IMCB Invited Speaker



Speaker : **Prof. Yi Rao**
Dean, School of Life Sciences, Chair Professor, Peking University
Beijing, China

Date : 12 June 2012 (Tuesday)

Time : 4:00PM - 5:00PM

Venue : Level 3, IMCB Seminar Room 3-46, Proteos

Host : Prof. Wangjin Hong

Seminar :

Molecular Sociophysiology of Sexual Preference

Social behaviors in animals and social cognition in humans are important for individuals and groups in social interactions. While sociobiology studies the function and evolution of social behaviors, I am interested in sociophysiology, which is defined as mechanistic studies of social behaviors and cognition. Sociophysiology is particularly benefiting from powerful tools being developed from multidisciplinary approaches which allow dissections at molecular and cellular levels. I will talk about our recent genetic research on sociophysiology of sexual preference.

About the Speaker :

Prof Rao Yi is a Professor of Neurobiology and Dean of School of Life Sciences at Peking University. He obtained his PhD in Neuroscience from University of California at San Francisco and was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard. Prior to his current positions, Prof Rao was on the faculty of Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and was later appointed as the Elsa Swanson Professor of Neurology at Northwestern University School of Medicine. After returning to China in 2007, he has also served as a Co-Director of the Shanghai Institute for Advanced Studies and more recently as a Deputy Director of Academic Affairs at the National Institute of Biological Sciences, Beijing.

Prof Rao had worked on neurogenesis and axon guidance, and his recent research focuses on the molecular biology of social interactions. Using multidisciplinary approaches, his laboratory studies the molecules and neural circuitry involved in Drosophila and mouse social behaviors. Prof Rao's laboratory also studies the molecular mechanisms and gene-environment interactions in human social cognition and behaviors using genomic analyses. His extensive work on social behaviors and neural development has been published in prestigious journals including Nature and Cell.

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