

Asia Pacific Clinical Nutrition Society Award for 2021

Professor Po-Chao Huang MD, PhD

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Professor Po-Chao Huang is Professor Emeritus, Institute of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, College of Medicine, National Taiwan University, and a Fellow of the International Union of Nutritional Science (IUNS) since 1993.

Born in 1926, he graduated from the National Taiwan University College of Medicine in 1949 in Medicine. He began his career in nutrition in the 1950s, conducting nutrition surveys in Taiwan. His nutrition research career developed at Tulane University in the USA from 1955 to 1957. He obtained his Doctorate from Jikei University School of Medicine, Japan, in 1958. From 1965-67, Po-Chao Huang worked with Professor Nevin S Scrimshaw at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) on protein requirements. He was then funded by the US National Institutes of Health to research protein requirements of young adults and infants in Taiwan. Publication of this work informed WHO's "Energy and Protein Requirement: Report of a Joint FAO/WHO/ UNU Expert Consultation". His studies on protein requirements continue as fundamental to Dietary Reference Intakes of Protein in Taiwan and elsewhere. His team's Diet and Nutrition Surveys in Taiwan from the 1960's through to the late 1980s have served as an important basis for Nutrition Policy in Taiwan. His studies of infant nutrition have provided strategies to improve infant nutrition.

Notably, Professor Huang produced the first edition of the Tables of Food Composition in Taiwan in 1961 which facilitated nutrition research and its application in Taiwan until at least 1997. He wrote the first Nutrition textbook in Chinese, extensively used in tertiary education. Inevitably, his own work on human protein nutrition has found its way into such texts. Among his many graduate students, numbers have nurtured and promoted food and nutrition science initiatives in advanced education.

Professor Po-Chao Huang was a founding member of the Taiwan Nutrition Society (TNS) and its president during 1981~1987. It joined IUNS in 1981 and, in turn, the Federation of Asian Nutrition Societies (FANS). With his leadership, the Taiwan Nutrition Society convened the 10th Asian Congress of Nutrition in Taipei in 2007. He was President of FANS from 2007 to 2011 making lasting contributions to its connected international nutrition organizations.

Professor Huang was Dean of the National Taiwan University College of Medicine from 1987 to 1991. He was a member of the Ministry of Education's council on medical education until 2000. He established the Taiwan Association of Medical Education and acted as its first President. His contributions to nutrition research, medical and graduate education, nutrition institutional development and organization, and the health and well-being of peoples in the Asia Pacific region commend him for the Asia Pacific Clinical Nutrition Society Award in 2021.

Citation by

Professor Shaw Watanabe MD, PhD

Chair of Nomination Committee
Asia Pacific Clinical Nutrition Society Award