



PRESS RELEASE

PROFESSOR EDISON T LIU RE-ELECTED HUGO PRESIDENT

The Human Genome Organisation (HUGO), one of the oldest genome organisations, is pleased to announce the re-election of Professor Edison T. Liu as its President, effective 1 February 2010 by the HUGO Council, the governing body of the organisation.

Professor Liu is the Executive director of the Genome Institute of Singapore and has been a council member and President of HUGO since 2007. Since 2007, the President under the direction of the HUGO Council has made significant changes in the organisation. Membership rules were restructured, web and social networking for the organisation established. A new journal, the HUGO Journal has been initiated with Springer Publishing Group, and the symposia schedule enhanced. More recent collaborations with the WHO, the Archon X Prize, and the OECD have extended HUGO's participation in global policy making.

Professor Liu says: "I am honored and rather humbled at being asked to continue my role in HUGO for another term. These are unusual times for the field of genomics characterized by dramatic changes in technologies which augment the impact of our science. What excites me is that, as a professional and scientific organisation, we can make a difference in helping humanity solve some of our most serious problems in health, food, and energy. The science is strong, that the role of our individual members in their personal capacities is to push that science, but HUGO will need to guide that science through thought leadership and policy discussions. We have many challenges ahead. "

"Having served on the council since 2003 and being a HUGO member since the year of its inception, I have seen many ups and downs of this organisation, and it gives me great satisfaction that thanks to the inspiring leadership of Edison Liu. Given the new, exciting opportunities in human genome research and their far-reaching fundamental and medical implications, I am convinced that today, HUGO is more important than ever, but that it needs continuity – Ed, to meet the challenges that lie ahead." H. Hilger Ropers, Director at the Max-Planck-Institute for Molecular Genetics.

"I am delighted that Ed has been re-elected for the second term as President of HUGO. This is a clear reflection of Ed's qualities as a leader and visionary in the field of genomics. As Executive Director of the Genome Institute of Singapore, Ed has built up a world-class research institute and as President of HUGO, he similarly devoted his energy and dedication to genomics on a global level. Ed has been and is a champion of how the enormous and exciting developments in genomics can be brought to advancing public health and benefit society in general. Leading HUGO he has an opportunity to influence policies at the international level to make sure that such benefits are fully explored and implemented. I am sure the whole science community in this field will welcome his election and here in Singapore at the Biomedical Research Council, we are proud to have him in this role." Professor Sir George Radda, Chairman, Biomedical Research Council, Agency for Science, Technology and Research, Singapore (Funding agency of HUGO in Singapore since 2008)

"The Human Genome Organisation (HUGO), and bio-medicine in general, is fortunate to have Ed Liu continue as President. Ed has been a leader



in ensuring that the riches of the human genome are realized to benefit human health on the broadest scale. He has seen HUGO playing an increasing leadership role in the International policy debate concerning the delivery of the benefits of genomics to health and disease. Importantly he has worked to ensure through HUGO that the application of genomics occurs beyond the industrialized world and that genomic based technologies are used to aid development of improved health on a truly global scale."Professor Eddy Rubin, Director, Joint Genome Institute, USA

"Ed Liu has been a champion of the importance of genomics in public health applications, an area often neglected and of crucial importance to health improvement in the developing world. His vision and commitment to this field has been inspiring and motivational and the international health community is fortunate to have him lead HUGO for a second term. Science must continue to serve human development and WHO looks forward to continued strong collaboration with HUGO, under Ed's leadership, in achieving this important goal" Dr Tikki Pang (Pangestu), Director, Research Policy & Cooperation (RPC/IER), World Health Organization

"This decision by HUGO's Council to reappoint Professor Liu as President for a further three year term is just recognition of his energy and foresight as well as his academic standing. It is a decision that will be widely acclaimed by the international science policy community as well as by practicing scientists in the field of human genomics. Ed has led HUGO into the heart of the international policy debate, including with the OECD, around enabling more rapid delivery of the benefits of genomics. We all have to thank him for that..." Mr Iain Gillespie, Head of Science & Technology Policy Division, Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry, Organization For Economic Co-operation and Development

"I am very pleased to see that it is possible for HUGO Council to retain Ed as our President for a further term plus one more year because it has been evident to all of us that the organisation has been transformed by his energy and vision and one term is just not sufficient to accomplish and secure all the beneficial changes and progress that he has initiated. So I join with many others in applauding his continuing role as HUGO President." Veronica van Heyningen, MRC Human Genetics Unit, Edinburgh, UK

About the Human Genome Organisation

www.hugo-international.org

The Human Genome Organisation (HUGO) is an international organisation formally established in 1988 to foster collaboration between genome scientists around the world. It is entering its 21st year of history by making an inflection in its direction. Now that the human genome has been sequenced, we are seeking the biological meaning of its information content. To this end, it is focusing on the medical implications of this genomic knowledge. Moving forward, HUGO is also working to enhance the



genomic capabilities of the world's emerging countries. The excitement and interest in genomic sciences in Asia, the Middle East, South America, and Africa are palpable and the hope is that these technologies will aid in national development and improved health.

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