

PRESS RELEASE FROM NATURE PUBLISHING GROUP
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Nature Publishing Group holds launch events for *Nature China* in Beijing and Shanghai

LONDON – In a move to raise the profile of the best scientific research published in mainland China and Hong Kong, Nature Publishing Group (NPG) with the support of AstraZeneca held events in Beijing and Shanghai earlier this week to celebrate the official launch of the new web-based publication *Nature China* (www.naturechina.com).

The website, which has a mirror site in China hosted by Tsinghua University at www.naturechina.com.cn, was officially launched at two one-day symposia on “How to Get Published in *Nature* Journals” in Beijing and Shanghai on Saturday 9 June and Monday 11 June, respectively.

“This new member of the *Nature* family will increase the international profile of research articles from China in scientific literature as well as aid mutual communications between Chinese scientists,” says Philip Campbell, Editor-in-Chief of *Nature* who gave presentations at the two events.

According to results presented at the symposia by David Swinbanks, NPG Publishing Director for the Asia-Pacific region, in 2006, scientists from mainland China and Hong Kong published more than 80,000 scientific papers that were indexed by the Institute of Scientific Information (ISI) in the United States. This output comes close to matching the annual outputs of Japan and the United Kingdom and the annual rise in the number of manuscripts from China is so dramatic that China will soon overtake Japan and the United Kingdom in the quantity of published scientific research. Additional data from ISI indicates that the number of high impact papers from China with large numbers of citations are also increasing rapidly in number year on year.

Every week, *Nature China*'s editors select some of the best recently published research from across the scientific and medical literature, and provide short easy-to-understand summaries of the results. The website also has the facility for users to recommend research articles for highlighting and to vote on those recommendations.

Furthermore, the website has an archive of highlights of 154 research articles published in top scientific journals since 2000 and in the case of research articles highlighted from *Nature* journals the original full text scientific articles are made freely available to registered users of *Nature China*.

“We at NPG anticipate growing interest in *Nature China* both within and outside China as the volume of research articles highlighted and recommended on the website grows”, commented David Swinbanks. “Pinpointing where the best research is being carried out in China is difficult for observers both within and outside China. *Nature China* will raise awareness of China's best science to the benefit of China and the world of science as a whole.”

Nature China is sponsored by AstraZeneca, a leading pharmaceutical company that has strongly invested in R&D in China. “In recent years we have seen fast growth of research and development in China. An increasing number of Chinese scientists have published their research in top international journals,” said Dr. Xiaolin Zhang, Head of the Innovation Center China, an R&D center that AstraZeneca recently set up

in Shanghai. "AstraZeneca is committed to being 'in China for China'. Sponsoring the *Nature China* website is a good example of our efforts to strengthen collaborations with China's scientific community and further improve their discovery capability."

Jointly organized by NPG, Science Times, ScienceNet, and SciDev.Net, and sponsored by AstraZeneca, the event in Beijing on "How to get published in *Nature Journals*" attracted nearly 300 leading and promising scientists. A similar event on the same topic sponsored by AstraZeneca was also held in Shanghai on June 11 at the Shanghai Information Center for Life Sciences. This event was jointly organized by NPG, the Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences (SIBS) and the editorial team of *Cell Research*, China's highest impact science journal published by SIBS in partnership with NPG, and attracted 150 leading researchers from the region.

About Nature Publishing Group (NPG):

Nature Publishing Group (NPG) is a division of Macmillan Publishers Ltd. It is dedicated to serving the academic, professional scientific and medical communities. NPG's flagship title, *Nature*, was first published in 1869. Other publications include *Nature* research journals, *Nature Reviews*, *Nature Clinical Practice* and a range of prestigious academic journals including society-owned publications. NPG also provides news content through news@nature.com. Scientific career information and free job postings are offered on Naturejobs.

NPG is a global company with headquarters in London and offices in New York, San Francisco, Washington DC, Boston, Tokyo, Paris, Munich, Hong Kong, Melbourne, Delhi, Mexico City and Basingstoke. For more information, please go to www.nature.com.

About AstraZeneca:

AstraZeneca is a major international healthcare business engaged in research, development, manufacturing and marketing of prescription pharmaceuticals and supplier for healthcare services. AstraZeneca is one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies with healthcare sales of US \$26.47 billion and is a leader in gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, neuroscience, respiratory, oncology and infection product sales. AstraZeneca is listed in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (Global) as well as the FTSE4Good Index.

AstraZeneca China has its headquarters in Shanghai, with branch offices in more than 20 cities across mainland China. The manufacturing plant located in Wuxi, Jiangsu province was inaugurated in 2001. In May 2006, AstraZeneca announced to invest \$100M into R&D, which will be focused primarily on establishing the AstraZeneca Innovation Centre China (ICC), a leading edge biomarker research center initially targeting cancer therapies specifically relevant for Chinese patients. For more information please visit: www.astrazeneca.com.cn.

About Science Times/ScienceNet:

ScienceNet, a portal that aims to serve Chinese science community, is a new member of Science Times Media Group (STMG). Its goal is to provide timely and reliable science news and an interactive platform where its users can communicate in an effective and inexpensive way. It is our aspiration to become the leading science portal for the Chinese science community. ScienceNet is co-sponsored by CAS, CAE and NSFC. Science Times is a leading newspaper about science and higher education in China.

About SciDev.Net:

The Science and Development Network (SciDev.Net: www.scidev.net) is the world's leading electronic source of news, views and analysis about science, technology and the developing world. It seeks to help individuals and organisations in the developing world make informed decisions on science and technology related issues that impact on social and economic development.

About SIBS:

The Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences (SIBS) was established in 1999 through reorganization of the 8 former CAS biological institutes, namely Shanghai Institute of Biochemistry, Shanghai Institute of Cell Biology, Shanghai Institute of Physiology, Shanghai Brain Research Institute, Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, Shanghai Institute of Plant Physiology, Shanghai Institute of Entomology and Shanghai Research Center of Biotechnology. Later on, the CAS National Center for Gene Research, Shanghai Life Science Research Center, CAS Shanghai Laboratory Animal and CAS Shanghai Documentation

Information Center were also incorporated into SIBS. For further details see <http://www.sibs.ac.cn/en/index.asp#>

About Cell Research:

Cell Research is China's leading journal in the life sciences published by SIBS (see above) in partnership with NPG. The journal has a broad scope in basic molecular and cell biology research, including cell growth and differentiation, signal transduction, apoptosis, stem cells, development, immunology, neurosciences, plant cell biology, chromatin modulation, epigenetics and transcription. For further details see <http://www.nature.com/cr/index.html>

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Further information

Images from both of the events are available on request and can be seen on the ScienceNet website at <http://www.sciencenet.cn/htmlnews/2007610175219778181637.html?id=181637>