



The State University  
of New York

## Office of the Chancellor

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## **MEMORANDUM**

**September 16, 2025**

**TO: Members of the Board of Trustees**

**FROM: Dr. John B. King, Jr, Chancellor**

**SUBJECT: Naming of an Endowed Fund for Research at the State University of New York at Stony Brook**

### **Action Requested**

The proposed resolution names the Yang Manzhen Endowed Fund for Excellence in Biochemistry and Cell Biology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

### **Resolution**

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

**Resolved** that, in recognition of the philanthropic commitment by Dr. Guojuan “Amy” Liao, hereby approved.

### **Background**

The Yang Manzhen Endowed Fund for Excellence in Biochemistry and Cell Biology will help to support research and teaching at the State University of New York at Stony Brook (SBU) in biochemistry and cell biology. This fund is named after Dr. Liao’s maternal grandmother, who encouraged and supported her passion and career as a scientist and entrepreneur.

Dr. Liao, a SBU 1993 PhD graduate in Biochemistry and Cell Biology, was attracted to the State University of New York at Stony Brook for graduate studies because of its Nobel Laureate faculty member, C.N. Yang. She quickly found a home in Dr. Stanford Simon’s laboratory where research translation to industry was encouraged and practiced. Dr. Liao has had a distinguished career in genomics services and sciences. She founded or co-founded multiple biotechnology companies, including GENEWIZ, which was acquired by Brooks

Automation. Now known as GENEWIZ from Azenta Life Sciences, the company provides a suite of gene reading, writing and editing solutions. Dr. Liao's current company, Couragene, advances gene and biologic therapy through innovative delivery platforms which will deliver genetic medicines to the targeted cells *in vivo*.

In 2023, Dr. Liao established the Dr. Stanford Simon Endowed Fellowship in Biochemistry for graduate students in honor of her State University of New York at Stony Brook doctoral advisor and mentor.