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Editorial

The Chinese garden of genetics —celebrating 40th anniversary of Genetics Society of China

In 2018, we will celebrate the 40th anniversary of Genetics Society of China (GSC), which was founded in Nanjing, China in October, 1978, soon after China adopted an open door policy for reform. One major mission of GSC during its inception was to publish a genetics journal, aiming to provide a window for Chinese geneticists to showcase their new discoveries. In fact, a genetics journal named *Acta Genetica Sinica* (AGS) had been published since June of 1974 (Fig. 1). This journal published two issues in its first year in Chinese. The first issue covered breeding and genetics of several crop plants, including wheat, tobacco, maize, octoploid triticale, peanut and upland cotton, protoplast isolation and fusion, observation of cell nuclei during mouse spermatogenesis, derivation of early season rice, etiology and pathogenesis of favism, a good collection of Chinese genetic studies then.

In October of 1978, GSC decided to make AGS its official journal. The first AGS editorial board consisting of 36 members of prominent Chinese geneticists was appointed and published in the 4th issue of 1978. Prof. Ju-chi Li from Department of Biology, Peking University was appointed as the first president of GSC and the first AGS Editor-in-Chief (Fig. 2). His successors were Profs. Chia-Chen Tan, Zujia Sheng and Lihuang Zhu. Prof. Li was one of the founders of Chinese genetics research. His landmark work on “The effect of chromosome aberrations on development in *Drosophila melanogaster*” was carried out at Dr. Thomas Hunt Morgan’s lab in Columbia University of New York and published in *Genetics* in 1927 (Li, 1927). Prof. Li served as the GSC president from 1978 to 1982 and made crucial contributions to the development of both GSC and AGS as well as genetics research in China. From 1988, AGS was both sponsored by the Institute of Genetics (now the Institute of Genetics and Developmental Biology), Chinese Academy of Sciences and GSC.

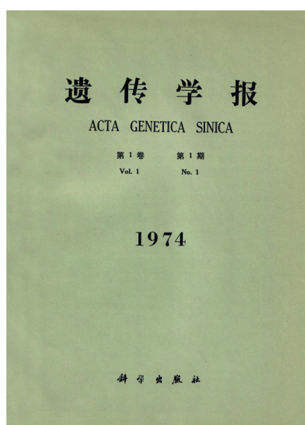


Fig. 1. The first issue of *Acta Genetica Sinica* in 1974 in Chinese.



Fig. 2. Prof. Ju-chi Li (1895–1991), the first Editor-in-Chief of *Acta Genetica Sinica*.

In 2004, I was appointed as Editor-in-Chief of AGS by GSC. To meet the international communication needs, AGS began to publish in English in 2006. It was jointly published by Elsevier and Science Press. In 2007, the journal name was changed to *Journal of Genetics and Genomics* (JGG). Since 2008, JGG has been indexed by SCI-E and its JCR impact factor was 4.051 in 2017, ranking 41st among all 167 journals indexed by SCI in the field of genetics.

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of GSC, we are organizing three special issues focusing on medical genetics, DNA methylation and omics tools as well as a commemorative issue on “Retrospective and Perspective of Genetics in China”, which will be formally published before the opening of the 10th National Congress of GSC to be held in Nanjing, its birth place, between October 19 and 22, 2018.

As a GSC journal, JGG will always serve all of its members of GSC as well as the global research community of genetics and genomics. By breeding a genetics garden, we strongly believe that JGG will flourish as a leading international journal.

Reference

- Li, J.C., 1927. The effect of chromosome aberrations on development in *Drosophila melanogaster*. *Genetics* 12, 1–58.

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