

Public Lecture

Causative pathogens of human infectious diseases and the structure-based development of innovative drugs

Professor Zihe Rao

Laboratory of Structural Biology

School of Life Science

Tsinghua University in Beijing, China

Date: 5 November 2024 (Tuesday)

Time: 4:00pm – 5:30pm

**Venue: LI- 3601, 3/F Li Dak Sum Yip Yio Chin
Academic Building, CityU**



Biography

Professor Zihe Rao is a distinguished figure in the field of biophysics and a leading researcher at Tsinghua University, School of Life Science. Professor Rao is a member of several prestigious institutions, including the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS), and EMBO. He serves also as a member of the Presidium of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and is the Honorary President of the Biophysics Society of China. Additionally, he is the Founding President of the China Union of Life Science Societies. Previously, Professor Rao held significant leadership roles, including President of Nankai University and Director-General of the Institute of Biophysics at CAS. He was also the President of the International Union for Pure and Applied Biophysics (IUPAB).

Professor Rao's groundbreaking research has revealed fundamental insights into the structure and function of various viruses, including coronaviruses, retroviruses, and hepatitis viruses. His work has elucidated mechanisms of replication, transcription, and host invasion, as well as the transport and drug resistance strategies of Mycobacterium tuberculosis. These contributions have paved the way for the identification of new therapeutic targets and innovative drug designs. With over 450 peer-reviewed research papers to his name, including 29 published in top-tier journals: Science, Nature, and Cell, Professor Rao's work has garnered more than 37,000 citations, reflecting his significant impact on the field. His h-index stands at an impressive 91, with an i10-index of 310, and he holds 38 innovation patents. His team's research achievements have been recognized multiple times, being selected among the "Top Ten Advances in Chinese Science" and "Top Ten Advances in Chinese Life Science." In recognition of his exceptional contributions to science, the International Astronomical Union officially named Asteroid 505906 "Raozihe Star" in the International Minor Planet Bulletin on October 3, 2022.

Enquiries:

Prof. Jinlian Hu (Email: jinliahu@cityu.edu.hk)

All are welcome!