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Structural aspects of encapsidation signals in RNA viruses

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Curriculum Vitae

Shih-Cheng Chen was born on November 4th 1979 in Shin-Chu County, Taiwan. From 1995 to 1998, he went to Chien-Kuo high school. During this time he also did his very first research project in Developmental Neurology under supervision of Dr. Cheng-Ting Chien at the Institute of Molecular Biology at the Academia Sinica in Taipei.

In 1998, he joined the program of Agricultural Chemistry as a graduate student at National Taiwan University. He further took on a postgraduate study at the Institute of Microbiology and Biochemistry in 2002, where he studied the bio-synthesis of secondary metabolites of traditional Chinese herbs and the production of therapeutic proteins in plant cell cultures in Dr. Kung-Ta Lee's laboratory.

In 2003 Shih-Cheng Chen joined the MSc program of Biodiversity and Nature Products at Leiden University, The Netherlands. There he studied the metabolomics and transcriptomics of plants under stress, supervised by Prof. Dr. Rob Verpoorte at the Department of Metabolomics and Pharmacognosy, Institute of Biology Leiden. He obtained his MSc diploma with distinction (*cum laude*) a year and a half later.

In 2005, he started with his PhD research at the Leiden Institute of Chemistry (LIC) under supervision of Dr. René Olsthoorn and Prof. Dr. Cornelis Pleij. The results of this research are described in this thesis. Since March 2010, Shih-Cheng Chen has joined the research group of Prof. Dr. Reuven Agami at the National Cancer Institute (NKI), The Netherlands.

List of publications

- **Chen SC and Olsthoorn RCL.** 2010. Group-specific structural features of the 5' untranslated region of coronavirus RNAs. *Virology*. (in press doi:10.1016/j.virol.2010.02.007)
- **Chen SC and Olsthoorn RCL.** 2010. In vitro and in vivo studies on the RNA conformational switch of Alfalfa mosaic virus. *J. Virol.* 84:1423-1429
- **Chen SC and Olsthoorn RCL.** 2010. Structural homology between Bamboo mosaic virus and its satellite RNAs in the 5' untranslated region. *J. Gen. Virol.* 91:782-787
- **Chen SC, Gulyaev AP, Pleij CWA, Olsthoorn RCL.** 2009. A secondary structure model for the 3'-untranslated region of Ilarvirus RNAs. In Feng Z and Long M (ed.) *Viral Genomes: Diversity, Properties and parameters*. Chapt. III, Nova Science publishers.
- **Chen SC, van den Born E, van den Worm SH, Pleij CW, Snijder EJ, and Olsthoorn RC.** 2007. New structure model for the packaging signal in the genome of group IIa coronaviruses. *J. Virol.* 81:6771-6774.
- **Lee KT, Chen SC, Chiang BL, Yamakawa T.** 2007. Heat-inducible production of beta-glucuronidase in tobacco hairy root cultures. *Appl. Microbiol. Biotechnol.* 73:1047-1053.
- **Chen SC, Liu HW, Lee KT, Yamakawa T.** 2007. High-efficiency *Agrobacterium rhizogenes*-mediated transformation of heat inducible sHSP18.2-GUS in *Nicotiana tabacum*. *Plant Cell Rep.* 26:29-37.

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