

Concern for the Younger Generation

On August 14, 2020, AAAJ | Asian American Justice Center published an article titled [Concern for the younger generation: The targeting and profiling of Chinese and Asian Americans and immigrants](#). It features Dr. Wei Su (苏炜博士) who serve in the U.S. Army for 24 years as a scientist. Dr. Su is one of many Asian American and immigrant scientists and researchers targeted by overzealous government prosecutions and misguided scrutiny based on ethnicity.

Increase in xenophobic rhetoric and intensified misguided scrutiny of Chinese Americans and immigrants has immeasurably harmed Chinese Americans like Dr. Su. It has fostered fear among Chinese Americans and immigrants working across different sectors nationwide from universities to federal agencies. Rather than relying on evidence and facts, the government has relied on racial profiling and gross generalizations to create suspicion around an entire race or ethnicity. The result is an entire generation of Chinese Americans and immigrants who live in fear within their own country.

Read more at: <https://bit.ly/2E13gZU>

Concern for the Older Generation

On August 11, 2020, the Brooklyn Paper reported that a group of local lawmakers are calling on the New York Police Department (NYPD) to classify a “heinous” attack on an elderly Asian-American woman in Bensonhurst as a hate crime — saying the violent incident was just the latest in a string of anti-Asian incidents across New York city spurred by the outbreak of COVID-19.

According to the report, two men approached the 89-year-old Bensonhurst resident on the evening of July 14, before the assailants slapped her in the face and lit her shirt on fire with a lighter. The assault spurred outrage throughout the Asian-American community and prompted Queens-based rapper China Mac and actor William Lex Ham to lead several hundred protesters through Bensonhurst on Aug. 1 — where they descended on the NYPD’s 62nd Precinct to denounce cops for failing to classify the attack as a hate crime. Local lawmakers spoke out against the violent attack at a press conference on Aug. 10.

Read more at: <https://bit.ly/34165oJ>

Kansas University Professor Feng "Franklin" Tao Motions to Dismiss Case

On August 14, 2020, defense lawyers for Kansas University Feng "Franklin" Tao [filed a motion to dismiss the case](#), arguing that the government seeks to use Tao's prosecution as a potential new model for the Justice Department to prosecute professors "without having to produce evidence of intellectual property theft or export control violations."

The motion takes aim at the broader China Initiative announced by the Justice Department in 2018 to counter the threat of Chinese espionage and intellectual property theft, including on American college campuses. Tao's lawyers warn that the case would open the door to criminalizing employment disputes that are better resolved by a human resources department.

Read more at: <https://bit.ly/3fZWJvK>

Update on COVID-19 Vaccine Research

On August 14, 2020, The U.S.-China Policy Foundation issued an update on COVID-19 vaccine research across the globe.

According to the update, with over 20 million cases and over 750,000 coronavirus deaths worldwide, scientists are saying the coronavirus might be worse than the 1918 Spanish Flu. The race to create a coronavirus vaccine started almost as soon as the virus was identified. The accelerated speed and volume of the global effort is unprecedented. It took four years to develop the mumps vaccine, which is currently the fastest process on record. Researchers today hope to only take 12-18 months to come out with a COVID-19 vaccine.

A growing concern as researchers around the world work on ending the coronavirus pandemic is "vaccine nationalism." Countries are moving away from a global effort to create a vaccine and are instead focusing on a race to the finish and ensuring their own country has first access to vaccines. Since this pandemic is worldwide, impacts the global economy, and continues to spread between countries, an insular approach is not wholly effective.

Read more at: <https://bit.ly/31VgOy7>

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