



Name in English: Choh Hao Li

Name in Chinese: 李卓皓

Name in Pinyin: Lǐ Zhuōhào

Gender: Male

Birth Year: 1913-1987

Birth Place: Guangzhou, China

Scientist, Discoverer of Human Growth Hormone

Profession (s): Biochemist, Endocrinologist, Scientist, Professor

Education: B.S., Chemistry, 1933, Nanjing University; Ph.D., Physio-organic Chemistry, 1938, University of California at Berkeley

Awards:

1951, California Section Award, American Chemical Society; 1955, Francis Amory Septennial Prize, American Academy of Arts and Sciences; 1958, Gold Medal, Minister of Education of the Republic of China; 1961, Award, Chinese American Citizen Alliance; 1962, Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research, Lasker Foundation; 1964, Golden Plate Award, American Academy of Achievement; 1965, Award, Chinese Society of Engineers; 1970, Modern Medicine Distinguished Achievement Award; 1970, Scientific Achievement Award, American Medical Association; 1971, National Award, American Cancer Society; 1979, Nichols Medal, American Chemical Society; 1981, Koch Award; Endocrine Society; 1982, Heyrovsky Gold Plaque of Honor for Achievement in Chemistry, Czechoslovakia Academy of Sciences; 1983, Award, American Chinese Medical Society; 1984, Award, Mid-America Chinese Science and Technology Association; 1986, Luft Medal of the Swedish Society of Endocrinology; 1987, Pierce Award, Tenth American Peptide Symposium; 10 honorary degrees from universities in the United States, Sweden, Chile, and Hong Kong

Contribution (s): For half a century, Dr. Choh Hao Li dedicated his career studying hormones associated with the pituitary gland in the brain, and isolating and synthesizing numerous other hormones. Dr. Li's legacy significantly contributed to the knowledge about growth hormones and to the fields of endocrinology, the study of hormones, and neurochemistry. He was unsuccessfully nominated at least twice for the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine for his work.

One of his key discoveries in 1966 was that the human growth hormone that he originally discovered in 1956 consists of a chain of 256 amino acids. Four years later, he succeeded in synthesizing the hormone, the largest protein molecule to be synthesized at that time. This proved especially important to the treatment of human dwarfism, which results from the underproduction of this hormone. Through no fault of Dr. Li, the use of human growth hormone in professional and amateur sports has made controversial headlines in more recent years. Dr. Li was also the first or among the first

to isolate and identify eight of the nine hormones of the anterior pituitary, hormones that regulate physiological processes like stress, growth, and reproduction.

A pioneer in bio-chemistry research, Dr. Li also mentored scores of students as a professor, many of whom went on to pursue prominent scientific careers. Dr. Li served in a number of leadership posts. He founded the Hormone Research Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley in 1950, and served as its director from 1950 to 1967. He served the same position at the University of California, San Francisco from 1967 to 1983. Dr. Li headed the Laboratory of Molecular Endocrinology at UCSF from 1983 until his death in 1987.

Publications/Patents: Dr. Li published over 1,100 scientific articles.

External Links:

<http://history.library.ucsf.edu/li.html>

<http://www.bookrags.com/biography/choh-hao-li-wap/>

<http://www.nap.edu/readingroom.php?book=biomems&page=cli.html>

<http://content.cdlib.org/view?docId=tf738nb543&chunk.id=bioghist-1.8.3&brand=oac>