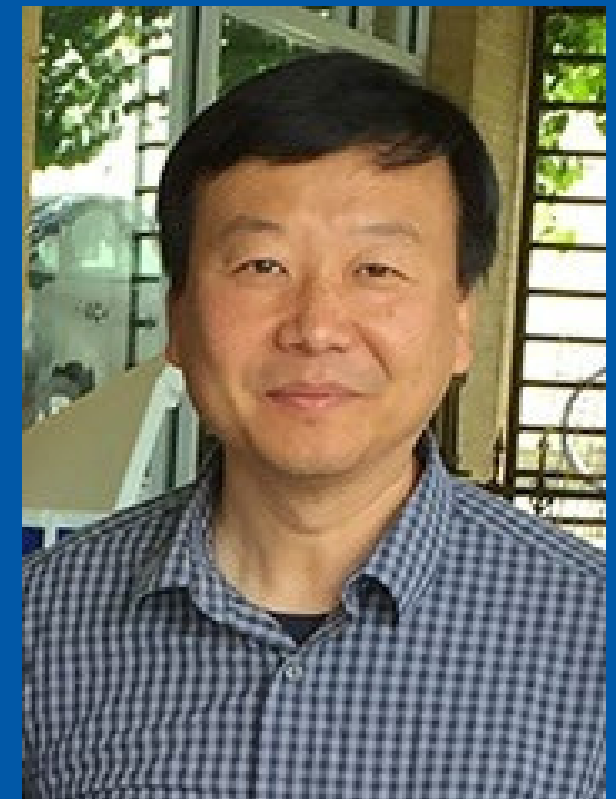


In Memory of Professor Meng Chen,

We are deeply saddened by the sudden and untimely passing of our friend and colleague, **Professor Meng Chen**, a distinguished plant biologist and valued member of the UC Riverside research community.



Meng joined **UC Riverside's Department of Botany and Plant Sciences in 2015**, bringing to UCR an internationally recognized research program in plant light signaling. At UCR, Meng and his research group made important advances in understanding how plants sense and respond to light and temperature, particularly through their studies of phytochromes, photobodies, thermomorphogenesis, and chloroplast development. His highly productive years at UCR resulted in numerous influential publications and contributed significantly to UCR's international visibility in plant biology and photobiology.

Meng's passing was profoundly unexpected and came far too soon. We miss him tremendously—as a scientist, colleague, mentor, and friend. As we mourn his loss, **we can honor Meng by keeping his science alive and carrying forward the curiosity, ideas, and passion for discovery that defined his work. In doing so, we keep his spirit and legacy alive in our hearts and in our scientific community.**