

Speaker Bio

Ben-Yang Liao, Ph.D.

Dr. Ben-Yang Liao is an Investigator at the Institute of Population Health Sciences, National Health Research Institutes (NHRI) in Taiwan. He earned his M.S. in Zoology from National Taiwan University in 2002 and his B.S. in Biology from National Taiwan Normal University in 1998. Dr. Liao completed his Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in 2008, and joined NHRI as a faculty member that same year. He has been with NHRI since 2008, initially serving as an Assistant Investigator until 2012, then as an Associate Investigator from 2013 to 2017, and becoming an Investigator in 2018.

Dr. Liao's research focuses on evolutionary genetics and molecular biology, using bioinformatics and comparative approaches to explore evolutionary mechanisms and the genetic factors that underlie human diseases. His work covers several areas, including protein evolution, gene regulation, the molecular causes of traits and disorders, the regulation of duplicate genes, and gene family evolution. Additionally, he contributes to the development of animal models for biomedical research and bioinformatics tools for functional genomic analysis.

Throughout his career, Dr. Liao has received numerous honors, including the Research Achievement Award for Junior Research Investigator from NHRI in 2013, the Ta-You Wu Memorial Award from the Ministry of Science and Technology in 2015, and the Junior Research Investigator Award from Academia Sinica in 2018. He also serves as an Associate Editor for *Frontiers in Genetics* and *BMC Ecology and Evolution*.

Dr. Liao is deeply involved in the evolutionary biology community in Taiwan. He served as the Director of the Taiwan Society of Evolution and Computational Biology from 2018 to 2021, became the Executive Director in 2021, and assumed the role of President in 2024. His ongoing research continues to provide valuable insights into evolutionary genetics and biomedical sciences, advancing our understanding of the genetic basis of evolution and human health.