



**JERRY YANG** (Dept. of Animal Science, Center for Regenerative Biology University of Connecticut, USA)

*Speaker: Plenary Session 2*

Xiangzhong Yang, known as Jerry to his friends, was born and raised in a rural Chinese village. Upon his graduation from high school, he joined the labor force in his poor village initially as a herdsman, a “bear-foot” veterinarian and later as the deputy mayor. Upon the re-instatement of the national entrance examination for college education in 1977, he was admitted to the

Department of Animal Science, Beijing Agricultural University in 1978. With a prestigious national fellowship, he came to the United States in 1983 and received his MS and Ph.D. degrees at Cornell University in 1986 and 1990 respectively. Following a short postdoctoral training at Cornell University in the areas of animal biotechnology in 1991, Jerry was offered a research scientist position as a principal investigator and program director in the Cornell's Department of Animal Science with the responsibility to develop a vibrant extramurally funded animal biotechnology program. In June 1996, Jerry joined the faculty of the University of Connecticut as Associate Professor of Animal Science and Head of the Biotechnology Center's Transgenic Animal Facility. In 2000, he was promoted to the rank of full professor. In 2001, the University of Connecticut made an unprecedented decision to create a new center (the Connecticut Center for Regenerative Biology) for Jerry with five new faculty lines for a total investment of over \$20,000,000 along with five new faculty lines and Jerry was appointed as the founding director of this new center (see <http://web.uconn.edu/crb>). Jerry's achievements in cloning have caused a media sensation around the globe including coverage and profiles by all the major news media including the CNN Headline News, ABC, CBS and BBC News as well as The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal and the US News & World Report etc. Jerry became a celebrity scientist in his field with a strong record of productivity and leadership. He has attracted over \$10 million extramural funding to his research program and has published over 200 papers including over 100 in top peer-reviewed scientific journals. His contributions to science is further acknowledged by more than 150 invited speeches in the last 5 years (about 30/year) as keynote speaker at scientific conferences or symposia or seminar speaker in over a dozen countries. He is an honorary or visiting professor in numerous institutions in China, Taiwan, Japan and Korea as well as several European countries. Jerry has been an advisor and reviewer for numerous federal and international funding agencies and he has organized or co-organized numerous national or international scientific conferences or workshops.