Name in English: Flossie Wong-Staal
Name in Chinese: 黃以靜 [黃以靜]
Name in Pinyin: Huáng Yǐjìng
Gender: Female
Birth Year: August 27, 1947
Birth Place: China
Current location: San Diego, California

Scientist, AIDS & Cancer Researcher

Profession (s): Scientist, Medical Researcher, Medical Doctor

Education: Bachelor of Science, Bacteriology, 1968, University of California, Los Angeles; Ph.D, Molecular Biology, 1972, University of California, Los Angeles; Post-Doctoral Research, 1972-1974, University of California, San Diego

Awards: 2007, Top 100 Living Geniuses, Creators Synectics; 2002, Honoree, "Top 50 Women Scientists," Discover Magazine; 2001, BioFUSION Biotech Innovator of the Year, T-Sector Magazine; 1990, Named Top Women Scientist of the 1990s, Institute for Scientific Information

Contribution (s): Born Yee Ching Wong in mainland China, Dr. Flossie Wong-Staal fled with her family to Hong Kong in 1952 and adopted the name Flossie from newspaper reports about Hurricane Flossie that had struck Hong Kong the week before. Dr. Wong-Staal started working at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Maryland in 1973 studying retroviruses. While serving as the Section Chief in the Laboratory of Tumor Cell Biology at the NCI, she was the first scientist to define the structure of several human cancer chromosomes and shares the 1983 co-discovery honors for first defining the genetic structure of HIV. In 1985, Wong-Stall was responsible for the first cloning of HIV. She not only identified many of the fundamental properties of HIV, but also provided many of the early key reagents for HIV molecular biology. In 1990 she began working at UC San Diego and in 1994 became co-Director of the AIDS Research Institute at UC San Diego. From 1990-2002, she was the Florence Riford Chair in AIDS Research there. Dr. Wong-Staal is a member of the Institute of Medicine and serves on the editorial boards of many scientific journals. She is now the Chief Science Officer and Executive Vice President of ItherX, a drug development company that she co-founded as Immusol.

Publications/Patents:
Reddy, T.R., Li, X., Jones, Y., Ellisman, N.H., Chiang, G.Y., Liem, R.K.H. and Wong-Staal, F. (1998). Specific interaction of HTLV-1 Tax protein and a human type IV neuronal intermediate filament proteine. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., USA 95: 702-707.

Poeschla, E.M., Wong-Staal, F. and Looney, D. (1998). Efficient transduction of non-binding human cells by feline immunodeficency virus lentiviral vectors. Nat. Med. 4: 354-357

Tang, H., Gaietta, G.M., Fischer, W.H., Ellisman, M.H. and Wong-Staal, F. (1997). The cellualr cofactor for the constitutive transport element of Type D retrovirus. Science 276:1412-1415.

Gervaix, A., Li, X., Kraus, G. and Wong-Staal, F. (1997). Multigene antiviral vectors inhibit diverse HIV-1 clades. J. of Virology 71: 3048-3053.

Gervaix, A., Schwarz, L., Law, P., Ho, A.D., Looney, D., Lane, T. and Wong-Staal, F. (1997). Gene therapy targeting peripheral blood CD34+ hematopoietic stem cells of HIV-infected indiviuals. Human Gene Therapy 8: 2229-2238.

(2007) Patent Application: 20070087984 - Method of identifying agents that inhibit the growth of cancer cells

External Links:

http://www.faqs.org/health/bios/84/Flossie-Wong-Staal.html
http://www-biology.ucsd.edu/faculty/wongstaal.html