Prof. Yi has published more than 20 publications in the topnotch academic journals, i.e., Nature, Nature Methods, Nature Structural & Molecular Biology, Nature Chemical Biology, etc. He has been highly regarded by the peers in the same area worldwide, and interviewed by several technology media, i.e., Chemical & Engineering News, etc. After joining Peking University in 2015, he has published 10 publications as the corresponding author, including 2 on Nature Chemical Biology, 1 on Nature Methods and 1 on Angewandte Chemie.

Dr. Hans Lindner

Bayer; Vice President, Head of Global External Innovation & Alliances, Drug Discovery

In this role, which he assumed in 2014, he is overseeing activities for collaborations and external innovation models for early drug discovery and development. Hans is a registered pharmacist with a doctorate degree in pharmaceutical technology from university of Kiel. He has had a number of different positions in Pharmaceutical Industry. He started 1994 as formulation scientist at Arzneimittelwerk Dresden GmbH, then joining Ferring Pharmaceuticals where he finally led pharmaceutical development in Copenhagen. In 2004 he took over pharmaceutical development at Schwarz Pharma, Germany. After merger with UCB S.A. he was directing late phase pharmaceutical product development. In 2008, he joined Bayer as head of global pharmaceutical development, later setting up a new unit dedicated to external work. Hans is member of the editorial board of the European Journal of Pharmaceutics and Biopharmaceutics, member of various professional associations and past vice president of the European Association Pharma Biotechnology (EAPB).

Dr. Tom Kinzel

Bayer; Head of Innovation Center China, Drug Discovery

Tom received his PhD in organic chemistry from the University of Göttingen in 2008 where he studied reaction mechanism and selectivities using a combined computational and experimental approach. He then moved to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as postdoctoral fellow, working on Palladium-catalyzed cross-coupling reactions. Tom joined Bayer in 2011 and worked for three years as lab head in medicinal chemistry in Wuppertal. In 2014, he moved to Berlin and became the assistent of the head of the Drug Discovery organization. Since January 2016, Tom is the head of the Innovation Center China, which identifies opportunities, aligns, and manages research collaboration projects between Bayer Drug Dicovery scientists and outstanding Chinese academic institutions as well as CROs. In 2001/2002, Tom spent one year in China, studying Chinese at Nanjing University and completing an internship in molecular biology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Shanghai.