

## Panel Meeting of NSFC-NIH Joint Program in Beijing



*Prof. Shen Yan, Vice President of NSFC joined the bilateral workshop on project management of NSFC and NIH.*



*The panel meeting of joint program on biomedical research between NSFC and NIH and the bilateral workshop on project management were held in Beijing on August 18—19, 2011.*

The panel meeting of joint program on biomedical research between the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the bilateral workshop on project management were successfully held in Beijing on August 18—19, 2011. Prof. Shen Yan, Vice President of NSFC congratulated on the successful launch of the joint program and expressed his hope for a

promising future of the program at the opening ceremony. 16 representatives from NIH, headed by Hugh Auchincloss, Deputy Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), and a 12-member Chinese panel, chaired by Prof. Zhan Qimin from the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and staff from the Department of Health Sciences, Bureau of International Cooperation attended the meetings.

Since the signing of MOU on cooperation in basic medical research by President Chen Yiyu of NSFC and Director Francis Collins of NIH on October 14, 2010, the two organizations have been working closely to carry out the funding of joint research programs.

34 projects were selected for joint funding over the meeting. The two sides also held discussions on topics such as priority areas for the next round and evaluation and funding mechanisms. Besides, a workshop on funding management was held following the evaluation session and staff member from both sides shared experience and ideas on issues ranging from peer review process to post-funding management.

The meeting has been highly recognized by both sides as a milestone in the collaboration between NSFC and NIH.

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## **NSFC and CAS's New Round Collaboration for Large Scientific Facilities**

National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) signed an agreement with Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) in Beijing on July 12, 2011 initiating the phase II collaboration for large scientific facilities. According to the agreement, during 2012—2014, the two sides will invest a total of \$180 million yuan RMB for the joint fund to support the use of large scientific facilities for scientific research. Prof. Shen Wenqing, Vice President of NSFC and Prof. Zhan Wenlong, Vice President of CAS signed the agreement on behalf of the two parties.

The phase II collaboration is a renewal on the basis of the smooth implementation of the phase I agreement of 2009—2011. The total joint fund for phase I is 120 million yuan RMB. Aiming to encourage for taking full use of Beijing Electron-Positron Collider, Lanzhou Heavy Ion Cooler-Storage-Ring Synchrotron, Hefei Synchrotron Radiation Facilities and Shanghai Synchrotron Radiation Light Source, the fund will accept applications from all over the nation.

The joint fund aims at guiding researchers in the country to carry out their research work by using of these large scientific facilities and give a full play of these scientific supporting capabilities. On the one hand, a number of research teams could be fostered based on these large scientific facilities and their innovation ability could be improved. Experimental terminals of these large scientific facilities will be continuously updated and supplemented so as to enhance their sustainable ability for multi-disciplinary research. High magnetic field facilities are also included in the large scientific facilities in the phase II collaboration.

According to the phase II agreement, the following research areas will be included; scientific issues in frontiers of physical sciences (physics, chemistry, materials science); scientific issues in the field of information science; scientific issues in life sciences (biophysics and medical science); scientific issues in the areas of environment and resources; and interdisciplinary scientific issues, etc.