

First of all, I would like to welcome all of the participants and speakers to the International Conference in Structural Biology. It is an honor of the Department of Biochemistry to host this international conference, which has a nice mix of participants from different countries. This is the third structural biology meeting hosted by our Department after two successful Croucher Advanced Study Institute in 2003 and 2005 organized by the same team of colleagues chaired by Prof. P. C. Shaw. For this, I would like to thank them for their efforts in making this conference a successful event.

Protein science and structural biology have been a traditional strength of our Department. Many of our colleagues are engaging in structure-function research of various medically and biologically significant proteins. In 2005, we have established the Centre for Protein Science and Crystallography, which is equipped with the first facility for protein crystallography in Hong Kong. Our aim is to provide a platform to promote collaboration on structural biology within the local and international community. I am sure this conference will further provide an opportunity for local and overseas researchers in structural biology to meet and exchange ideas. I hope that through this kind of interaction, we can breed some future collaboration among us.

I wish you will enjoy the science in this meeting and have a pleasant stay in Hong Kong. November is the best time of the year, and in between your busy schedule, I hope you will have time to enjoy Hong Kong.

K.P. Fung
Chairman
Department of Biochemistry
The Chinese University of Hong Kong