



Legend of the Spanish Workshop

In the year 2000 AD, Spanish **Knight Josep Yuste** of Barcelona galloped to the little city of Manhattan, Kansas, USA on a bicycle and declared that he will be the most hard working research scholar in the Kingdom of Fung, and that he will bring Honor and Glory to the Universe in Scientific discoveries and achievements. And so it came to pass Knight Yuste worked day and night, rain or shine, snow or wind, ice or mud, fog or hail, tornado or flood in this enchanted Land of OZ.

Knight Yuste would come to work at 7:30 a.m. and would not go home until 11:30 p.m. to a room with nothing but a bed, a pile of books and notes, and a kitchen. In the laboratory, he designed experiments after experiments, worked on projects after projects, helped other young Knights and Ladies in their experiments as well. He came up with wonderful ideas in injuring and

killing naughty, nasty, bad, ugly, and deadly *Escherichia coli* O157:H7, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Salmonella* Typhimurium, *Yersinia enterocolitica*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, etc. using innocent compounds such as charming cinnamon, lovely nisin, and bubbling carbon dioxide in apple juice. Back home in Spain, he actually used a big hammer in the form of high pressure to give these bad bugs some serious headaches.

His research in Spain won the best Ph.D. dissertation that year and he was awarded a NATO Post-Doc fellowship to go anywhere in the world to spend a year of intensive research work. How he ended up in the middle of Kansas was a mystery. But Fung wasted no time on this bright Knight. The first day he entered Fung's office, Fung jotted down all his expectations of Knight Yuste on a piece of paper. Knight Yuste was so impressed that he kept that piece of paper under his pillow and made sure he follows all the instructions. Five years later, in 2005, when he and **Lady Marta** came to Manhattan to give a talk, Knight Yuste proudly showed that piece of paper to a few hundred Lords and Ladies from all over the Universe for the 25th year celebration of the world renowned Kansas State University International Workshop on Rapid Methods and Automation in Microbiology organized by Fung since 1981. There was a huge beautiful firework display in Manhattan that night. Some dogs ran away from their homes in a mass confusion. It was indeed a fantastic celebration.

Before Knight Yuste left the Kingdom, he told Fung that there shall be a workshop in Spain very soon to carry the spirit of Manhattan to Barcelona, but on one serious condition – Fung **MUST** be present in the Spanish Workshop every year, forever. Fung said to young Knight Yuste that no one can guarantee anything forever but he will definitely come as long as he can fly.

So it came to pass in 2002, Lady Marta and Knight Yuste organized the first Spanish Rapid Methods in Food Microbiology Workshop in Barcelona, and indeed **King Fung** and **Queen Catherine** flew all the way to the royal city of Barcelona for the first Workshop. Fung was surprised to see about 200 loyal Spanish students and scientists as well as many distinguished guests and scholars from other Lands came to honor the creation of such a program. Among the guests, was the charming **Lady Dr. Cécile Lahellec** who was a most famous Food Microbiologist in the Kingdom of France, trained in the iconic Pasteur Institute! Indeed, year after year, the Spanish Workshop was successful with ca. 200 people interacted for about a week in the cutting edge of Science and Technology related to Food Microbiology. Fung kept his promise and came every year. In 2006, the Dean of Veterinary College of Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona honored Fung with the title of Distinguished Professor at the University. It indeed moved Fung to tears.

At the end of the workshop in 2007, Lady Marta and Knight Yuste presented Fung with an amazing life-like **Mini Dr. Fung Statue** (ca. 1.5 foot/0.5 meter tall) created by a famous Spanish artist. It was so real that when

Queen Catherine saw it in USA, she exclaimed “Daniel, it looks so much like you.” Fung said “IT IS ME!!” Fung proudly placed Mini Dr. Fung in a hexagonal glass case on his office desk, and when visiting scholars asked about the Statue, the old professor would smile, had a sip of coffee, and began. . . .

“Once upon a time, long, long ago in the Land of OZ, there was a Kingdom where the researchers never cease to work, ideas never end, dreams never stop, hope never fades in the quest of the Arts and Science of discovering the Wonders of the Microbial World with the slogan that ‘There was no good or bad microbes, it is how they affect us that we consider them harmful or beneficial.’, and then a Knight from Spain galloped into this enchanted World of Microbiology, and now spreads the lovely story of a New Workshop in the Old Country of Spain linking with the Old Workshop in the New Country of USA, and everybody lives happily ever after in the Camelot of Food Microbiology. . . .”

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