

# ALBERT Y. SUN, Ph.D.



Albert Y. Sun, Ph.D., of Columbia, Missouri went to be with the Lord at the age of 79 on Monday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at Edward Hospital in Naperville, IL. Born on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 1932 in Amoy, China, he was the first born of Pei Chen and Siu-Ho Wu. Beloved husband of Grace, loving father of Aggie (Wen-Chung Lin) Sun, grandfather of Joshua and Caleb Lin, dear brother of Ming-Ming (Cheng-Yang Fang) Wu, Ching-Ching (Yin-Ling Hou) Wu, Allan (Amy) Wu, Angela (George Hsi) Sun, Hsin-Hsin (Julia J.) Chou, You-Shia (Ker-Lien Lee) Wu and Bessie (Sam) Yang, and is also survived by 15 nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters and one nephew.

Professor Albert Sun received his B.S. degree in Agricultural Chemistry from the National Taiwan University. He then came to the U.S. where he pursued a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Oregon State University at Corvallis, Oregon, and further postdoctoral training in Biochemistry at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1969, Dr. Sun began his work as a research scientist in the Neurochemistry laboratory at the Cleveland Psychiatric Institute where he pioneered studies on Na, K-ATPase and synaptic membrane excitation, and mechanisms of bioenergetics (mitochondrial oxidative-phosphorylation) in the brain. In 1974, Dr. Sun was recruited as Research Professor to the Sinclair Comparative Medicine Research Farm at the University of Missouri in Columbia. Here, he furthered his research in neuroscience, focusing on mechanisms of free radical reactions and oxidative stress in brain damage, aging and neurodegenerative disorders, using cell and animal models. He was recognized by his discovery on the free radical hypothesis of ethanol and its oxidative damage in brain membranes. In 1989, Dr. Sun became an active member in the Department of Pharmacology and initiated research linking neuropharmacology to age-related neurodegenerative diseases. He was recognized by his contribution on furthering the concept of the “French Paradox”, and subsequently demonstrated the neuroprotective effects of resveratrol, a polyphenol antioxidant found in grapes and red wine. Dr. Sun’s research activity was supported by a number of NIH R01 grants, and published over 150 papers in quality journals. Dr. Sun was also a pioneer faculty member of the MU Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program and the Center for Translational Neuroscience, and in recent years, an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences. Although he retired and became a Professor *emeritus* in 2005, he continued to actively engage in research on botanical polyphenols as a member of both the MU Alzheimer’s disease Research Program (Dr. Grace Sun) and the MU Center for Botanical Interaction

Studies (Dr. Dennis Lubahn). For over 45 years, Dr. Albert Sun worked side by side with his wife, Dr. Grace Sun, to enhance the understanding of biochemical and biophysical mechanisms underlying neurodegenerative diseases and to develop novel therapeutic potentials to combat these diseases.

Dr. Sun was also active in professional organizations to include the Free Radical Society, the Society of Neurosciences, the International Society of Biomedical Research in Alcoholism (ISBRA), the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and the American and International Societies for Neurochemistry. In fact, he was a founding member of the American Society for Neurochemistry and the Society for Neurosciences. Over the years, Dr. Sun had chaired a number of workshops and symposia including the “Workshop on Ethanol and Oxidative Stress” at the ISBRA International Meeting in Yokohama, Japan, 2000; the International Symposium on Recent Advances in the Biomedical Research in Alcoholism in Taipei, Taiwan, 1988 and 2000; the Satellite Symposia of the International Society for Neurochemistry in Taipei, Taiwan, 1982 and 1989 on “Neurotransmission and Signal Transduction”; the Satellite Symposium on Neurodegenerative disorders in Guilin, China, 2004; and the Satellite Symposium on “Novel strategies for intervention in neurodegenerative diseases” in Taipei, Taiwan, 2009. He was an invited speaker on the “French paradox” at the ISBRA in Mannheim, Germany, September, 2004. Recently, he was a managing editor of a special issue entitled “Oxidative Stress and Neurodegenerative Disorders: Protective Effects of Natural Products”.

Besides being a great mentor to many students, postdocs and junior faculty, Dr. Sun was also a devoted Christian, setting an example of faith, service, and humility for those who were blessed to be influenced by him. He and his wife started the Columbia Chinese Christian Fellowship, which became today’s Columbia Chinese Christian Church. As an Elder of the Church, he devoted much time and energy to his ministry among Chinese students and families. He served as a board member of the Christian Witness Center in Warsaw, Missouri, for more than 30 years.

A private funeral service was held at the Friedrich-Jones Funeral Home (Naperville, IL) on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012, with interment at the Naperville Cemetery. A memorial service has been planned in Columbia at 2:00 pm on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the Forum Christian Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial offerings for Albert Sun may be directed to the Columbia Chinese Christian Church (CCCC), 3316 Rock Quarry Road, Columbia, Missouri 65201. For more detailed information and sharing of messages and memories (Chinese or English), please visit <http://ccccmo.org/albert>