



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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Dr. Amy Flatten,
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Dear Amy,

How are you? It was a pleasure to talk to you again at the APS March meeting in San Antonio, during the FIP reception.

I am writing on behalf of OCPA (International Organization of Chinese Physicists and Astronomers), to propose a session at the upcoming 2016 APS March Meeting, which will take place in Baltimore, MD.

We would like to propose an open forum to discuss the issue of guidelines and protocols of US-International exchange and collaboration. This proposal is brought about by the recent slate of indictments on American scientists of Chinese origin, and on Chinese scientists, on the allegation of economic espionage and related charges. Specifically, the cases of hydrologist Dr. Sherry Chen, Prof. Xiaoxing Xing Xi (physicist at Temple University), and Prof. Hao Zhang (electrical engineer at Tianjin University, China), have been widely reported in the media.

At present, Dr. Sherry Chen has been fully acquitted in the court of law, while Prof. Xi and Prof. Zhang (a Chinese national) are free on bail and awaiting trial.

These cases, understandably, have brought a great deal of anxiety and concern to the ethnically Chinese scientific community. While these legal cases will run its due courses in future months in the court of law, we at OCPA believe that the detrimental climate these cases have generated must be addressed in a timely and effective manner.



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In this respect, we urge APS to take the lead, and to take proactive steps to address the pressing issues of the proper protocol and guidelines for all US-International exchange and collaborations, and to disseminate relevant information to the APS membership in a timely and effective manner. The leadership at the OCPA has been in discussion with APS President, Prof. Sam Aronson, and APS Chief Executive Officer, Kate Kirby. Both Dr. Aronson and Kate have expressed strong support for US-China scientific exchange/collaboration, and have set forth the motion to start addressing these issues.

We feel that a concrete and effective step is to hold an open forum at the upcoming 2016 APS March Meeting. Because APS has much greater expertise in this area, we urge you and your colleagues at the APS to put forth a session that will involve representatives from the major funding agencies, legal experts in the area of international scientific exchange, and possibly representatives from major international physical societies, who are partners to the APS.

The goal is to put forth a set of functional, transparent guidelines, which are structured to minimize any room for circumvention. If successful, this will pave the way toward mutually beneficial US-International exchange/collaboration, beyond the success already enjoyed at present, and help avoid future misunderstandings.

APS, being an organization, which is widely regarded in the international community as the preeminent leader in the field of physics, can serve its US and international constituency in a very valuable way by taking the lead in this pressing matter. We at OCPA, along with physics societies/organizations representing other ethnic groups and countries, can work hand-in-hand with the APS, particularly in helping disseminate relevant information, and in bridging across cultural barriers.

We thank you in advance for your attention to this matter, and look forward to hearing from you in the near future, and further, to working closely with you.

With Best Regards,
Albert

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Cc: Prof. Sam Aronson, Dr. Kate Kirby, and OCPA Executive Council