

The Sino-American Network for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology

123123 NEWSLETTER



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December 31, 2023

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*******Together Bridging the Future*******

Message from Chair of Board Directors

From Dian Wang, MD, PhD, Chair of SANTRO Board Directors, Professor, Rush University Medical School



On the occasion of this Holiday Season, on behalf of all Board directors of SANTRO, I would like to express our gratitude for your strong support and encouragement over the years. We are grateful for the challenges/opportunities and companionships we have had. SANTRO will continue to provide the utmost assistance in the development of Sino-US radiation therapy.

Despite the challenges we have faced during the COVID-19 pandemic over the past 3-4 years, our communication has not been hindered, as we have met in the virtual realm. It is heartening to see the end of the pandemic and the healthy development of Sino-US relations.

As time goes on, SANTRO will change its leadership team annually. However, our mission remains unchanged. We will continue to work hard to promote the services of Sino-US radiation therapy for everyone.

May the mountains remain green and the friendship endure!

在新年来临之际，我代表 SANTRO 的董事会感谢各位多年的支持与鼓励！感恩遇见与陪伴！SANTRO 会一如既往地中美放疗发展提供最大的帮助！

疫情三年，艰难险阻，但也没有阻挡我们的交流，我们在云端相见。很高兴看到疫情结束了，中美关系也在健康的发展，

青山不老，绿水长流！SANTRO 将从今以后以一年一届更换领导班子但 SANTRO 的宗旨没有改变，将继续努力推进中美放疗为大家服务！

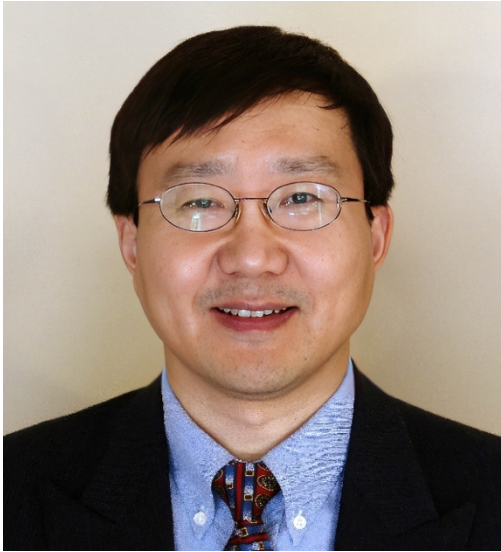
愿青山不老，友谊长存！

王骥

2023 SANTRO 董事会

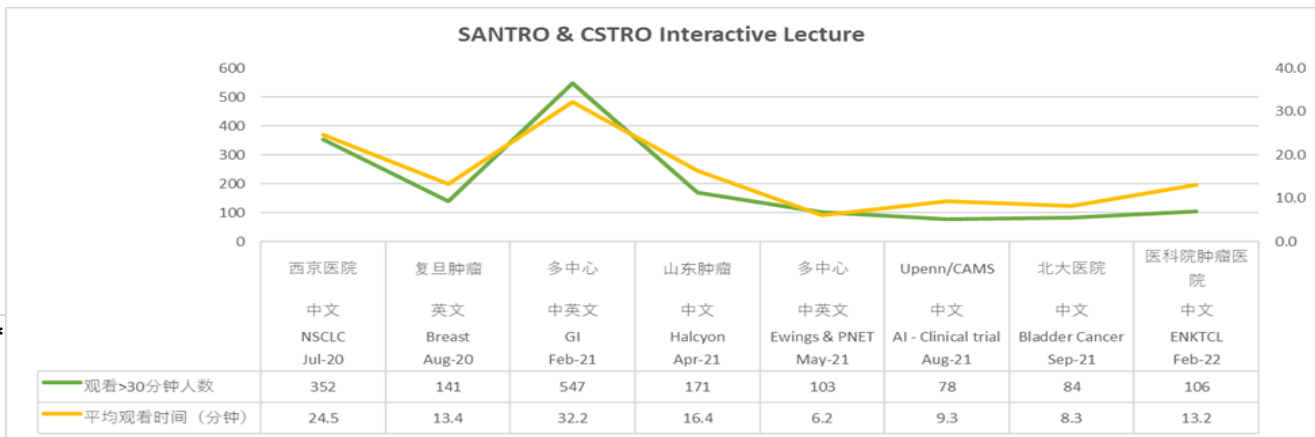
Reflecting on SANTRO's Journey During the Unforgettable COVID-19 Era

From Lei Dong, PhD, University of Pennsylvania, SANTRO President



As I reflect on my tenure as president-elect (2 years) and then president of SANTRO during the past 1.8 years, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude for the opportunity to serve this exceptional organization. Our journey through the unprecedented COVID-19 era has been marked by resilience, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to fostering collaboration between radiation oncology professionals in China and the United States.

The early pandemic years (2020-2021) presented unique challenges as travel restrictions and social distancing measures disrupted traditional modes of communication and knowledge sharing. Recognizing this need, SANTRO, under the leadership of Dr. Dian Wang, initiated a series of interactive lectures that bridged the physical distance between our two continents. These lectures, featuring a mini-review by a Chinese junior investigator followed by an expert panel discussion, proved to be immensely popular, drawing enthusiastic participation from both Chinese and American audience.

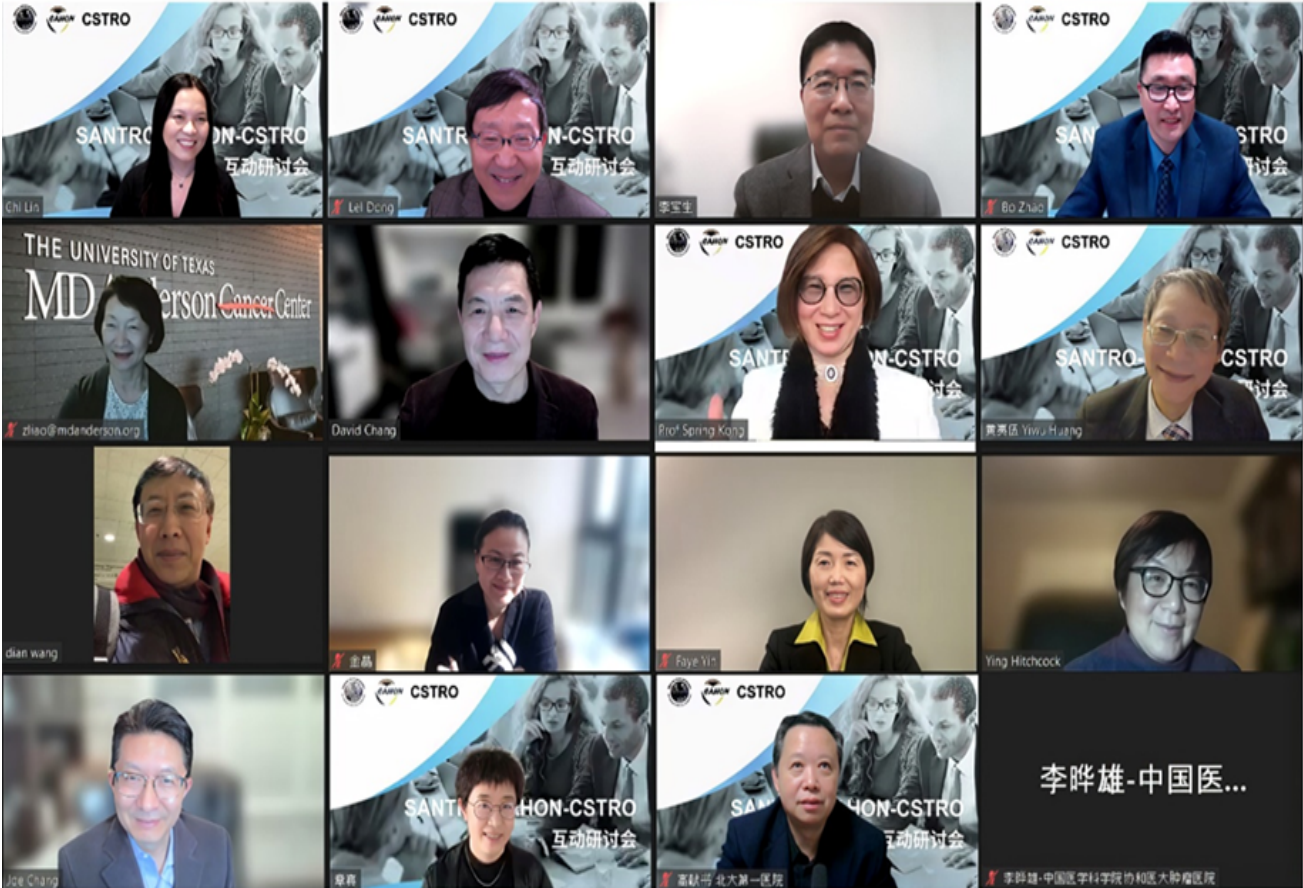


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The peak of this virtual engagement came with the special session organized by our president-elect, Dr. Chi Lin, to discuss radiation oncology workflow and management for COVID-19 patients undergoing radiation therapy. The timing of this session was particularly critical, coinciding with China's shift away from its strict isolation strategy, which resulted in a short surge of COVID-19 cases, including among radiation therapy patients. This timely virtual meeting, comprising interactive lectures and a panel discussion with members from CAHON, CSTRO, and SANTRO organizations, garnered remarkable participation from key members of all three organizations. The entire preparation process, with the invaluable support of our corporate partner Varian, was remarkably efficient, taking only one week (actually, just four days!). While the primary platform was geared towards healthcare professionals, the conference was also broadcast to a wider audience through various media channels, reaching an impressive 62,074 viewers!

SANTRO-CAHON-CSTRO互动研讨会 COVID-19流行期间癌症患者的治疗考虑 Jan 7, 2023					
公司	平台	类型	活动浏览人次	活动浏览人数	面向群体
瓦里安	空中讲堂	直播	12387	1205	放疗从业者
上海美中嘉和肿瘤门诊部	视频号+微博	转播	5083	1190	医生、患者
美中嘉和互联网医院	视频号	转播	1173	1264	医生、患者
广州泰和肿瘤医院	视频号	转播	520	310	医生、患者
山东肿瘤	智连星医	转播	12000	7000	医生、患者
香港大学	北海视频	转播	30587	4682	医生、患者
香港大学	医呼益吸	转播	324	NA	
香港大学	MEDcentra 医信汇	转播	NA	65	
		Total	62074	15716	

A screen capture at the end of the Zoom meeting is attached to this newsletter. Everyone enjoyed their contributions to this important and timely event.



In 2022, SANTRO board members gathered for a retreat at the beautiful Atlanta Evergreen Lakeside Resort. The primary goal of this retreat was to chart a course for SANTRO's future, solidifying our role as a bridge between China and the United States in the field of radiation oncology. Board members



cherished the opportunity to reconnect, strengthen friendships, and rediscover shared interests amidst the challenges posed by the pandemic. The retreat reaffirmed our commitment to serving our patients and mentoring the next generation of radiation oncology professionals. The smiling faces captured in the retreat photographs perfectly encapsulate the sense of camaraderie and shared purpose that permeated the gathering.



On March 14, 2023, I was pleasantly surprised to be told that mask usage was no longer mandatory for those not interacting with patients. This unexpected news, coupled with the recent reactivation of Chinese 10-year visas, has instilled in me a sense of optimism and renewed hope for a future beyond the pandemic's constraints. As we move forward, SANTRO will continue to forge

connections among our members and extend those connections to the wider world, fostering collaboration and advancing the field of radiation oncology for the benefit of patients everywhere.

Thank you for the opportunity for me to serve as SANTRO's president. I am honored to be part of this remarkable organization and look forward to witnessing its continued success in the years to come.

VISION STATEMENT FROM THE PRESIDENT ELECT, STARTING PRESIDENCY ON JAN 1, 2024

From Chi Lin, MD, PhD, SANTRO President Elect of 2022-2023



SANTRO serves as a vital link connecting the radiation oncology communities in China and the United States. In my role as president-elect, I am committed to upholding SANTRO's core missions, which include promoting communication among medical professionals from both nations to ensure the delivery of high-quality radiation therapy to cancer patients. Additionally, I am dedicated to supporting and initiating educational events and fostering research collaborations.

Working closely with the SANTRO executive committee, I will persist in our efforts to advancing our initiatives aimed at delivering high-quality educational sessions. These sessions, whether conducted via live streams or in-person gatherings, will be dedicated to the widespread dissemination of knowledge, the exchange of best practices, and the enrichment of professionals' expertise within the field. Additionally, I will advocate for the promotion of patient education in cancer treatment, emphasizing the significance of empowering individuals with valuable insights into their health and available treatment choices.

Furthermore, I look forward to expanding SANTRO's reach and impact, strengthening the ties between Chinese and American experts in radiation oncology. Through continued collaboration and the pursuit of innovative initiatives, we will contribute to advancements in cancer care and further the organization's commitment to excellence in medical practice, education, and research.

*******Together Bridging the Future*******

NEWS AND MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

Ying Xiao, PhD, a founding Board Director of the SANTRO, Professor of Radiation Oncology, University of Pennsylvania, <https://www.med.upenn.edu/apps/faculty/index.php/g20002840/p5425496>, Head of NRG Oncology/RTOG Physics Core Lab <https://www.nrgoncology.org/Committees-Programs/Scientific-Core-Committees/Radiation-Oncology-Committee/Medical-Physics-Subcommittee>, was selected during ASTRO 2023 as the SANTRO President Elect.

Chi Lin, MD, PhD, Board Director of the SANTRO, Professor and vice chair of research in the Department of Radiation Oncology of the UNMC College of Medicine, <https://www.unmc.edu/radonc/faculty/lin.html>, holding leadership roles of multiple international organizations, expert physicians in GI and Pediatric Cancer will be the incoming President of SANTRO starting January 1, 2024.

Jianyue Jin, PhD, A founding board director of SANTRO, Professor and Director of Medical Physics Division, University Hospitals, Case Western Reserve University was recently moved to Capital Medical University, as Professor and Chair of Medical Physics Department under the college of Medical Engineering <https://cn.linkedin.com/in/jian-yue-jin-a0a48328>, Beijing, China, to build a department of Medical Physics. The Capital University have over 20 hospitals, over 10 of them have department of Radiation Oncology. Professor Jin is charged to build a department of medical physics focusing on research and education to concert the clinical needs of the clinical medical physics.

Meng Welliver, MD, PhD, An American Board Certified Radiation Oncologist, A member of SANTRO board director, leaders of multiple international organizations like IASLC and ACR, was moved in March 2023 from Ohio State University James Cancer Center to be A senior associate Consultant associate professor of Mayo Clinic in Rochester (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/mengwelliver>)

Allen Li, PhD, DABMP, FAAPM, Board Director of SANTRO, Former President of SANTRO, A leading expert in imaging guided adaptive radiotherapy, served as Professor and Chief in Medical Physics over last 20 years in the department of Radiation Oncology

of Medical College of Wisconsin, recently retired and become Professor and Chief Emeritus <https://www.mcw.edu/departments/radiation-oncology/people/emeritus-and-volunteer-faculty>. He will spend some time in China helping to build a privately funded cancer prevention and treatment clinics.

Fang-Fang Yin, PhD, FAAPM, FASTRO, A Founding Board Director of SANTRO, President of 2021-2012, Gustavo S. Montana Distinguished Professor and Director of Radiation Physics in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Duke University (https://faculty.duke-kunshan.edu.cn/faculty_profiles/fang-fang-yin) Fang-Fang has taken full retirement from Duke University as a professor emeritus. He now spends some of his efforts at Duke Kunshan University to help enhancing medical physics graduate program in China. One of important things he did in December 2023 was to organize a summit at Duke Kunshan University to discuss together with China medical physics educational leadership about the standardization of medical physics education in China.

Feng-Ming (Spring) Kong, MD, PhD, FACR, FAWR, FASTRO, Board Director and Founding President of SANTRO, An American Board-Certified Radiation Oncologist. Professor of Clinical Oncology, Director of Imaging and Biomarker Group, Director of Thoracic Oncology Center and Deputy Cancer Center Director, HKU Shen-Zhen Hospital, Li Ka Shing faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong <https://oncology.med.hku.hk/en/Our-Team/Academic-Staff/Professor-Feng-ming-Spring-KONG/Professor-Spring-Feng-ming-KONG-Profile>, was recently selected as Symposium Co-Chair for The International Association for Studies in Lung Cancer, the 2024 Asia Conference which will be held in October 2024 in Hong Kong.

SANTRO MEMBERS
ATTENDING ACR
RADIATION ONCOL-
OGY ARRO COM-
MISSION RECEPTION DURING 2023
ASTRO



*******Together Bridging the Future*******

SANTRO LEADER OPINION

免疫和分子靶向治疗时代，放疗如何定点爆破？

Joe Chang, MD, PhD, FASTRO, A Founding Board Director of SANTRO, 2012-2013 President of SANTRO, Professor of MD Anderson Cancer Hospital



近来一些患者甚至医生在问：在分子和免疫治疗时代，还需花费大力气提高以局部治疗为主的放疗吗？答案是：**Yes, we should and we have to!** 随着系统性治疗的发展，局部治疗的作用越来越重要。由于靶向治疗和免疫治疗能够控制远处转移并有效地延长患者生存期，我们需要提供更加精准的局部治疗。原因是，首先我们所要打击的对免疫治疗和靶向治疗抵抗的靶点可能不像以前是单个靶点，而是多个靶点；其次，患者生存的时间延长，要求我们更关注远期毒性反应。在这种情况下，对于放疗这样的高精尖技术，就要做到更高要求的稳、准、

狠。面对这一机遇和挑战，我们必须对放疗的历史和现实有一个清晰的认识；对未来有一个精确的预测，并制定相应的行动计划。

20 世纪 90 年代，肿瘤免疫治疗停滞不前，基因分子分型也仅限于动物实验和各种癌症中的基因突变阳性率的零星报道。然而，以计算机为基础的三维影像，三维放疗计划 3D RT 却在那个年代开辟了一个三维立体的新天地。放化疗结合占据了实体癌症根治性治疗的半壁江山。

过去的三十年，我们不断优化放疗技术，在图像引导下，SABR/SBRT, IMRT/VMAT, 质子治疗等技术不断创新。同时，我们试图对肿瘤增加放疗剂量，并且采用新技术减少毒付作用。技术的发展，让癌症治疗的效果越来越好。以肺癌为例，生物有效

*****10*****

剂量大于 130 Gy 的 SABR/SBRT 把早期肺癌的五年生存率从过去的 30%左右，增加到现在的 50%-80%，同步放化疗也将中期肺癌从以前的 10 个月的中位生存增加到现在的近 30 个月。肿瘤内科医生做了“增敏”放疗的二传手，放射肿瘤学家们“高调”了二十年。

然而，近十年，分子靶向药在有敏感突变的转移性肿瘤治疗中一炮打响。而近五年，免疫检查点抑制剂类药物 PD-(L)1 仿佛是一下子收编了没有靶向药物指征的其他转移癌症。最典型案例就是肺癌，四期肺癌的五年生存率从单纯化疗的低于 5% 增加到免疫治疗的 15%。单纯化疗纷纷在许多四期癌症（包括肺癌）治疗中退居二线。而以 SABR/SBRT 为代表的局部治疗，也使经化疗，免疫治疗的寡转移肺癌中位生存期增加到 40 个月以上。放疗成了四期癌症经过现代系统性治疗后消除耐药残留病灶的二传手。

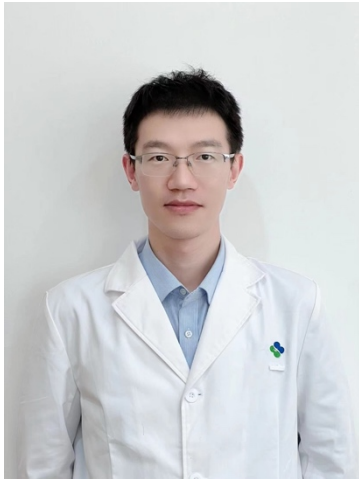
除此之外，Pacific 研究显示，在三期肺癌同步放化疗加免疫治疗的中位生存期也提高到 40 几个月，4 年生存期近 50%。放疗与免疫治疗或者靶向药物强强联合，生存期飞跃上了一个新的台阶。

然而，问题也随之而来。没有放疗参与的新辅助免疫化疗加手术切除在早中期癌症，比如肺癌，胃癌，食道癌得到采用。而术后放疗的天地在这几类肿瘤中仿佛也越来越小。放疗在一些“手术切除”的早中期癌症的地位再次受到挑战。而传统属于放疗的 N2/N3 中期肺癌，根治性放疗也由于同样的原因逐渐失去霸主地位。

我的问题是：如果说，新辅助免疫加化疗能够取得良好的”major response“，局部治疗只需消除少量残存的癌细胞，病人是否真的需要手术切除？也许，放疗也能得到同样的疗效但付出却更少。而回答这些问题的关键，是放疗要更加积极地尽早制定和参与这一类的临床研究，免得失去了该有的机会。

免疫和靶向治疗时代，放疗的天地更广了。但是，如果放疗不去争取和参与相关的研究，这个天地并不会一直留给放疗。当仁不让，放疗义不容辞！

NEW SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS FROM THE SANTRO MEMBERS



The team from the Shenzhen Hospital, the University of Hong Kong, reported an interesting study of 116 consecutive lung patients **at the first time** demonstrating the significance of **radiation dosimetric effect of thymus and thoracic duct for treatment related lymphopenia** ([https://www.advancesradonc.org/article/S2452-1094\(23\)00089-1/fulltext](https://www.advancesradonc.org/article/S2452-1094(23)00089-1/fulltext), published in **Advances in Radiation Oncology 2023**). This effect was on top of **the effective dose to immune cells** (EDIC, considered doses to lung, heart and the whole body) and a model combining EDIC and mean doses of Thoracic Duct and Thymus can predict better than EDIC for reduction in circulating lymphocytes, which was also significant for treatment outcome of non-small cell lung cancer. **The study, first authored by Jinliang Zhang (left upper picture), was led by SANTRO board director, the SANTRO founding President Feng-Ming (Spring) Kong (picture on the right).** Should this be validated by multicenter, future thoracic radiation shall take thymus and thoracic duct into consideration for RT plan optimization. **Investigators interested in collaboration and validation studies please send email to administrator@santro.org.**



SANTRO at 2023 ASTRO, San Diego, October 2-5, 2023













SANTRO BOARD MEETING DURING 2023 ASTRO





*******Together Bridging the Future*******



The Next SANTRO Retreat Will be In Hong Kong 2024



*******Together Bridging the Future*******

DURING THIS SPECIAL TIME OF THE YEAR, WE WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU KNOW HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE YOU. HOPE YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON IS FULL OF HEALTH AND HAPPINESS!!!!

123123 FROM THE 2023 SANTRO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



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SANTRO ORGANIZATION

THE 2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President:	Chi Lin, MD, PhD
Chair of Board:	Lei Dong, PhD
President-Elect:	Ying Xiao, PhD
Secretary:	Meng Welliver, MD, PhD
Treasurer:	Jackie Wu, PhD
Newsletter Editor:	Feng-Ming (Spring) Kong, MD, PhD

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 Ying Hitchcock, MD
 Jian-Yue Jin, PhD
 Feng-Ming (Spring) Kong, MD, PhD
 Allen X Li, PhD
 Zhong-Xing Liao, MD
 Chi Lin, MD, PhD
 Shiyu Song, MD, PhD
 Brian Wang, PhD
 Dian Wang, MD, PhD
 Meng Welliver, MD, PhD
 Jackie Wu, PhD
 Ping Xia, PhD
 Ying Xiao, PhD
 Lei Xing, PhD
 Min Yao, MD
 Fang-Fang Yin, PhD
 Ning J. Yue, PhD
 Weining Ken Zhen, MD
 *Chair of the Board

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 Weining Ken Zhen, MD
 *CHAIR OF THE FOUNDING BOARD

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Feng-Ming (Spring) Kong, MD, PhD, 2008-2009
 Fang-Fang Yin, PhD, 2010-2011
 Joe Chang, MD, PhD, 2012-2013
 Ning J. Yue, PhD, 2014-2015
 Weining Ken Zhen, MD, 2016-2017
 Allen Li, PhD, 2018-2019
 Dian Wang, MD, PhD, 2020-2021
 Lei Dong, PhD, 2022-2023



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