DAN DAN NOODLES

(from <u>Peter Chang</u>, published in Bon Appetit, October 2011)

8 ounces udon noodles

2 tablespoons vegetable oil

12 ounces ground pork

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

2 tablespoons chopped peeled ginger

3/4 cup chicken stock

2 tablespoons or less chili oil

2 tablespoons red wine vinegar

2 tablespoons soy sauce

4 teaspoon tahini

1 teaspoon Szechuan peppercorns

Pinch of sugar

2 tablespoons chopped roasted peanuts

2 tablespoons sliced scallions

Cook noodles in a large pot of boiling water until just tender (follow instructions on the package). Drain, rinse with cold water, drain again, and place in a large serving bowl (or divide the mixture in two for individual servings).

Heat vegetable oil in a medium skillet over medium heat. Add pork, season with salt and pepper, and cook for a couple of minutes (no need to fully cook the meat at this point). Add ginger; cook until pork gets lightly browned, about 2 minutes more. Stir in chicken stock, then add the chili oil, red vinegar, soy sauce, tahini, peppercorns, and a pinch of sugar.

Simmer everything together until the sauce thickens, about 7 minutes. Pour pork mixture over noodles; garnish with peanuts and scallions.