

Chi-Chao Chan: passion is very important for the success

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Introduction

Chi-Chao Chan (*Figure 1*), M.D., an American board certified ophthalmologist, is a Scientist Emerita of the National Eye Institute (NEI), National Institutes of Health (NIH), USA. She studied at Zhongshan Medical College (now Sun Yat-sen University Medical School) in China [1961–1967], went to USA in 1968. In USA, Dr. Chan received both bachelor (BA, 1972) and medical doctorate (MD, 1975) degrees from Johns Hopkins University, completed ophthalmology residency at Stanford University Medical Center in 1979, and two post-doctoral fellowships at the Wilmer Institute, Johns Hopkins (ophthalmic pathology, 1979–1982) and at the NEI, NIH (clinical immunology, 1982–1986), respectively. She got tenured and became the Chief of Immunopathology Section in the Laboratory of Immunology and the Chief of Histopathology Core at NEI/NIH; became a world expert in ophthalmic pathology and ocular immunology. Dr. Chan has published 648 articles in peer-reviewed journals, 55 book chapters, and two books. She also serves as an editorial board member for 20 medical journals. Her work has uncovered many aspects of uveitis (molecular and immunopathology), primary intraocular lymphoma (diagnosis) and age-related macular degeneration (molecular pathology and mouse model). Dr. Chan has received many honors and awards, including the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Senior Achievement Award, ARVO Gold Fellow, the NIH Director Award, NEI Director Award, and the Outstanding Achievement Award in Ophthalmology and Vision Research for Oversea Chinese from the Chinese Ophthalmological Society. She has delivered many prestigious lectures, including the Eugene Chan and the Winifred Mao Memorial Lectures—the name lectures in honor of her parents; the first David BenEzra Memorial Lecture in Prague; the first Streilein Foundation for Ocular Immunology Visiting Professor in Bascom Palmer Eye Institute; and the King Khaled Memorial Lecture in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Dr. Chan retired in June 2015; the NEI hosted a Festschrift in honor of her accomplishment and long productive service to the Institute.



Figure 1 Dr. Chi-Chao Chan.

Dr. Chan is a Special Visiting Scientist and the honorary Director of Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center Research Institute, Sun Yat-sen University in China, and a member of the Sun Yat-sen University Advisory Board. She also serves on the Trustee Board of Lingnan Foundation, an American philanthropy, seeks to contribute to the advancement of higher education in South China and thereby promote understanding between Chinese and Americans.

Interview

During Zhongshan Medical Retina and Epidemiology Symposium in June 18, 2016, I was honored to meet Prof. Chan for a brief interview to share her impressive training in USA and suggestion for the young generation in ophthalmology.

Dr. Chan just retired from NEI and the NEI hosted a Festschrift in honor of your accomplishment to the institute. She studied at Zhongshan Medical College (now Sun Yat-sen University Medical School). Later she studied and worked in multiple prestigious institutions, such as NEI, John Hopkins University and Stanford University etc. She claimed the studies and training was wonderful and has



Figure 2 Chi-Chao Chan: passion is very important for the success (1). Available online: <http://www.asvide.com/articles/1153>

deeply influenced her.

Her father was the founder of the journal *Eye Science* and he wrote in the inaugural issue “*The journal plays important roles of a bridge of communication and collaboration between China and other countries over the world*”. Dr. Chan said there were few English journals in ophthalmology at that time. Now there are many journals but to manage a good journal, she believes that the leadership of editorial broad members and dynamic strategies to attract paper with high quality and famous experts to contribute is very important.

At last, when talking about expectation and suggestion

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for our young generation in ophthalmology, she said “I believe the passion is very important. If you have the passion, whatever you would like to do, you could do it. If you love something, you would work hard and spend your every effort and time to try, then you would success.”

For more details about this interview, please refer to the following video (*Figure 2*).

Acknowledgements

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Footnote

Conflicts of Interest: The author has no conflicts of interest to declare.

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1. Seliman H. Chi-Chao Chan: passion is very important for the success. *Asvide* 2016;3:379. Available online: <http://www.asvide.com/articles/1153>

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