

## Yaoming Hu

1966 - 2008

This weekend saw the passing of our former student and good friend to many in our Division Dr. Yaoming Hu. While this was not unexpected because of the recent expansion of his long-term illness, it does not lessen the sadness. Dr. Wang of IVPP provides more details of Yaoming's life in the message below. To lose an outstanding scientist and wonderful person at such a young age is always terrible, but it is even more painful when it involves such a cherished colleague and the father of a young son. We can draw some small comfort by the fact that Meng Jin recently was able to overcome serious logistical obstacles to arrange for Yaoming to return to China, so that he could spend his final days in his homeland.



It was my privilege to have gotten to know Yaoming in New York; a kind and gentle man, but also a powerful intellect and insightful and productive researcher. Our entire academic community will miss him.

With sympathy,

John

John J. Flynn  
Chairman and Frick Curator, Division of Paleontology  
American Museum of Natural History

---

Dear friends of Yaoming Hu,

It is with deepest regret to announce the passing away of Dr. Yaoming Hu on April 12, 2008, at the age of 42 years, after a heavy illness. He was born on October 27, 1966 in Jiangsu, China. In 1988 he graduated from the Department of Geology of the Peking University, after a four years course in Geology. He was granted the degree of Master of Paleontology in the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1992, and the Ph. D. in Biology in the City University of New York in 2006.

Beginning with 1992 Yaoming was working at the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, as a Research Assistant, an Assistant Research Professor, Associate Research Professor, and a Research Professor. During his scientific life he was engaged in studies on the Mesozoic and Paleogene mammals of China and became a well-known specialist on them. His contributions cover the anatomy, phylogeny, systematics, biostratigraphy and related issues of many Paleogene and Mesozoic mammal groups, including anaglidids, yuomyid rodents, rhombomyid glires, leporid and ochotonid lagomorphs, repenomamid and

gobiconodontid triconodonts, eobaatarid multituberculates, spalacotheriid symmetrodonts, and the gliding volaticotheriid, etc.

Yaoming has been a hard worker, entirely devoted to science. He had a very kind, serene and modest character, with unusual sense of humor. He had a happy family life with his wife Yanjie, and left behind a four-year-old son. He will be missed and long remembered by those of us who knew and loved him.

Yuanqing Wang  
Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology  
Chinese Academy of Sciences