

**IBT Scientist Honored by American Heart Association**

July 29, 2004

Mingyao Liu, Ph.D., has been appointed to a peer review committee of the American Heart Association, Western Review Consortium. He is an Associate Professor in the Institute of Biosciences and Technology's Center for Cancer Biology and Nutrition with a joint appointment in the Department of Medical Biochemistry and Genetics, Texas A&M University. The institute is part of The Texas A&M University System Health Sciences Center.

The consortium is a collaborative effort between the AHA, Texas and Western States Affiliates. Members are selected based on their demonstrated accomplishments as independent investigators in their fields and ability to evaluate scientific proposals in an objective and scholarly manner.

Dr. Liu's laboratory studies how cells receive and process information from their chemical and physical environments. Among other things, he seeks to understand the biochemical properties and cellular functions of GTP-binding proteins, their signaling pathways, and their regulation in cells. A wide array of physiological functions (including vision, smell, taste, heart rate, vascular muscle contraction, neurotransmission, cell growth, and cell proliferation) are mediated through G-protein coupled signaling pathways.

The Western Review Consortium's peer review committees are responsible for the scientific evaluation of proposals to both affiliates' research programs. The committees' recommendations form the basis for the allocation of affiliate research awards.