

Cover legend: **Wei Zhu;** a member of The Editorial Academy of
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Professor Wei Zhu earned his bachelor's degree in entomology from the Chinese Agricultural University and completed his master's and Ph.D. degrees in Biology at the Zoological Institute of the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, in 1999. His doctoral research resulted in six publications focusing on signaling molecules in insect physiology and pest control and contributed to several research projects, including a European Community Project.

After completing his Ph.D., Professor Zhu received a postdoctoral fellowship at the Mind-Body Institute at Harvard University, where he conducted research for two years. Subsequently, he joined the Neuroscience Research Institute at the State University of New York (SUNY), College at Old Westbury, as senior research faculty. In 2007, he was appointed as professor under the SUNY Empire Innovation Program.

Professor Zhu has led numerous NIH-funded and privately funded projects. As a protein and opiate alkaloid biochemist, he has developed pioneering techniques for their detection

and functional analysis. In 2005, Professor Zhu made the groundbreaking discovery that human white blood cells produce morphine, for which he was awarded two patents. He has also identified bioactive chemicals in plants and animals that can assist in treating various disorders, including neurodegenerative diseases, cancer, and autoimmune conditions.

In addition to his academic achievements, Professor Zhu has secured private investments to utilize DNA microarray and RNA sequencing technologies to study animal and human physiology, with a focus on public health applications. Over the years, he has received several prestigious honors, including the SUNY Chancellor Award, the Empire Innovation Award, and the SUNY Research Foundation's Innovation Award.

In 2015, Professor Zhu founded the SCI Research Institute, where he serves as the founding director. Under his leadership, the institute has advanced multidisciplinary research in biomedical science, artificial intelligence, and machine learning.

Professor Zhu has authored over 80 publications in peer-reviewed journals. In 2006, he was appointed a visiting professor at the National Center for Pain Management at the China-Japan Friendship Hospital in Beijing, China. Since 2000, he has dedicated himself to teaching and mentoring students in biomedical research and has actively supervised the SUNY Old Westbury Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (C-STEP).