



# The Chinese University of Hong Kong

## C N Yang Lecture in Physics

# The Beauty of Life Sciences



## Yigong Shi (施一公)

University Professor

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C N Yang Lecturer in Physics, CUHK

**Date** 23 April 2015 (Thursday)

**Time** 4:30 p.m.

**Venue** LT1, Lady Shaw Building, CUHK

### Abstract

In the history of the Universe, the birth and presence of mankind occupy an infinitesimally small span. Yet we human beings are bravely determined to understand our origin and to decipher the secrets of the Universe. We have developed powerful sciences and technologies for the exploration of unknowns. Among all scientific disciplines, Life Sciences are most inclusive and hold great promise for the 21st century. Advances in Life Sciences have been instrumental not only to the understanding of the mysteries of life but also to the dramatic improvement of the quality of life for mankind on earth. In this lecture, I would like to touch upon select aspects of science and art, discuss the role of structural biology in our quest to understand the world, and raise philosophical questions about human exploration.

### Biography

Professor Yigong Shi is a University Professor, Dean of the School of Life Sciences, Director of Institute of Biomedicine, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China. Professor Shi was born in Zhengzhou, China in 1967, and grew up in Henan Province. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Tsinghua University in 1989 and Ph.D. in Biophysics at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 1995. He performed his post-doctoral research at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. He joined Princeton University as an Assistant Professor in 1998 and was promoted to Full Professor in 2003. He was named the Warner-Lambert/Parke-Davis Professor of Molecular Biology at Princeton University in 2007. Professor Shi declined an offer as an investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and returned to Tsinghua University in 2008.

Professor Yigong Shi's research has provided important insights into programmed cell death and regulated intramembrane proteolysis. His pioneering research on caspase activation, inhibition, and derepression markedly advanced mechanistic understanding of programmed cell death. He was a Searle Scholar and a Rita Allen Scholar. For his research contributions, Professor Shi received a number of recognitions, including the 2003 Irving Sigal Young Investigator Award from the Protein Society; the 2010 Sackler Prize in Biophysics; 2014 Gregori Aminoff Prize in crystallography and Wu-Janssen Prize in fundamental medical sciences. Professor Shi is an Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, a Fellow of the American Association for Advancement of Sciences, an Honorary Foreign Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences, and a Foreign Associate of the European Molecular Biology Organization.