**JES**

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# News: Eight research teams receive Outstanding Publication Awards

Eight research groups have been nominated and selected to receive Outstanding Publication Awards, in recognition of their significant contributions to the *Journal of Environmental Sciences* (*JES*) through their scholarly publications. The award recipients were celebrated and invited to present their recent research at a Special *JES* Symposium of the 9th National Conference on Environmental Chemistry, held in Hangzhou, China, on October 19-22, 2017. This symposium was co-organized by Professors Chris Le (University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada), Guibin Jiang (Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing), and Chunxia Wang (National Natural Science Foundation of China, Beijing), with the support of Drs. Yijun Yao (Zhejiang University, Hangzhou) and Suqin Liu (*JES* Office, Beijing).

For the inaugural *JES* Outstanding Publication Awards, candidate papers were nominated from nearly 1000 articles published between 2013 and 2015. Authors of two to three papers from each year were then selected to receive the awards.

The collaborative team of Professor Yuanhang Zhang at Peking University and Professor Xingang Liu at Beijing Normal University was recognized for their series of outstanding publications, such as the "role of secondary aerosols in haze formation in summer in the Megacity Beijing" (Han et al., 2015a). They have published extensively on the topics of haze formation, secondary aerosols, and air quality (Han et al., 2015b; Li et al., 2015; Sun et al., 2015; Liu et al., 2016).

The research group of Professor Aiqin Wang at Lanzhou Institute of Chemical Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, has published several papers (Tian et al., 2016; Zhang et al., 2015; Zheng et al., 2015) on new materials and their environmental applications to potential remediation and removal of contaminants. Professor Junlian Qiao and colleagues at Tongji University, Shanghai, described the use of weak magnetic field to improve the removal of Cr(VI) by zero-valent iron (Feng et al., 2015).

The team of Professors Longhua Wu and Pengjie Hu at the Institute of Soil Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences, reported on "effects of water management on arsenic and cadmium speciation and accumulation in an upland rice cultivar" (Hu et al., 2015). This work was highlighted in *JES* (Newbigging et al., 2015), and has received much attention.

Professors Shuxiao Wang and Jiming Hao at Tsinghua University are among the most prolific environmental scientists studying air quality and atmospheric chemistry. Their *JES* publication in 2014 on "effectiveness of national air pollution control policies on the air quality in metropolitan areas of China" (Wang et al., 2014) and their subsequent publications have made significant impact. These papers cover the topics of $PM_{2.5}$ (Long et al., 2016; Wang et al., 2015), mercury (Ancora et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2016), haze (Han et al., 2016), and modeling and policy related to air quality (Ding et al., 2016; Zhu et al., 2015).

Professor Hongbin Cao, Professor Yuping Li, and colleagues at the Institute of Process Engineering, Chinese Academy of Sciences, published four papers in *JES* in 2014, best represented by their studies on the Fenton-like degradation of 4-chlorophenol (Duan et al., 2014). They have subsequently described a phase transfer protocol for the extraction of noble metal ions (Chen et al., 2015).

Professor Shujuan Zhang and colleagues at Nanjing University reviewed potential applications of carbon nanotubes (CNTs) in water treatment (Liu et al., 2013). To understand the aggregation and deposition behavior of CNTs in aqueous solutions, they have modeled the dispersion stability of CNTs in the natural aquatic system (Zhou et al., 2015). Professor Zhengwei Fu and colleagues at Zhejiang University of Technology compared the toxic effects of silver nanoparticles and silver ions on the growth of a terrestrial plant at the physiological, ultrastructural, and molecular levels (Qian et al., 2013). They have recently studied the effects of herbicides on rice rhizosphere microorganisms (Chen et al., 2017).

The team of *JES* editors and editorial board congratulates all award recipients and acknowledges all authors, reviewers, and readers for their support of *JES*. *JES* will continue to grant Outstanding Publication Awards in future years and to seek great contributions and suggestions.

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