



UMBI
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
BIOTECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE

NEWS

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UMBI Center of Marine Biotechnology Director Named Einstein Professor by Chinese Academy of Sciences

Baltimore, MD—Today UMBI's Yonathan Zohar, Ph.D., Director of the Center of Marine Biotechnology (COMB) returned to the United States as the newest Einstein Professor of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Fifteen Einstein Professors were named this year, a group that included nine Nobel Laureates. Zohar received the award in Beijing in the culmination of a four city lecture tour.

"This award is significant and demonstrates the international acclaim afforded Dr. Zohar's research," commented UMBI President Jennie C. Hunter-Cevera, Ph.D. "Dr. Zohar leads a team working to restore the mating population of blue crabs in the Chesapeake Bay. His work has led to a complete understanding of the blue crab life cycle and offers a chance to save this Maryland treasure so that generations of watermen and crab feasts will continue for decades to come."

According to Zhu Haoquan of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, "The Einstein Professors are 15 to 20 leading scientists selected each year to enhance the force of training top-level talents with leading ability; raise the innovation ability of scientific and technological talents; and strengthen contacts and exchanges with top scientists in the world."

Zohar's lectures described current trends in marine science and the molecular-based revolution in biology over the course of his career.

"The Chinese government is putting significant resources into building future generations of biologists and biotechnologists," commented Zohar. "I spoke to crowded lecture halls in gleaming new research centers. Clearly they view biotechnology and marine science as critical to their future economy."

One of five centers forming UMBI and located in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, COMB researchers apply the tools of modern biology and biotechnology to study, protect and enhance marine and estuarine resources.

With research centers in Baltimore, Rockville, and College Park, the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute is the newest of 13 institutions forming the University System of Maryland. UMBI has 85 ladder-ranked faculty and a 2006 budget of \$60 million. Celebrating the institution's 20th year of service to Maryland and the world,

UMBI is led by microbiologist and former biotechnology executive Dr. Jennie C. Hunter-Cevera. For more information visit www.umbi.umd.edu.

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Dr. Zohar addresses Chinese scientists in Beijing.