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理學院通訊

Newsletter



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Faculty Welcomes Double-Cohort Year

For the past several years, the Faculty has been working hand-in-hand with various units to prepare for the 2012/13 academic year, when two batches of students enter into the 3-year and 4-year curriculums. We were excited when the admissions results were announced, and even more so when we finally got the chance to meet our newly admitted students.

On 23 August 2012, the Faculty welcomed students admitted to the new SCIENCE Programme with an Academic Counselling Session in LT6, Lee Shau Kee Building. This session was attended by approximately 400 students, and the talks



Students were treated to a lively lion dance at the Inauguration Ceremony on 10 September 2012.

were well-received. On 27 and 28 August 2012, the Parents' Programme and Academic Counselling were held respectively for our freshmen from Mainland China. Finally on 10 September 2012, we kicked-start the academic year with the Inauguration Ceremony and officially welcomed our newly admitted students

to the Science Faculty Family. Freshmen got to make connections with teachers, staff, and students from various programmes. It was an excellent opportunity to learn more about the different programmes before the first timepoint for declaring their major programme (scheduled to take place in November this year).

Learning by Engaging and Teaching

The Faculty was pleased to receive a generous donation from **Prof. POON Wai-yin**, Associate Dean (Education) and Professor at the Department of Statistics to establish the Learning by Engaging and Teaching (LET) Programme and Scholarship. Prof. Poon was the recipient of the inaugural UGC Teaching Award (2011), and she has generously donated a portion of her prize to encourage students of our Faculty to enhance students' learning and active participation in activities and workshops so that they could be better communicators, develop good time management skills, take on more roles of leadership, and have more self-confidence, just to name a few prospective outcomes of the Programme.

The Programme is composed of three stages: training, engaging, and self-reflection. Through these three stages, participants would widen their repertoires of skills as learners, leaders, and teachers. Each year, a LET scholarship of HK\$3,000 each would be awarded to one to two outstanding participants who demonstrate exemplary performance in the Programme.



Prof. POON Wai-yin's (left) generous donation helped establish the LET Programme and Scholarship.





Celebration of the 90th Birthday of Prof. YANG Chen-ning



Prof. and Mrs. CN YANG at his birthday banquet

The University recently held a series of events to mark the occasion of the 90th birthday of Nobel Laureate in Physics, Distinguished Professor-at-Large, and Director of the Institute of Theoretical Physics, **Prof. YANG Chen-ning**. The celebrations began with a talk entitled “The Higgs Boson and Yang-Mills Theory: A Tribute to Prof. CN Yang on his 90th Birthday” by **Prof. Kenneth YOUNG** of the Physics Department, which drew an audience of over 450 senior secondary students and members of the public.

Following the talk, a symposium was held in honour of Prof. Yang’s birthday, in which four physics scholars (including **Prof. CHU Ming-chung**, **Prof. LIU Renbao**, and **Prof. XIA Keqing** of CUHK, as well as CUHK alumnus **Prof. Jason HO Tin-lun** of the Ohio State University) introduced the works of Prof. Yang and how many scientific and technological innovations have been made possible thanks to Prof. Yang’s contributions.

A banquet was held to gather colleagues, teachers, students, and friends and family to wish Prof. Yang a very happy birthday. During the banquet, CUHK Vice-Chancellor **Prof. Joseph SUNG** thanked Prof. Yang for his generosity in sharing his works and publications, as well as awards, to establish the CN Yang Archive. In addition, Prof. Sung applauded Prof. Yang’s relentless efforts in nurturing young scientists via his CN Yang Scholarship, which has benefitted 209 undergraduates and 15 postgraduates at CUHK to date. Here at the Faculty, we wish Prof. Yang Happy 90th Birthday, and Many Happy Returns.

The Mystery of ‘Little Brain’ Deterioration

Spinocerebellar ataxias (SCAs) is a group of genetic diseases that leads to the progressive deterioration of the cerebellum, which is the region of the brain responsible for motor control and coordination. Sufferers will lose the ability to move their bodies over time, have difficulty maintaining balance or coordinating basic daily movements. **Prof. Edwin CHAN Ho-yin** in the School of Life Sciences and his research team have unveiled that the failure of RNA (Ribonucleic acid), a form of nucleic acid that has the essential roles of transmitting genetic information contained in DNA (Deoxyribonucleic acid) and to synthesize proteins, to transmit genetic code properly is a cause of this incurable disease.

Back in 2008, the team discovered that certain toxic SCA RNA molecules disrupt the function of RNA/protein hybrids (ribosomes)

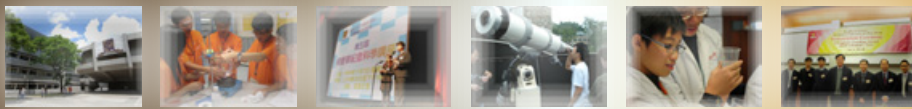
that are required for protein biosynthesis. More specifically, Professor Chan and his team have recently found that the toxic RNA molecules prevent a protein named ‘nucleolin’ from binding with ‘chromatin’ inside the nucleolus, a special region in the cell nucleus responsible for producing ribosomes. This phenomenon is known as ‘nucleolar stress’ which eventually triggers excessive apoptosis (i.e., programmed cell death) in the cerebellum and leads to the development of SCAs.



Prof. Edwin CHAN Ho-yin (left) and his Ph.D. student Mr. Frankie CHOI Ho.

‘Now that we’ve identified the nucleolar stress signaling pathway, the next challenge is to explore whether it is possible to re-establish the supply of ribosomes in SCA patients. If we can do this, the damage to the cerebellum can be alleviated,’ said Professor Chan.





Prof. CHEN Zhen-yu Elected as Fellow of AGFD of the American Chemical Society

Prof. CHEN Zhen-yu of the School of Life Sciences was recently recognized by the Agricultural and Food Chemistry Division of American Chemical Society for his outstanding contributions to the field. Also in recognition of Prof. Chen's expertise and experience in the field, the HKSAR government has appointed him as a member of the Expert Committee on Food Safety for a term of two years, with effect from 15 September 2012.



*Hearty
Congratulations!*



In 2011, Prof. Chen (left) of the School of Life Sciences and Prof. HUANG Yu (right) of the School of Biomedical Science together received the Higher Education Outstanding Scientific Research Output Awards from the Ministry of Education.

Research Day 2012



The Science Faculty Research Day 2012 was held on Friday, 29 June. Over 70 members of the University community came out to hear talks on award-winning and outstanding scientific research at our Faculty.

For details of the event, please refer to the Science Faculty Research Day [website](#).

Prof. CHAN Ngai-hang of the Statistics Department (recipient of the Research Excellence Award 2011/12) spoke at this year's event.

Hong Kong Inter-University Postgraduate Symposium on Life Science

The 2012 Hong Kong Inter-University Postgraduate Symposium on Life Science was held at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology on 9 June 2012. This yearly event was initiated in 2010 by CUHK Biochemistry Department. This year, it was jointly organized by HKUST Division of Life Science, CUHK Biochemistry Programme and HKU Department of Biochemistry with an aim to promote inter-institutional and inter-disciplinary communications among postgraduate students and faculty members in the field of Biochemistry and Life Science in Hong Kong. 23 postgraduate students from CUHK provided stage and oral presentations. Three students won prizes in the Symposium; **Mr. WONG Ho-chun**



23 CUHK postgraduates attended this year's event.

(Biochemistry Programme) was awarded a Stage Presentation Prize, while **Mr. CHEUNG Hang-cheong** (Biochemistry Programme) and **Mr. TONG Ka-kui** (Biology Programme) were awarded Poster Presentation Prizes.





Upcoming Events

Science Faculty Town Hall

All faculty members are cordially invited to attend the captioned event. Details are as follows:

Date: Monday, 29 October 2012
Time: 3:00pm – 5:00pm
Venue: BMS G18 (CK Hall),
 Basic Medical Sciences Building

The 8th Lau Oi Wah Memorial Science Lecture Series

Committed to bridging the distance between the scientific community and the general public, the CUHK Faculty of Science and Lau Oi Wah Memorial Fund presents The 8th Lau Oi Wah Memorial Science Lecture Series. Event details are as follows:

Date: Saturday, 17 November 2012
Time: 9:30am – 1:00pm
Venue: Sir Run Run Shaw Hall, CUHK
Language: Cantonese
Admission: Free

TIME 時間	PROGRAMME 程序表	SPEAKER 講者
09:45 – 10:00	Opening Ceremony 開幕禮	
10:00 – 10:35	Decoding Human Genome 人類基因組的迷思	Prof. KWAN Hoi-shan 關海山教授 School of Life Sciences (生命科學學院)
10:40 – 11:15	Amusing Primes 奇妙的質數	Dr. Charles LI Chun-che 李俊捷博士 Department of Mathematics (數學系)
11:15 – 11:30	Break 小休	
11:30 – 12:05	Is the Universe Rotating? 宇宙在旋轉嗎?	Prof. CHU Ming-chung 朱明中教授 Department of Physics (物理系)
12:10 – 12:45	Starting from Chinese Herbal Tea – An Introduction to Chinese Medicine 從涼茶看中醫	Mr. NG Chi-sun 吳梓新講師 School of Chinese Medicine (中醫學院)

Seating is limited, please consult the event [website](#) for further details and reservation.

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