

Dr. Guo-Liang Yu



Dr. Guo-Liang Yu is currently the Executive Chairman of Crown Bioscience Inc., a personalized oncology platform company with 400 employees globally. Dr. Yu co-founded Epitomics Inc., an antibody biotechnology company recently acquired by Abcam at \$170 M. He served as Chairman, President and CEO of Epitomics Inc. for 10 years.

Dr. Yu's success is driven by his scientific curiosity and a passion to translate scientific discovery to real products. He came from China to pursue advanced training after graduated in biochemistry from Fudan University in 1984. He obtained his Ph.D. in UC Berkeley where he and Dr. Greider discovered telomerase and its mechanism in Dr. Blackburn's lab. Drs. Blackburn and Greider received Nobel Prize in 2009 for their discovery.

Dr. Yu then joined Dr. Frederick Ausubel's lab at Harvard to pursue the question how plants defend themselves against pathogens without an immune system. He identified the first plant disease resistance gene. In 1993, instead of continuing his academic interests, Dr. Yu became one of the first senior scientists in Human Genome Sciences Inc., when genomics was still in its infancy, identifying human genes for drug discovery. Among several important drug targets he studied, BLys was the first successfully genomic target for the development of a lupus antibody drug Benlysta approved by FDA in 2010. In 1998, Dr. Yu was attracted to identify plant genes with economic value in agriculture and in bio-energy.

He was SVP of R&D at Mendel Biotechnology Inc. where his team analyzed the function of a complete set of plant transcription factors. Several valuable traits such as enhanced crop yield, disease resistance and drought tolerance were identified. Dr. Yu co-authored 40 peer-reviewed scientific articles that are referenced by the scientific community more than 5000 times. Dr. Yu also co-invented more than 200 patents. Guo-Liang is the founding president of Chinese Biopharmaceutical Association and serves on the boards of several professional organizations including Bayhelix, CABS, National Foundation of Cancer Research, Ray Wu Memorial Foundation, University of Pacific in the US and China.

Dr. Yu is generous in coaching young entrepreneurs and also serves on the board of directors for several start-up companies. He is also a venture partner at Orbimed Venture LLC.