
In Memoriam: Weifeng Chen, M.D., Ph.D.

**Weifeng Chen, M.D., Ph.D.****October 22, 1935 - January 26, 2009**

Dr. Weifeng Chen, Professor of Immunology and the Associate Editor-in-Chief of Cellular & Molecular Immunology, died on January 26, 2009, at the age of 74 in Beijing after a four-year long battle with prostate cancer. Dr. Chen had been on the Editorial Board of Cellular & Molecular Immunology for 5 years at the time of his death. His passing is enormous loss for Chinese immunology community as well as for those of us who had been his colleagues and friends.

Dr. Chen was born on October 22, 1935, in Shanghai. He completed his undergraduate and graduate work in medicine at Beijing Medical University in 1958 and earned his Ph.D. in immunology from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research in 1982. He went on to author more than 350 research articles in his academic career as a professor and doctor mentor of Beijing Medical University.

Between 1985 and 2006, Dr. Chen was appointed the Vice Secretary-General, the Secretary-General, the Vice President and the President of The Chinese Society of Immunology successively. From 1992 to 2000, Dr. Chen served as the Vice President of FIMSA (the Federation of Immunology Societies of Asia-Oceania) and Council Member of IUIS (International Union of Immunology Societies). Dr. Chen was elected a National Outstanding Contributing Young Scientist in 1988 and elected a fellow of the Chinese Academy of Science in 1995. He had been appointed Consulting Board Member of Life Science Department of the National Natural Science Foundation, and also Chinese member of the Asian Network Organization of Molecular Biology. Shortly before his death, Dr. Chen was the 2008 receipt of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Chinese Society of Immunology.

Dr. Chen was one of the pioneers for researching current immunology in China. He had made greatest efforts to promote immunology research frontiers, leading the development of immunology in China. His systemic discovery on the functional developing program of medullary thymocytes, whose defects will cause autoimmune diseases, has significant influence and meaning to adjust the T cell function and to prevent autoimmune diseases. He also found IL-10 is required when the proliferating T cells differentiate into effector T cells. In the field of tumor immunology research, he cloned and isolated many tumor antigens, and was the first in China to make out the tumor vaccine with specific antigen targets. Besides numerous publications on peer-review journals, Dr. Chen got 10 patents and 18 scientific professional awards. He edited the new edition of the textbook "Medical Immunology", which has been widely used in medical colleges throughout China and gets favorable reputation.

Although his accomplishments as a scientist are remarkable, Dr. Chen was also impressive as a teacher and mentor. He served on faculty for 51 years and trained over 50 master and doctor graduate students, who have ascended to prominent positions in academia, research and industry. He was not only a strict mentor in teaching, but also a kind and beloved friend in life.

He will be greatly missed by all of us.

—— The Editorial Board of Cellular & Molecular Immunology