Stony Brook
University

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS AND CHAIRS ARE THE HALLMARK OF A GREAT UNIVERSITY.

They are a lasting tribute to the generous donors who establish them and a time-honored means of attracting and retaining eminent scholars and researchers.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY INVESTITURE CEREMONY

Thursday, September 17, 2020

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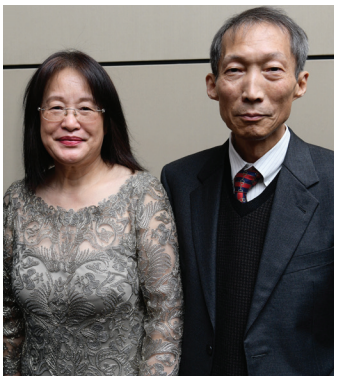
President, Stony Brook University

DEAN'S ADDRESS
Kenneth Kaushansky, MD, MACP
Senior Vice President, Health Sciences
Dean, Renaissance School of Medicine

ZHANG FAMILY ENDOWED CHAIR IN MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY
David G. Thanassi, PhD

ZHANG FAMILY ENDOWED CHAIR IN RHEUMATOLOGY
Qingping Yao, MD, PhD

INVESTING IN EXCELLENCE
Siuling and Huayi Zhang, PhD



Huayi Zhang, PhD, and Siuling Zhang

What began a decade ago as an opportunity to support a research-intensive university in their community has turned into a vital partnership between the Zhang family and the Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University.

When Jim and Marilyn Simons announced their matching challenge in fall 2011, the Zhangs were among the first to respond by establishing the Zhang Family Endowed Chair in Microbiology and Immunology. Since then, the Zhangs' alliance with the Renaissance School of Medicine has thrived, and in 2017 they endowed a second chair, this time in rheumatology. These prestigious endowed chairs help, and will continue to help, the University recruit and retain world-class researchers in the fields of immunology, virology and infectious diseases.

Huayi Zhang was also instrumental in connecting Stony Brook with classmates from the University of Science and Technology of China, who were recruited by Stony Brook professor and Nobel Prize-winning physicist C.N. Yang to pursue their graduate studies at Stony Brook in the 1980s. These students, thanks to Zhang's influence, ultimately helped establish an endowed chair in physics as a tribute to Yang for his remarkable legacy of scholarship and for founding what is now known as the C.N. Yang Institute for Theoretical Physics at Stony Brook.

Zhang's own career has been defined by the same forward-thinking mindset that underpins his commitment to Stony Brook Medicine. After earning his undergraduate degree in China in the 1977 cohort of students who were widely regarded as the best and brightest in the country, he earned an MS and PhD in physics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and was a postdoctoral fellow at Rutgers University. As a principal researcher at Kepler Financial Management, he was integral to devising the company's mathematical trading system. He is currently a principal at Renaissance Technologies.

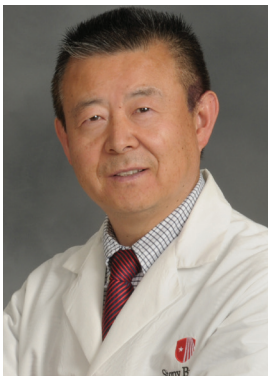
The Zhangs' commitment to improving the human experience, now and tomorrow, is helping fuel Stony Brook University's culture of innovation, creating the means for discovery that is improving healthcare outcomes not only on Long Island but around the world as well.

David G. Thanassi, PhD
Zhang Family Endowed Chair in Microbiology and Immunology
established 2011

As director of the Center for Infectious Diseases and the Laboratory for Comparative Medicine at Stony Brook University, as well as professor and chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology in the Renaissance School of Medicine, Dr. Thanassi is dedicated to advancing our knowledge of the fundamental causes, preventive measures and treatments of human infectious diseases.

A leading expert in investigating how bacteria cause disease, Dr. Thanassi's primary research interests focus on understanding the molecular mechanisms of bacterial secretion systems. Examining how virulence factors are secreted by bacteria and how they function to cause disease, Dr. Thanassi is also investigating the potential for developing novel alternatives to antibiotics. His extensive research holds promise for innovative ways to combat resistance and develop new, more effective therapeutics.

Dr. Thanassi also holds prestigious fellowships in the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Academy of Microbiology. Passionate in his commitment to helping the next generation of world-class researchers thrive at Stony Brook, he has mentored 15 PhD students, many of whom have gone on to careers in academia and industry. He received a BA from Columbia University, earned his PhD from the University of California, Berkeley and completed his postdoctoral fellowship at Washington University, St. Louis.



Qingping Yao, MD, PhD
Zhang Family Endowed Chair in Rheumatology
established 2017

Dr. Yao is a widely regarded expert in the study of systemic inflammatory and immunologic diseases. As chief of Stony Brook's acclaimed Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology; professor in the Department of Medicine; and director of the Center for Autoinflammatory Diseases, he specializes in rheumatology and focuses his care on patients with autoinflammatory diseases, including periodic fever syndromes, while pursuing the clinical and translational study of such diseases.

Among his significant contributions, Dr. Yao discovered a previously uncharacterized disease, the eponymously named Yao syndrome. It is an autoinflammatory disorder presenting with episodes of fever and abnormal inflammation affecting multiple organs, particularly the skin, joints and gastrointestinal system. Yao syndrome is linked to NOD2 gene mutations. Dr. Yao has cared for locally and nationally referred patients with autoinflammatory diseases. He has authored many publications on the clinical and basic study of rheumatic diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis, Sjogren syndrome, lupus and autoinflammatory diseases.

Dr. Yao earned his MD and PhD at Peking Union Medical College Hospital, one of China's most prestigious medical institutions, and he served there as a rheumatologist and associate professor of medicine. He came to America in 1997 as a visiting scholar in the Division of Rheumatology at Columbia University. Dr. Yao served as a research associate studying gene therapy in animal models of rheumatoid arthritis at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. After graduation as a rheumatology fellow at UCLA, he served as a staff rheumatologist and inaugural director of the Clinic for Adult Autoinflammatory Diseases at the Cleveland Clinic for several years. Dr. Yao joined Stony Brook Medicine in 2015.

Stony Brook University
Formally Invested Endowed Positions

ALFONSE M. D'AMATO ENDOWED CHAIR IN ITALIAN AND ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES
Established 2000 | Loredana Polezzi , PhD

AMBASSADOR CHARLES A. GARGANO CHAIR IN CARDIOLOGY
Established 2013 | Hal Skopicki, MD, PhD

C.N. YANG-DENG WEI ENDOWED CHAIR IN PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY
Established 2013 | Alexander B. Zamolodchikov, PhD

CARL SAFINA ENDOWED RESEARCH CHAIR FOR NATURE AND HUMANITY
Established 2014 | Carl Safina, PhD

CHERITH FOUNDATION ENDOWED CHAIR IN BIOMEDICAL INFORMATICS
Established 2013 | Joel H. Saltz, MD, PhD

DELLA PIETRA FAMILY ENDOWED CHAIR IN BIOMEDICAL IMAGING
Established 2013 | Ramin Parsey, MD, PhD

DIALYSIS CLINIC, INC.-MARTIN LIEBOWITZ PROFESSOR IN NEPHROLOGY
Established 2014 | Sandeep Mallipattu, MD

EDMUND D. PELLEGRINO PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE
Established 1987 | Benjamin J. Luft, MD

EMPOWERMENT CHARITABLE TRUST ENDOWED PROFESSOR IN GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP
Established 2018 | Eric Haralson, PhD

EUGENE V. AND CLARE E. THAW ENDOWED CHAIR IN MODERN AMERICAN ART
Established 2015 | Katy Siegel, PhD

EVELYN G. GLICK PROFESSOR OF EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE
Established 1990 | Arthur P. Grollman, MD

GENERAL TING FENG CHENG ENDOWED CHAIR IN CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY
Established 2019 | Henry Tannous, MD

HENRY LAUFER ENDOWED ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PHYSICAL AND QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY
Established 2008 | Gábor Balázsi, PhD

HERRNSTEIN FAMILY ENDOWED CHAIR FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY
Established 2012 | Patricia C. Wright, PhD

JOEL STRUM KENNY PROFESSOR IN CANCER RESEARCH
Established 2001 | Yusuf A. Hannun, MD

KNAPP CHAIR IN PEDIATRICS
Established 2010 | Margaret M. McGovern, MD, PhD

KNAPP SWEZEY CHAIR IN PEDIATRIC SURGERY
Established 2017 | Christopher S. Muratore, MD

LAUFER ENDOWED PROFESSOR OF PHYSICAL AND QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY
Established 2017 | Carlos Simmerling, PhD

LESLIE P. AND MURIEL OBERLEDER PROFESSOR IN GERIATRIC MEDICINE
Established 1996 | Suzanne D. Fields, MD

LILLIAN AND LEONARD SCHNEIDER ENDOWED PROFESSOR IN TRAUMA SURGERY
Established 2016 | James A. Vosswinkel, MD, FACS

LINA OBEID CHAIR IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH
Established 2011 | Patricia Thompson, PhD

LOUIS AND BEATRICE LAUFER ENDOWED CHAIR IN PHYSICAL AND QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY
Established 2008 | Ken A. Dill, PhD

LOURIE ENDOWED CHAIR IN PSYCHIATRY
Established 2019 | Anissa Abi-Dargham, MD

MARINETICS ENDOWED PROFESSOR IN MARINE SCIENCE
Established 2014 | Bassem Allam, PhD

MARVIN KUSCHNER PROFESSOR OF PATHOLOGY
Established 1988 | Kenneth R. Shroyer, MD, PhD

MIRIAM AND DAVID DONOHO DISTINGUISHED TEACHING PROFESSOR
Established 2012 | Styliani-Anna E. Tsirka, PhD

PETER V. TSANTES PROFESSOR IN GREEK LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE
Established 2013 | Nikolaos Panou, PhD

RENAISSANCE ENDOWED PROFESSOR IN CANCER BIOLOGY
Established 2019 | Ute Moll, MD

ROBERT DAVID LION GARDINER CHAIR IN AMERICAN HISTORY
Established 2012 | Paul Kelton, PhD

SIMONS CHAIR OF MEDICINE
Established 2011 | Vincent W. Yang, MD, PhD

TARRSON FAMILY PROFESSOR OF PERIODONTOLOGY
Established 2013 | Vincent J. Iacono, DMD

WILLIAM AND JANE KNAPP CHAIR IN ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT
Established 2016 | Esther S. Takeuchi, PhD

WILLIAM AND JANE KNAPP CHAIR IN PHARMACOLOGICAL SCIENCES
Established 2005 | Basil Rigas, MD, DSc

TOGETHER, WE GO FAR BEYOND