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### Xiao-Tian Liang (28 July 1923-29 September 2009)

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## PREFACE

### Xiao-Tian Liang (28 July 1923–29 September 2009)

Professor Xiao-Tian Liang was born in Wuyang, Henan province, China. After graduation from the National Central University in 1946, he enrolled for a PhD program at the University of Washington in Seattle. Receiving his PhD in 1951, he continued his postdoctoral study with Professor Paul Bartlett in the Department of Chemistry, at Harvard University. In October 1954, he returned to his homeland and joined the faculty in the Department of Medicinal Chemistry, Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College. During this period, he was promoted to Associate Professor and Full Professor, and served as Chair of the Department.

In 1980, he was elected to be the Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. He then served on the Executive Academician Board of the Department of Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and as Vice Director of the Department. In 2008, he became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry. He has also been the President of the Chinese Chemical Society (1990–1994) and Chinese Mass Spectrometry Society (1985–1998). He chaired the 34th IUPAC Congress held in Beijing, China, in 1993, and chaired the 21th IUPAC Symposium on the Chemistry of Natural Products, Beijing, China, in 1998.

He was the founding editor of two scientific journals; *Chinese Chemical Letters* and *Journal of Asian Natural Products Research*, and the editor-in-chief of these two journals until he passed away. In addition, he was also invited to join the editorial advisory board of Tetrahedron series journals, including *Tetrahedron*, *Tetrahedron Letters*, *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry*, *Tetrahedron Computer Methodology*, as well as *Planta Medica*.

Professor Liang was devoted to chemical research for more than 60 years. For his initiative and outstanding contributions, he was awarded the first Chinese Medical Sciences Prize in 1994 and the HLHL Advancement Prize for Science and Technology Progress in 1995. Other awards include four prizes at the National Science Conference, two National Invention Prizes and one National Third Prize for Progress in Science and Technology. He was the major author of six books and more than 300 papers.

He has made significant contributions to the structural elucidations of complex natural products by spectroscopic methods, such as securinine, yingzhaosu A, armillarisin, and chuangxinmeisu. He also promoted and advocated the application of various NMR techniques to the structure characterizations for small organic molecules in the late 1970s, which was exemplified by the translation of *Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy* into Chinese, and also by the writing of *Nuclear Magnetic Resonance – The elucidation and application of high resolution <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra* in Chinese. The two books have been extensively adopted as textbooks for graduate students at Chinese universities and research institutions since their publication. Professor Liang died on 29 September 2009.

He has been recognized as a leading scientist within the science community of China, who made great contributions to scientific research and was also a profound teacher and mentor for graduate students and young chemists.

We organized this special issue with contributions from his close friends and students in memory of Professor Xiao-Tian Liang, the late editor-in-chief of *Journal of Asian Natural Products Research*.

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