

THINKING ABOUT CHINA

Seven Famous Scholars Pass Away in a Week as China Experiences Another COVID Surge



A mourner carries the cremated remains of a loved one as he and other participants wear traditional white funeral clothing during a funeral in Shanghai, China, on Jan. 14, 2023. China's health care system has been struggling to cope with a surge of COVID-19 infections since the government ended nearly three years of tough zero COVID controls. (Kevin Frayer/Getty Images)



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Commentary

In the past week, at least seven high-profile professors in Chinese universities died of illness, including an academician. Three were under 60 years of age.

China has been experiencing a renewed surge of COVID-19 as a new variant, EG.5, quickly became the dominant strain over the summer. The number of celebrity deaths in July and August has clearly surpassed that of previous months, reminiscent of the situation in January this year.

Top Scholars and Researchers

Hu Ying, a member of the Chinese Communist Party

(CCP), academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and professor of chemical engineering at East China University of Science and Technology, died of illness in Shanghai on Aug. 27 at the age of 89.

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Mr. Hu's eulogy praised him as a master of chemical engineering and physical chemistry in his generation, as he pioneered a new framework of physical chemistry. He has been engaged in molecular thermodynamics research for a long time and proposed a modern molecular thermodynamics research method that combines theoretical derivation in statistical mechanics, computerized molecular simulation, and experimental determination leading Chinese research on

determination, leading Chinese research on molecular fluid thermodynamics for more than 30 years.

Xu Mengxu, a professor at Peking University's School of Electronics, passed away in Beijing on Aug. 26 at the age of 92. Mr. Xu, an expert in image coding, had long been engaged in research work on graphics signal processing and applications, including digital HDTV development.

Guo Ping, a professor at the School of Water Resources and Civil Engineering of China Agricultural University, died on Aug. 23 in Chongqing due to illness.

She was two months shy of her 60th birthday when she passed away.

She received her B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from the Harbin Institute of Technology in 1982, Northeastern University in 1988, and the University of Regina in 2009, respectively, and has been a professor at China Agricultural University since December 2009.

Ms. Guo was an expert in agricultural water

engineering and had long been engaged in teaching and scientific research in the field of hydrology and water resources. She presided over two national key research and development programs, four projects of the National Natural Science Foundation of China, and eight provincial and ministerial major scientific research projects. She won five provincial and ministerial awards, published two monographs, and was granted more than 10 intellectual property rights.

Gui Sheng, a member of the CCP, professor, and doctoral supervisor at the School of Sociology of Wuhan University, died of illness on Aug. 21. He was only 62 years old at the time of his death.

Mr. Gui's positions during his lifetime also included: chief textbook expert of the Ministry of Education's Marxist Theory Research and Construction Courses, a key project for the ministry; and vice president of the Professional Committee of Chinese Social Thought History.

Zhou Zhisheng, a member of the CCP, China's ethnic historian, and professor at Yunnan Normal University, died of illness in Kunming on Aug. 20 at the age of 50.

Mr. Zhou was a leader in philosophy and social sciences under the CCP's National Special Support Program for High-Level Talents. He was also a chief expert on major projects of the National Social Science Fund, and won an award for the category of Young and Middle-Aged Expert with Outstanding National Contributions. He enjoyed special government allowances from the State Council. The official eulogy called him an "outstanding member of the CCP."

Shuai Jian, a member of the CCP and a professor at China University of Petroleum, died of illness in Beijing on Aug. 20 at the age of 60.

According to the obituary, Mr. Shuai has been engaged in teaching and scientific research in the field of oil and gas safety for a long time and is one of the pioneers in China on the basic theory and technology of oil and gas pipeline integrity management. He has led more than 70 high-level scientific and technological research projects of the National Key Research and Development Program, the Natural Science Foundation of China, and China's three major oil companies. He has achieved

a series of innovative research findings and outstanding engineering applications in both theory and practice.

Beijing's Foreign Friend, Member of British Communist Party

Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) announced that Isabel Crook, an international communist, recipient of the CCP's Medal of Friendship, and lifelong professor emeritus of BFSU, passed away on Aug. 20 in Beijing at the age of 108.

Ms. Crook, a Canadian national, was born in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, China, on Dec. 15, 1915. She met her future husband David Crook, a British national, in Chongqing, Sichuan Province. The two traveled to the United Kingdom and got married. Inspired by Mr. Crook, she joined the Communist Party of Great Britain in 1943.

The couple went back to China as international observers in 1947. Then in 1948, at the invitation of the CCP, she became a teacher at the Central School of Foreign Affairs, the predecessor of the BFSU.

After the CCP seized power in China, Ms. Crook

taught at BFSU for more than seventy years, and participated in creating China's first series of university English courses.

In 2007, BFSU awarded Ms. Crook the title of "Honorary Lifetime Professor," and in 2016 and 2018, the CCP honored her as one of the "Top 10 Most Meritorious Foreign Teachers" and the "Most Influential Foreign Expert of the 40th Anniversary of the Reform and Opening Up of China." In September 2019, Ms. Crook was awarded the Medal of Friendship, the highest medal of the CCP's national foreign relations, which is conferred by Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

It's worth mentioning that Mr. Crook lived in China for fifty years until his death, and was imprisoned for five years during the Cultural Revolution, but ironically, his political beliefs remained largely unchanged.

Target of the Pandemic

In the past two months, various official sources in China reported many deaths of experts, senior CCP officials, corporate executives, and young and middle-aged police officers many of whom have

misused police officers, many of whom have been praised as “outstanding party members.” However, the CCP has been covering up the COVID epidemic and the cause of their deaths.

The founder of Falun Dafa, Mr. Li Hongzhi, has recently pointed out again that the COVID-19 pandemic is mainly targeting the CCP and those who blindly follow the CCP, defend the CCP, and work for the CCP, and many people have died so far, including many young people.

In January this year, Mr. Li said that more than 400 million people in China had died of COVID-19 and that the CCP has been covering up the true situation all along.

In March 2020, Mr. Li wrote an article titled “Stay Rational” in which he specifically pointed out that the pandemic has a clear target.

“Truth be told, pandemics only come when people’s morals and values have turned bad, and they have come to have a massive amount of karma.

“A pandemic like the current Chinese communist virus (or ‘Wuhan virus’) comes with a purpose

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behind it, and it has targets. It is here to weed out members of the Party and those who have sided with it,” Mr. Li said.

In his article, Mr . Li advised: “What people should do, instead, is to repent to the divine with all due sincerity, admit to their faults, and pray for a chance to change their ways.”



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Shawn Jiang is a contributor to The Epoch Times with a focus on China-related topics.

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