



# 全球华人物理和天文学会

International Organization of Chinese Physicists and Astronomers

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## OCPA

<http://www.ocpaweb.org/new/>

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Dear Dr. Aronson and Kate,

How are you?

I am writing to follow up on our skype discussion on June 19, with regards to the important issue of the guidelines for US-International collaboration.

Shortly after, Kate had kindly informed me that your office at the APS had set up a discussion with officials at the DOE regarding this matter. It would be a great help to us at OCPA to learn about the outcome and recommendations of that meeting, as well as other relevant information, both with funding agencies and with legal experts.

During our conversation, we focused on the case of Prof. Xiaoxing Xi, a physicist at Temple University, and the indictment of wire fraud against Prof. Xi by the US Department of Justice. In the course of our discussion, the case of the hydrologist, Dr. Sherry Chen, was also touched upon. As we understand, both Prof. Xi and Dr. Chen are naturalized US citizens, who had come from China.

Since our skype discussion, another prominent case has come to light, concerning Prof. Hao Zhang, a Chinese national and an engineer based at Tianjin University in China, as well as five other Chinese nationals. Prof. Zhang was invited to present a talk at a conference in the US, and was promptly arrested for conspiracy, economic espionage and theft of trade secrets by federal agents upon arrival on May 16, 2015. He was released on \$500,000 bail awaiting trial on July 8, 2015. But on July 13, U.S. immigration authorities took him into custody based on the revocation of his visitor's visa by the U.S. State Department. He was re-released by court order on July 29, and remains in the US awaiting trial.



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These legal cases will run their due courses in future months in the court of law. However, the occurrences of these cases have brought about a great deal of anxiety and concern in the ethnically Chinese community. This is particularly true for those, who are actively engaged in US-China scientific exchange/collaboration, and also for those who have had past collaborations.

In light of these developments, it is imperative that the APS and OCPA work hand-in-hand to address the pressing issues of climate and proper protocol/guidelines in US-International collaborations, and more specifically, US-China scientific exchange/collaboration, for the benefit of the advancement of science and technology for all concerned. We urge the APS to take the lead, and to take proactive steps to hold open, effectual, and timely discussions of these issues, and to disseminate relevant information to APS members in an effective and timely manner. These points were emphasized in our June 19 skype meeting.

As a concrete step forward, we at OCPA feel that it would be most useful to have a session devoted to these issues, at the upcoming APS March Meeting in Baltimore, in March, 2016. We will be writing to Amy Flatten, APS Director of International Affairs, to propose such a session for the 2016 March Meeting. Of course, you will be copied in that communication.

Thank you for your kind attention to these matters. We look forward to working closely with you to bring about a functional, effectual, and transparent set of guidelines, which will go beyond the current and already excellent platforms, to pave the way toward mutually beneficial US-International scientific exchange/collaboration in the years to come.

With Best Regards,  
Albert

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Cc: OCPA Executive Council