

## Prof. Jun Ren – In Memoriam



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Professor Jun Ren on March 21, 2020, at the age of 46, from severe acute pancreatitis. He was one of China's leading scientists in the field of animal science and technological innovation and was recognized by his international colleagues in animal genetics and breeding.

Jun Ren was born on September 6, 1974, in Hengfeng County, Jiangxi Province, China. After graduating from Jiangxi Agricultural University with a master's degree in 1998, he worked at the university for four years. From June 2002 to February 2004, he studied at the University of Göttingen, Germany, and received his doctorate in animal genetics. He then returned to Jiangxi Agricultural University; he served as chief professor of the university starting in 2009, and was deputy director of the National Key Laboratory of Swine Genetic Improvement and Production for 15 years. In February 2019, he was recruited as a high-level talent to the College of Animal Science, South China Agricultural University.

Jun Ren was selected as the winner of the National Outstanding Youth Scientists Foundation, the leader of the Yangtze River Scholars Innovation Team of the Ministry of Education, and the Principal Investigator of the National Major Science and Technology Project, among other notable achievements. He gained many awards and honors, including two national prizes (2005 National Scientific and Technological Progress; 2011 National Technological Invention). Jun Ren was also selected and served as an executive member of two branches of the Chinese Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Association, and the Animal Biotechnology Branch of the Chinese Agricultural Biotechnology Society.

Together with his colleagues, Jun Ren identified a number of causal genes and mutations as well as the molecular mechanisms underlying economically important traits in pigs, such as diarrhea resistance to *E. coli* K88, rib number, muscle fatty acid composition, coat colors, and outer ear development. He made original theoretical contributions in evolutionary genetics and genomics of pigs. He published more than 50 papers in the Science Citation Index as first author or corresponding author, and had a high international reputation in the field of animal genetics and breeding.

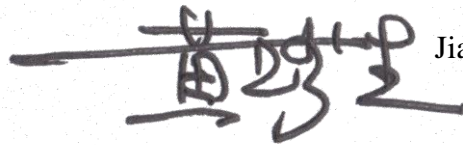
Even while engaged in scientific research, Jun Ren devoted himself to his students' education and made remarkable achievements. He had high enthusiasm for and a meticulous attitude toward teaching, and he constantly innovated teaching methods. He was deeply respected and loved by his students.

Jun Ren was rigorous in academic research, adhered to people-centered education, and carefully mentored postdoctoral, graduate, and undergraduate students. He actively advised on social governance, served society, and was always ready to help others. He worked hard and tirelessly for decades. During the COVID-19 epidemic, Jun Ren still insisted on remotely instructing students to revise research papers, and he continued his research until the onset of his illness.

We extend our deepest condolences to his family for his loss.

College of Animal Science, South China Agricultural University

National Key Laboratory for Swine Genetic Improvement and Production Technology

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized Chinese characters. The characters appear to be '黄志生' (Huang Zhisheng).

Jiangxi Agricultural University

March 22, 2020