

Alumna Louise Chow Elected to US National Academy of Science



NTU alumna Dr. Louise Chow was elected as a foreign associate to the United States National Academy of Science, which is among the greatest honors awarded to a scientist or engineer in the United States, on May 1. Dr. Chow is a professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) as well as a senior scientist at the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Dr. Chow graduated from NTU's Department of Agricultural Chemistry in 1965. She earned her Ph.D. at the California Institute of Technology, and then pursued post-doctoral research at the University of California-San Francisco, where she gained the inspiration for her later work focusing on DNA tumor viruses.

In 1975, Dr. Chow joined the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York, where she investigated the genetic organization, RNA transcription, and DNA replication of human adenoviruses. Dr. Chow used an electron microscope to observe the structures of viral mRNA in a complex with the viral DNA, a new method in those days, and determined the structural changes of adenovirus mRNAs at different stages. A breakthrough came in 1977, when she witnessed the previously unknown phenomenon of split genes and RNA splicing, which became fundamental to the research of diseases related to genomics and proteins.

Dr. Chow moved to the University of Rochester in 1984, where she investigated human papillomavirus (HPV) genotypes. She devised a new strategy for the detection of HPV that is now a worldwide standard. Dr. Chow continued her work on HPV after joining the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center in 1993. She developed a process to produce infectious HPV-18 for research, which enabled scientists to reproduce the entire HPV-18 infection cycle. This innovation was essential to furthering the study of HPV pathobiology.

Dr. Chow currently focuses on virus-host interaction, which is important for developing potential therapeutic agents to treat HVP infections.

Statistician Named as American Statistical Association Fellow



Prof. Jen-pei Liu is the first Taiwanese applying through a Taiwanese university to be named a fellow of the American Statistical Association.

Prof. Jen-pei Liu was named a fellow of the American Statistical Association in April. Prof. Liu is Director of the Statistics Education Center and teaches at the Department of Agronomy and Graduate Institute of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine. He is the first Taiwanese scholar to apply directly through a local Taiwanese university or research institute to receive this honor. Only 48 people were honored as ASA Fellows this year; they came from 18 states in the United States and six countries.

The ASA selected Prof. Liu for this honor "for significant contributions of methodological research and applications in biostatistics, especially in bioequivalence, clinical trial design; for the leadership in statistics education reform and innovative approaches for promoting statistical literacy; and for excellence in consulting to government agencies and industries."

Among all international statistics academic organizations, the ASA boasts the most members and is recognized as the most important and most prestigious globally.