

May – Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
May 1-31

May is [Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month](#) – a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.

The NIH Clinical Center treats a diverse group of patients from all over the world. It also draws researchers from different cultures and backgrounds. Learn more about some of the many Asian Pacific American researchers who conduct their work at the Clinical Center.



Leighton Chan, M.D., is a senior investigator and chief of the Clinical Center's [Rehabilitation Medicine Department](#).

Dr. Chan received his B.A. degree from Dartmouth College, with a major in political science, and graduated from the UCLA School of Medicine in 1990. He completed postgraduate training in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Washington, during which he obtained a Master of Science degree in Rehabilitation Science.

Subsequently, he completed a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar Fellowship, earned a Master of Public Health degree at the University of Washington School of Public Health and was a Congressional Fellow for the Honorable Jim McDermott (Washington-07).

From 1994 to 2006, Dr. Chan was on the faculty of the University of Washington's Department of Rehabilitation Medicine. He is board certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation. His awards include the Young Academician Award from the Association of Academic Physiatrists, two outstanding teacher awards from the University of Washington School of Medicine and a Presidential Citation Award for excellence in research by the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

He has published more than 80 peer reviewed articles and numerous book chapters. Since coming to NIH, he has received the NIH CC Director's and the NIH Director's awards for his work in traumatic brain injury. In 2007 he was elected to the Institute of Medicine and he currently serves as the Chair of the IOM Membership Committee.

Read Dr. Chan's [bio](#). Learn more about his [research at the Clinical Center](#).



Jung-Min Lee, M.D., conducts research for the National Cancer Institute's Center for Cancer Research at the NIH Clinical Center. She is an Assistant Clinical Investigator in the Women's Malignancies Branch.

Dr. Lee is a graduate of Yonsei University, Wonju College of Medicine, in South Korea.

She completed residency training in internal medicine at the Albert Einstein Medical College, followed by a clinical research fellowship on breast cancer functional imaging at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

Dr. Lee came to the NCI for medical oncology training in the Medical Oncology Branch (MOB). Subsequently, she joined the Molecular Signaling Section/Women's Cancers Clinic in the MOB to investigate potential biomarkers and develop rational combinations of targeted therapies for rare subsets of women's cancers. Dr. Lee maintains her clinical focus in the development of early clinical trials for ovarian cancer and rare subsets of women's cancers, such as BRCA1/2mut carriers with ovarian and/or breast cancers or women with triple negative breast cancer (TNBC).

Dr. Lee is a participating member in the Gynecologic Oncology Group, American Association for Cancer Research, American Society for Clinical Oncology and the Breast and Gynecologic Malignancies Faculty of the CCR. She was awarded the 2011 Jane C. Wright M.D. Young Investigator Award from the American Society of Clinical Oncology and the 2012 New York Ovarian Cancer Research Award from the Foundation for Women's Cancers.

Learn more about Dr. Lee's [research](#).



Janice Y. Chou, Ph.D., conducts research for the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in the NIH Clinical Center, is a Senior Investigator for the Section on Cellular Differentiation.

Dr. Janice Y. Chou is the section chief on Cellular Differentiation for the Program on Developmental Endocrinology and Genetics at NICHD, a position she has held since 1983.

In this role, Dr. Chou conducts research to understand the molecular genetics and pathogenesis of glycogen storage diseases type Ia (GSD-Ia) and type Ib (GSD-Ib), which arise from defects in glucose-6-phosphate metabolism, and a severe congenital neutropenia syndrome caused by glucose-6-phosphatase-beta (G6Pase-beta) deficiency. Through the use of transgenic mouse models, Dr Chou also pioneers preclinical development of gene-based therapies for these disorders.

Dr. Chou received her Ph.D. degree in biochemistry from the University of Utah and began her postgraduate scientific career at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases at NIH. She then joined NICHD and was promoted to section chief in 1983.

During her career at the NIH, Dr. Chou has made contributions across a wide area of gene regulation and cellular differentiation, including the development of some of the first temperature-sensitive cell lines, the elucidation of the mechanism of cell transformation and the characterization of gene regulatory sequences and transcription factors in the context of developmentally regulated genes. Since 1993, her research has focused on the molecular genetics of human heritable disorders. She has established the genetic basis of

methionine adenosyltransferase deficiency, GSD-Ia, GSD-Ib, and G6Pase-beta deficiency, and developed gene therapy for GSD-Ia and GSD-Ib.

Dr. Chou holds two patents and has served as a member of the Personnel Promotion Committee at NICHD, the Selection Committee of the Reproduction Scientist Development Program and the Association for Glycogen Storage Diseases.

She has received a Superior Service Award from the U.S. Public Health Service and a Scientific Achievement Award from the Chinese Medical and Health Association. Dr. Chou has authored over 200 peer-reviewed scientific papers, review articles and book chapters.

Learn more about her [research](#).



T. Jake Liang, M.D., conducts research for the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases at the NIH Clinical Center and is a Senior Investigator and Chief of the Liver Diseases Branch.

Dr. Liang earned his bachelor's and medical degrees at Harvard and completed an internship and residency at Bellevue Hospital Center and New York University Medical Center.

He then did clinical and research fellowships in medicine and gastroenterology at Harvard and Massachusetts' General Hospital. Before joining NIH in 1996, Dr. Liang practiced medicine at Massachusetts General and taught at Harvard University. His research interests include the molecular and cell biology of hepatitis B and C viruses; molecular oncogenesis of hepatocellular carcinoma; and the pathogenesis of viral hepatitis.

Learn more about his [research](#).



Emily Y. Chew, M.D., conducts research for the National Eye Institute at the NIH Clinical Center. She is a senior investigator in the Clinical Trials Branch.

Dr. Chew is the deputy director of the Division of Epidemiology and Clinical Applications (DECA) at NEI and is also the chief of the Clinical Trials Branch in the division.

She received her medical degree and her ophthalmology training at the University of Toronto in Canada.

She completed her fellowship in medical retina at the Wilmer Eye Institute, the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutes and the University of Nijmegen in the Netherlands.

Her research interest includes phase I/II clinical trials and epidemiologic studies in retinovascular diseases such as age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy and other ocular diseases. Dr. Chew has worked extensively in large, multi-centered trials headed by the staff from her division, including the Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study (ETDRS), the Age-Related Eye Disease Study (AREDS) and the Age-Related Eye Disease Study 2 (AREDS2), which she chairs.

She works on other clinical trials in collaboration with other institutes within NIH such as the Actions to Control Cardiovascular Risk in Diabetes (ACCORD) Trial and she chairs the ACCORD Eye Study. She directs the clinical portion of the international study, Macular Telangiectasia Project.

Learn more about Dr. [Chew](#).