

Eulogy for Ed Chou

**(Delivered at Memorial Service on Oct. 11, 2004, by Jed Fahey,
Johns Hopkins University)**

I'd like just to make a few comments in order to provide some perspective on a wonderful man.

I first met Ed about 4 years ago, and we hit it off instantly—perhaps because we were both rather intense individuals with distain for excessive protocol and formality. When I read in Ed's obituary, his daughter's comment that "he had two hobbies—work and family", I felt compelled to say for those of you who don't know, that there are a great many scientists for whom a similar statement can be made. I know that Ed was proud, as are many fellow scientists, that he did NOT have time to spend a day each week playing golf.

At one point about 2 years ago, I introduced him to a surgeon at Hopkins, who later participated in the treatment of his cancer. Ed, thus, kept me somewhat privy to the details of his treatment, and I never ceased to be amazed at the amount of energy and the ceaseless good humor with which he approached a particularly brutal schedule of chemotherapy. He timed trips to Turkey and China and Germany, and all over the world to run his business, to fit between sessions of chemo-.

Ed was unselfish to a fault. He was extraordinarily generous with his time, and he did whatever it took to get the job done—at one point we even had to force a check on him—probably the first time I've ever done that to anyone. And I'll never forget the time I stopped by the hospital to see him after he had had a particularly brutal inpatient procedure. I got there a couple of days after he had been operated on, and when I walked in the door on a Sunday afternoon, he jumped up off the bed, fully dressed, and insisted on offering me a seat—he was already waiting for his ride home and he was worrying about MY comfort.

After purchasing some equipment from Ed, my group developed some methodology with him, and we published jointly, and he then graciously introduced us to a British group who were better positioned than Pharma-Tech to take the project to the next step. Professor Ian Sutherland of that British

group, has asked me to pass along his profound respects, with the following words (*and in a British accent . . . a point on which I can't oblige him*):

**Edward Chou: A Tribute from Professor Ian A. Sutherland,
Brunel University, UK**

I would like to pay a very special tribute to a very special man. I first had contact with Edward in 1999 when I purchased a PharmaTech centrifuge from him for one of my grants. In the various contacts I had with him after that, including a visit by him to the UK, we discussed the possibility of setting up an international conference on the technology for which Edward and I shared a strong passion. Also, Edward and I both worked on separate occasions with Dr Ito at NIH, and had an extremely strong conviction that the technology had immense value that industry had not yet realized. This led to both a scientific collaboration and a friendship. It was Edward who first suggested setting up an international conference to help bring together a somewhat disparate scientific community to speak with one voice. It was his kind sponsorship that led to the 1st International Conference on Countercurrent Chromatography (CCC 2000) at Brunel in the UK in September 2000 (Figure 1).

Since then the global scientific community has become more united in developing this exciting new technology and successive conferences have been held in Beijing in April 2002 and recently in Tokyo in August 2004, with quite amazing results. The technology has now developed to the stage where small scale experiments in the laboratory can be scaled up to industrial scale separation of new anti-cancer drugs for clinical trials. It was Edward's pioneering work with the team at Johns Hopkins that led to the first successful purification of Glucoraphanin, an extract from Broccoli seed with potential anti-cancer therapeutic action. It was Edward who recommended our lab for

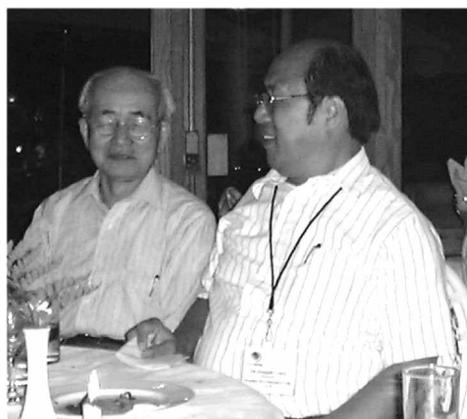


Figure 1. Yoichiro Ito and Ed Chou in London (CCC 2000).

the large scale purification of this exciting new drug for clinical trial under the auspices of the National Cancer Institute. I am pleased to say that the technology that Edward pioneered is now about to produce its first kilogram of highly pure drug for clinical trial. My only sadness is that Edward could not share our happiness in this success. However, there will be a prestigious paper published, and Edward will be a joint author. Also, the next international conference on the technology will be held at NIH in Bethesda, its original home and this conference will be dedicated to Edward Chou and his pioneering contribution to making the technology so successful and widely distributed throughout the world.