



The *Current Oncology* Scholar's Forum and Workshop

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To promote and support the development of cancer research worldwide, *Current Oncology* facilitates dialogue and builds a valuable body of work through publications, conferences, and Web sites, among other initiatives. In China, a large population means that the country also has the largest number of cancer patients in the world, and so *Current Oncology* has initiated contact with physicians and researchers in China (and in other areas of Asia) with the aim of exploring their needs, interests, and new achievements in oncology research and cancer treatment.

On May 12, 2012, we held a workshop—the *Current Oncology* Scholar's Forum and Workshop—in Guangzhou, China. The purpose was to provide a forum for the presentation and discussion of oncology research, clinical practice, applications, and experiences from China and Asia. More than 50 papers were contributed to the workshop, 4 of which were accepted for publication in a *Current Oncology* supplement. Major topics included tumour formation, molecular mechanisms, pathway analysis, pathobiology, drug resistance, clinical research, immunology, and cancer prevention.

Topics discussed in the workshop took mainly a bench science view, providing evidence for theoretical findings and proposing new methodologies for oncology analysis. Theoretical research is always helpful, but an equal appreciation for clinical work—which benefits doctors, research scientists, and patients overall—is also encouraged. Clinical

studies in China are notably fewer in number than theoretical work, and they are far less often published in high-impact medical journals. Fortunately, the Chinese government and related organizations have recognized the importance of clinical research and are encouraging doctors and researchers to put more effort into clinical areas. With this growing attention and support, the hope is that more research directly relating to Chinese and Asian clinical practice will emerge, with a clear potential to apply to the current or future practice of cancer medicine worldwide.

Thanks are due to guest editor Qiang Yu PhD, senior group leader of cancer biology and pharmacology at the Genome Institute of Singapore, for the time and effort he spent reviewing papers for the workshop, and also for his valuable comments and suggestions. The interest and attention from scientists, physicians, and research scholars in China and throughout Asia are also acknowledged and appreciated. At the same time, we thank Guangzhou JiaYuan Medical Technology Co. Ltd. for technological contributions to the running of the workshop and for administrative support. Finally, I thank all the authors who submitted papers to the workshop, and all who devoted their time and attention during the review and editing process.

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