

Liu Niancui 1914 - 2008



Professor Liu Niancui passed away on February 8th, 2008, in Wuhan, China, at the age of almost 94. Professor Liu was one of the leading Chinese virologists from 1940 to the 1980s and life-long collaborator and wife of Professor Gao Shangyin.

Professor Liu was involved in the early development of the first ever insect cell lines, from *Bombyx mori*. She reported the first infection of these cell lines by a baculovirus in 1958, together with Professor Gao and Professor Xie Tien An. Professor Liu worked at Wuhan University from 1947 and, over the years, served as Director of the Laboratory of Insect Virology and Director of the Faculty of Microbiology.

A detailed account of her achievements and contributions to invertebrate pathology was given during the Founders Lecture¹ at the SIP Annual Meeting of 2006 held in Wuhan. At the end of the Lecture Professor Liu accepted the Honoree's certificate on behalf of her late

husband, Professor Gao Shang-yin, and everyone present vividly remembered the fragile but mentally strong person responding to this honor in perfect English. After her husband died in 1989 she divided her time between China and the USA, where three of her four children are living, enjoying family life and keeping in touch with scientific developments through the numerous former students of her late husband.

We commemorate a remarkable innovative scientist and a very nice person who felt privileged to have such a long and interesting life.

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¹J.M. Vlak, 2007. Journal of Invertebrate Pathology 95: 152-167.