Chinese University

BULLETIN

No.1, 2019

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE.

THE MILLENNIALS.

Chinese University
BULLETIN

Contents

02

24

28

26

30

No.1
2019

The *Chinese University Bulletin* is published biannually by the Information Services Office

Address all correspondence to
Information Services Office, CUHK,
Sha Tin, N.T., Hong Kong SAR,
The People's Republic of China

E-mail
iso@cuhk.edu.hk

Website
www.iso.cuhk.edu.hk/english/publications/bulletin/

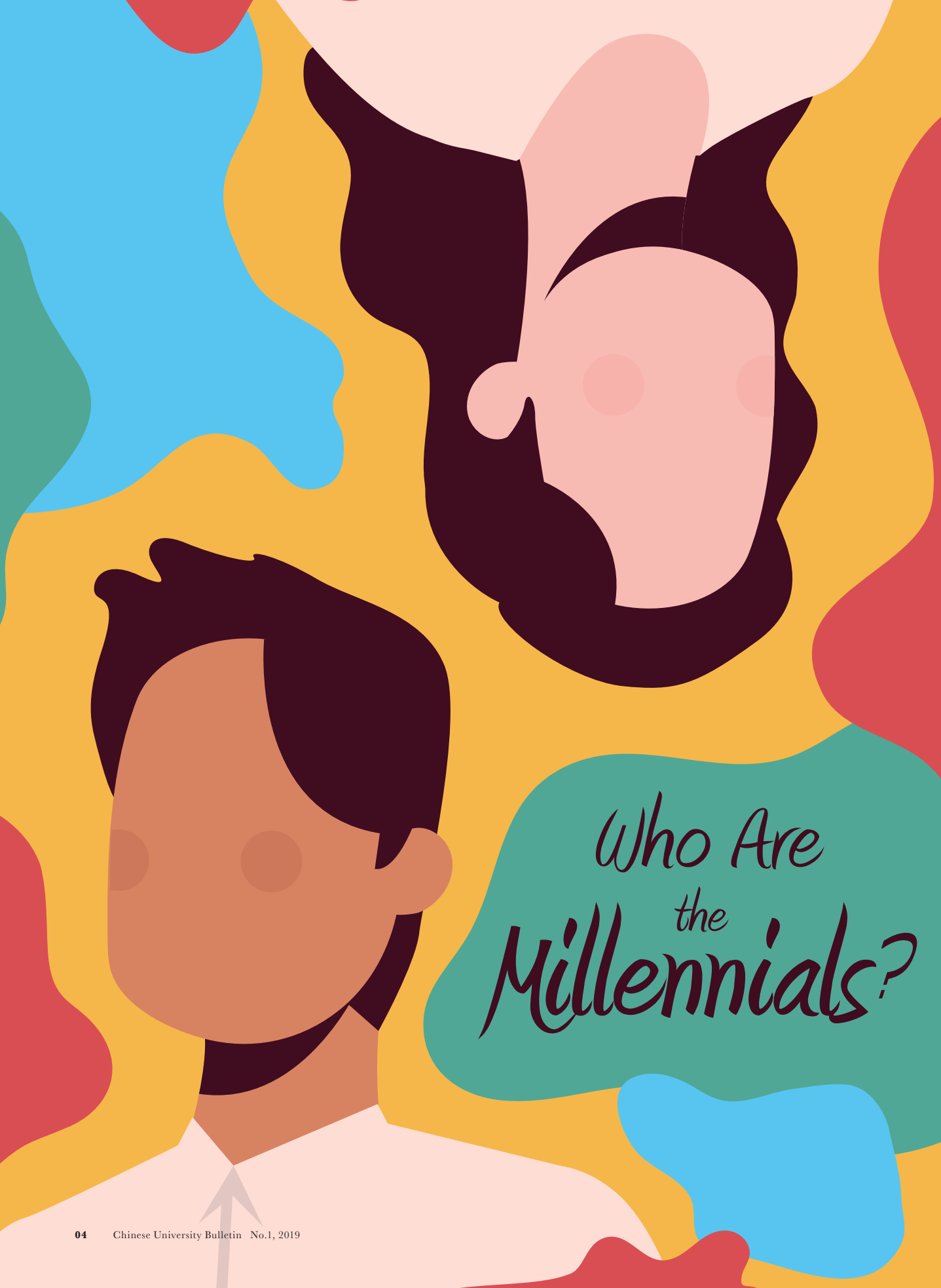
THE GOLDEN JUBILEE.
THE MILLENNIALS.

By Amy L. and Phil Rosen

The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 2013. It is still a relatively young university but in its first six decades it has already established itself as a leading institution in higher learning in the region.

In the early 1980s through the mid-1990s, CUHK began to come of age, consolidating its strengths and resources in preparation for the achievements that were to come in the ensuing decades. During this period, its academic infrastructure was strengthened with the establishment of the Faculty of Medicine (1981), the Department of Nursing (1991)—later renamed the Nethersole School of Nursing, the Department of Engineering (1991), the School of Pharmacy (1992), and the School of Accountancy (1993). Its signature collegiate system providing pastoral care for the whole-person development of the students was taken to the next level with the establishment of Shaw College, in addition to the three Founding Colleges of Chung Chi College, New Asia College and United College.

This period of expansion coincides more or less with the period which saw the birth and early years of the generation commonly called the millennial generation. Today, the millennials are a demographic leading significant changes in world economics, politics and culture. The millennials are also a potent demographic of the CUHK community—students, staff and alumni who are shaped by and in turn shaping the University.


Who Are
the
Millennials?

Earlier this year, the Pew Research Center, an American polling organization and think tank, defined the millennial generation as those born between 1981 and 1996 by making reference to the political, economic and social situation in the US. The definition covers the period in which the young grew up and entered school and then the workforce. According to this definition, the millennials in Hong Kong should be aged between 23 and 38 and number 1.69 million, comprising the second largest age group after the baby boomers. These millennials are in their prime. What they take interest in, think about and value will significantly impact contemporary political, economic, social, technological and cultural trends.

Prof. **To Siu-ming** of the Department of Social Work thought the Pew definition of millennials could apply to Hong Kong: 'As an international metropolis, Hong Kong has a lot in common with the West, especially in economic terms. We are as much impacted by globalization and similar economic cycles as the West. The millennials in Hong Kong and elsewhere share a lot in common, and there are benefits in adopting the Pew definition.'

But he also pointed out that Hong Kong's tie to China, a country that has developed differently from western societies, means that caution should be exercised in adopting the definition.

Professor To continued: 'Generation theory looks at how the social, political, economic and cultural contexts of the times influence the way of thinking, value system, attitude and behaviour of the generation. We should therefore try to understand how our millennials think and act in the specific context of Hong Kong. This may be more important than fitting the young to the definition or vice versa.'

Prof. To Siu-ming

Ms. Irene Ng

Dr. Vivian Chan

Ms. **Irene Ng**, Director of the I·CARE Centre for Whole-person Development, generally agrees with such definition. She saw the benefits in applying the definition in terms of resource planning, policy-making and the solving of social problems. But she also cautioned that since real people are the subject here, attention must be paid to the uniqueness of each individual as well as the social or cultural context in which the individual is found. She said, 'The young people who grew up in Hong Kong were not directly affected by world events such as the 911 terrorist attack. But they would have seen up close the effects of other events or trends such as the 2008 financial tsunami, Industry 3.0 or even the handover to China and the increasingly frequent contact between Hong Kong and China.'

Dr. **Vivian Chan** of the Independent Learning Centre pointed out, however, that given the rapid development of social media technology one is at risk of overstating the similarities at the expense of the differences in grouping together youngsters who differ by over 10 years in age. She said, 'This is a generation which is inextricably bound up with the internet. Habits, viewpoints and values change every few years. While the Pew definition may facilitate analysis of the similarities, we must not lose sight of the differences.'

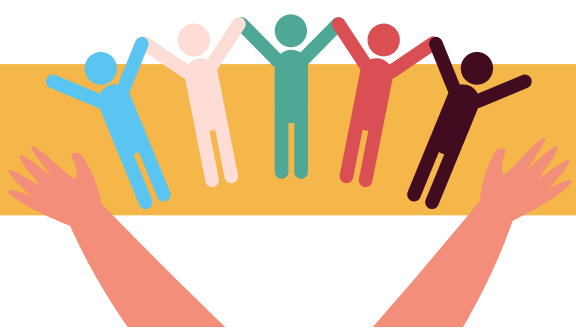
The internet appeared on the scene in 1990. By 1998, the computer had conquered homes and offices alike and became an indispensable facet of our life and work. The internet has shrunk both space and time and opened up a spontaneous and borderless world of information to the millennial generation. Knowledge has never been so readily available. Friends have never been so easily connected. The stage was set for the millennials to show their calibre.

The millennial generation in Hong Kong knows affluence more intimately. Hong Kong experienced a golden period of economic take-off in the 1980s and 1990s. Their growing up coincided with the proliferation of privileges and conveniences in a prosperous society with a progressively improving social welfare system. As beneficiaries of the nine-year free education policy, which was launched in the late 1970s, and greater access to higher education opportunities in the 1990s, they were generally better educated than their parents and grandparents. With fewer siblings, the same group of youngsters are getting more care and attention from their parents, too.

If the ethos of the previous generations can be characterized by the pursuit of material comfort, that of the millennials would be the pursuit of the meaning of life, including the pursuit of enriching experiences in life. In addition to monetary reward, the millennials give emphasis to choice and free will. They opt to base their career decisions on their interests and their perceived contribution to society. Many of them eventually leave their corporate affiliations and become self-employed or freelancers in pursuit of their dreams. The more talented would even become flexibly employed as part of the 'slash' culture. The ambitious would try entrepreneurship.

Professor To analysed this in terms of generational theory: 'The generation which grows up in a more trying and impoverished time would embrace materialism more readily. In contrast, those who grow up in a more stable and affluent time which provides more opportunities for personal development would exhibit traits of what we call 'post-materialism'. The theory of intergenerational value change sees the new generation—whether born in the 1980s or the 1990s—as more post-materialistic. They are more inclined to voice their views and participate in and make contributions to society.'

Would the different outlooks between generations bring about conflicts? Professor To opined: 'There may be difficulties in the interactions between generations. But it does not necessarily mean the millennials are at fault. It's all because of the differences in value, thinking pattern, attitude, habit and behaviour of the two generations. Viewed this way, the true colours of the millennials may be better revealed. This is not to say that the more seasoned are also the more conservative. It's just that the world they grew up in made them differ in thinking, attitude and behaviour from the millennials.'



‘Due to their education and upbringing, the adults may not see eye to eye with the young,’ said Dr. Chan, ‘But the future belongs to the young. They have every freedom and right to do what’s good in their eyes for the future society. As adults, it would be good if we can lend a patient ear or even walk some distance with them.’

Ms Ng said, ‘The young may sometimes make others feel they are self-centred and lack foresight. But in fact many young people, especially those born in the 1990s, care very much for society and are keen to do something to improve it.’

Millennials throw themselves into the work they feel passionate about. But they also realize that life is not all about work and work-life balance is preferred. The body-mind-spirit wellness movement in the 21st century, with its vegetarianism, mindfulness, yoga and alternative therapies, embodies their search for a leisurely life and an inner sanctum. Their refined taste is captured in their craze for specialty coffee. If consumerism is not treated with scepticism, it is sweetened with the wish to promote social justice by favouring fair trade coffee, local and organic produce, and social enterprise boutique restaurants. Consumerism is power and a statement. How they choose to spend their money can sculpt the changing faces of society. Millennials know and practise the art of spending. **David Burstein**, the writer and advocate for millennials to participate in politics who is himself a millennial, describes his fellow millennials as ‘pragmatic idealists’.

That is perhaps what’s so special about our millennials.

Millennials, By the Numbers

The most frequently used forms of social media
among 15- to 29-year-olds in 2014 and 2019

	2014	2019
Facebook	86.9%	23.5%
Instagram	5.0%	60.7%
Weibo	3.5%	4.0%
WeChat	2.3%	4.1%
Other	2.3%	5.8%

Source: Prof. Michael Chan, Prof. Chen Hsuan-ting and Prof. Francis Lee's research on social media usage and civic engagement

Median age at first marriage

	1991	2019
	26.2	29.7
	29.1	31.5

Source: Women and Men in Hong Kong – Key Statistics 2019 Edition by Census and Statistics Department, 26 July 2019

Percentage of millennial staff in CUHK

Teaching Staff (teaching assistant and above) **27.9%**

Non-Teaching Staff (administrative, research, technical, professional and all other supporting staff) **47.3%**

Source: Human Resources Office, CUHK

Percentage increase of various indexes
from 2014 to 2019

147% **Private domestic properties price index**

125% **Median monthly salary of adults aged 20 to 39**

107% **Composite consumer price index**

Sources: Census and Statistics Department and Rating and Valuation Department

Percentage of adults shopping online
over the past year among all online shoppers

	2018
20–39 years old	52.7%
50 years old and above	19.7%

Source: Women and Men in Hong Kong – Key Statistics 2019 Edition by Census and Statistics Department, 26 July 2019

Number of CUHK Alumni graduating from 2000 onwards

145,311

Percentage among all graduates

69.9%

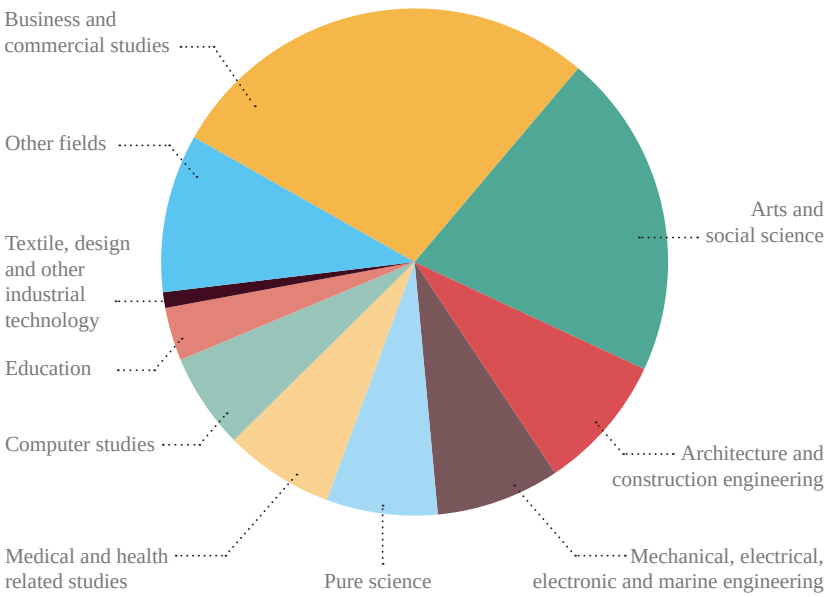
Source: Facts and Figures by Information Services Office, CUHK, January 2019

In 2016,

51.1% **of working youths took up flexible employment** (including part-time, temporary and freelance) **within the past year**

Source: Flexible Employment of Today's Youth by Youth I.D.E.A.S. of the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, December 2016

Choice of field of study at post-secondary level
among youths aged 15 to 24 in 2016



Source: 2016 Population By-census Thematic Report: Youths by Census and Statistics Department, February 2018

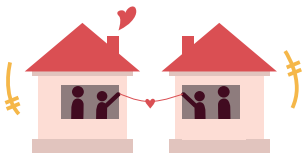
In 2016,

94%

of youths aged 15 to 24 **lived with their parents**

34.2%

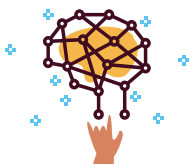
of married youths aged 24 or below **lived apart from their spouses**



Source:
2016 Population By-census Thematic Report: Youths by Census and Statistics Department, February 2018

44%

of 16- to 38-year-olds feel **well-equipped and prepared for changes arising from technological advancement**



Source:
Next Generation Study 2019 by AIESEC Hong Kong, February 2019

Millennial *Students*

Facility with technology and an altruistic outlook do not necessarily define the millennial generation, or any generation for that matter. But tech-savviness in expressing oneself and connecting with others and a genuine concern over the well-being of the disadvantaged do appear to describe very well what occupy the mind and the hands of the millennials. The millennials enrolled at CUHK do not just flourish in their academic and extracurricular pursuits but also service the society through the various programmes and activities organized by the nine Colleges and the I·CARE Centre for Whole-person Development. Their stage extends beyond the 137 hectares of the Shatin campus and the ethos is definitely post-materialistic.

Michael recalled his high school years and described himself as lacking confidence and being afraid to express himself even if he had views of his own. With 32 points from his best five subjects in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) exam, he applied for CUHK as his classmates did and was admitted. Looking back, he found this 'offhand' decision had reinvented him and turned him into a proactive and mature person with his own views.

All of this could perhaps be attributed to his chairing the service team of C. W. Chu College. 'I think I matured from meeting and interacting with the professors and people from the outside.' One thing led to another. His contribution to the service team won him the full D. H. Chen Foundation Scholarship. The opportunities to serve and to interact with fellow students and other social luminaries have opened for him a window to the horizons outside.

The clear-headed and articulate Michael is a great fan of macroeconomics. He never fails to marvel at how accurate and elegant numbers can capture complex social phenomena. His student exchange experience in Canada has confirmed his resolution to pursue an academic career. After graduation, he will go to the London School of Economics and Political Science to study for a master's in finance and economics. He sets for himself the long-term goal of joining a top institution of economics in the US.

Michael Yip

b. 1996

- Graduand in Economics
- C.W. Chu College

Doctors are usually the closest observers to pain and suffering. After studying medicine for six years, Yuen-cheuk has emerged from an observer to an advocate, and taken his service from within the ivory tower to the society.

In September 2014, he set up a concern group on political reform with other classmates. In the next year he founded Lumos to encourage his fellow medical students to care for social affairs including the political and the medical. At the same time he also joined the programme 'Homeless Outreach Population Estimation Hong Kong' initiated by the I·CARE Centre for Whole-person Development and led by Prof. **Wong Hung** of the Department of Social Work. Such volunteer work has since put him in the company of many homeless people.

'Homelessness is not only a symptom of the housing or poverty problem. It is the worst expression of many of our social problems such as alcoholism, drug abuse, family, marriage and immigrants,' said Yuen-cheuk. His volunteer work in the last few years has brought him to see many cases for himself. Some homeless people often complained about pain in the chest, and later could be found no more. Some have successfully obtained public housing and turned a new leaf in their lives.

Yuen-cheuk is a good conversationalist who likes to hear the stories of others' lives. He aspires to be a psychiatrist, and prefers to wield pen rather than scalpel. A year ago he began a column in Initium Media to share his thoughts on studying medicine and living his life. What is the duty of the millennials? He said they must pass on to the next generation the Hong Kong well known to them.

'Turning from the role of a medical student to that of a medical practitioner, I can see more constraints in the near future. But I will do everything to stay in tune with society and continue my various efforts. I don't want to become a doctor living in his own world.'

Wong Yuen-cheuk

b. 1995

- Graduand in Medicine
- Chung Chi College

Kwan Ho-chuen

b. 1992

- PhD student in Philosophy
- New Asia College

Academically, the meaning of life is what Ho-chuen likes to fathom. He naturally takes to existentialism, Nietzsche and Zhuangzi. For popular philosophy subjects, he would pick those closest to life to jolt conventional thinking: 'Is abiding by the law always a sine qua non? Is homosexuality a sin? Does love transcend gender norms?'

Philosophy is often an exercise in abstraction. Ho-chuen and his fellow students in philosophy are no strangers to opacity and obfuscation. 'My redemption comes in the form of "Corrupt the Youth". It gives me back the meaning of studying philosophy,' recalled Ho-chuen. 'Corrupt the Youth' is an online platform for popularizing philosophy founded by Ho-chuen and his fellow philosophy students in 2016. Unlike other online platforms which set out to promote philosophy but to uneven effects, 'Corrupt the Youth' discusses philosophical issues in easily accessible ways and often in equal measures of seriousness and humour. The platform has been a hit from its launch. Ho-chuen was immensely encouraged: 'We got thanks from many people for launching the platform that provides answers to life's questions. You would not believe how many people in Hong Kong care about philosophy. There are simply too few outlets and platforms.'

The platform has made him realize that while treading the path of philosophy may be solitary it is never lonely. 'The road to knowledge is bound to be solitary. One has to walk it alone, ask one's questions, read, digest and understand by oneself. But it's never lonely, because many others are taking the same path and would appreciate you sharing what you have found.'

Monica Tang

b. 1994

- student in the Master of Science Programme in Stroke and Clinical Neurosciences, 2018 graduate of Chinese Medicine
- S.H. Ho College

The sportive and easygoing Monica does not conjure up the commonly held image of a Chinese medicine practitioner. In her conversations, however, she makes no secret of her admiration and appreciation for her parents and mentors, a quality leaning more to the old school. She was a student of S. H. Ho College and greatly inspired by its former Master Prof. **Samuel Sun** and his wife who put their hearts and hands to whatever they were doing. Her present mentor, Prof. **Liu Maocai**, a Chinese medicine expert in neural disease, is coaching her to become a physician both skilled and compassionate. 'Professor Liu is a patient listener in diagnosis. He respects tradition but is not bound by it. He is knowledgeable in both Chinese and western medicine and always puts patients' interests first. He is able to draw from such a rich resource to find cures for his patients.'

Monica now works part-time at a private clinic, and travels to the Guangdong Provincial Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine from Tuesday to Thursday to study under Professor Liu. To acquaint herself with western medicine's treatments of neural diseases such as stroke, epilepsy and dementia, Monica takes relevant courses at CUHK. Last year, she became an executive board member of the alumni association of the CUHK School of Chinese Medicine. Attending to alumni and industry affairs makes her crammed schedules even more crammed. Does she feel exhausted? 'Very. The trip to Guangzhou is taxing. And I stay in the youth hostel there. But I'd like to learn as much as possible in these few years, while I am young and have energy.'

What has she learned in the year since graduation? Monica said, 'Curing diseases is not the end. To arrive at a larger understanding of the world and the people is. The relationship between doctors and patients, or between teachers and students, is mutual. A good doctor has to communicate well and win trust. Then the patient can make all necessary life changes and get well and grow.'

Millennial *Staff*

CUHK has a relatively young workforce. Millennials (those born between 1981 and 1996, according to the Pew Research Center) account for 43% of its staff population. If only teaching staff are considered, the figure is 28%. These young members of the teaching force are often multi-talented and subscribers to innovative pedagogical philosophy and methods. They are often great researchers and great teachers at the same time. They value their interactions with students and seldom shirk or shy away from additional responsibilities and roles on and off-campus. Acculturated in a common zeitgeist with the students and sharing the same preferences for culture and social media, they are more like learned friends or even older siblings to their students, thus exemplifying CUHK's unwavering embodiment of whole-person education in a new way.

Mr. Pasu Ng

b. 1980

- Embalmer of School of Biomedical Sciences

Mr. Pasu Ng holds one of the most unique positions at CUHK: he routinely handles deceased human bodies. This millennial scientist works with dead bodies on a daily basis and is a master of anatomical skills and extraordinary serenity.

‘I’m responsible for body embalming, specimen production and daily operations at the dissecting laboratory. I also attend to the promotion and operation of the Body Donation Programme.’

This skillful embalmer was not a science student in high school and college initially, as he studied design in college and worked as a designer shortly thereafter. By following and watching his relatives who worked as embalmers in the funeral business, he finally moved from a design career to dealing with dead bodies full time.

‘Because of my experience with my relatives’ trade, I already had nearly six years of experience dealing with dead bodies before I applied for the post at CUHK. This gave me a bit of an advantage. So far, I’ve dealt with over 3,000 dead bodies of various causes of death and ages.’

Mr. Ng’s background in design helped him pay attention to detail. A background in art bolsters his studies in science.

‘Studying art sharpens my sensitivity towards human nature, my observation and compassion, and my ability to understand the feelings and concerns of donor family members. It helps me relieve others of any fear or qualm they may have.’

At the design programme at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, he learned about branding and marketing as well, which has become useful in developing his Body Donation Programme here at CUHK. He is proud of his work and hopes to inspire students, who are fellow millennials, to ply their trade with the highest standard.

‘I hope that medical students at the Chinese University will become physicians with compassion and expertise, rather than artisans who busy themselves with inputting data into the computer during consultations.’

Prof. Fan Tingting

b. 1984

- Assistant Professor of Department of Marketing
- Chung Chi College

Prof. Fan Tingting, a perennial favourite among students, is one of the youngest professors to have received the University Education Award in 2018. Her being decorated with one of the highest accolades for teaching excellence is all the more impressive as she had completed her PhD just four years before. It is a testament to Professor Fan's dedication to teaching as well as her desire to inspire other millennials.

'My award should be encouraging to all research-oriented young academics who might not believe they could balance teaching and research.'

To create a better teaching environment, Professor Fan is highly receptive to the opinions of her students. She frequently holds class discussions where students aren't required to raise their hands to participate, and encourages her students to focus on the process of thinking rather than focusing on the answers or the conclusions.

'Students love interaction in class. We do this a lot. We have less traditional lecturing. The students feel like they aren't just learning from me, their teacher, but from each other too.'

Professor Fan's idea of parity can be seen in her dress code. She dresses casually, which often results in students mistaking her for a fellow student. To her, it comes down to mutual respect founded not upon obligation but interest.

'Dressing up can have the effect of commanding respect. But that's not my style. I want my students to respect me because I'm of interest to them; that's my target.'

Herself a millennial, Professor Fan values the differences between herself and her students. Her students are younger and come from disparate backgrounds. 'We all watch Netflix. We may listen to similar music. We could have a common interest in similar things but each one's perspective should be different. That's why I respect them, for having different perspectives'.

Dr. Owen Ko

b. 1985

- Assistant Professor of Department of Medicine and Therapeutics and School of Biomedical Sciences
- C.W. Chu College

Clinician-scientists—professionals who practise medicine and undertake research at the same time—are a rare species in academic settings. Dr. Owen Ko had already achieved this when he was just getting started. As a student, he was inspired by students studying medicine and undertaking doctoral research concurrently in the US, and decided to follow suit. First he pursued a one-year intercalated Bachelor of Medical Sciences degree in his second year of medical studies, then he took a four-year leave to enrol in a three-year doctoral programme in neuroscience at University College London, UK, then a year of post-doctoral research, before coming home to continue his medical training at CUHK.

'Medical school requires students to be knowledgeable, but little attention is paid to the exploration of the frontiers of medicine where all that knowledge comes from. I was eager to explore scientific research before finishing my clinical studies.'

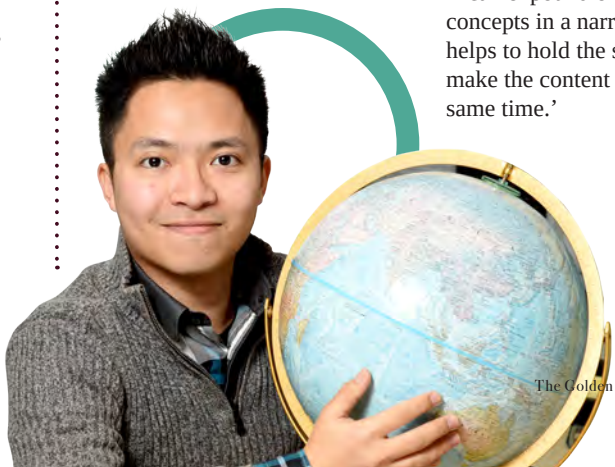
Dr. Ko is an advocate for interdisciplinary studies. In his words, 'It is better to be familiar with two disparate fields than devoting all one's efforts to the pursuit of a single subject.' His interest in neuroscience stems from his passions for mathematics and physics. Multi-avenue interests have paid dividends as he has published in prestigious journals such as *Nature* and *Science*.

The clinician-scientist concedes that his research can be trying at times. He received the runner-up Eppendorf & Science Prize for Neurobiology in 2014, which is proof that his efforts have not been in vain. While his academic route was atypical and rife with challenges, Dr. Ko's successes have justified his choices. As a champion for linking disparate fields of research, he remains one of CUHK's most ambitious young academics.

Prof. Amos Tai

b. 1984

- Associate Professor of Earth System Science Programme at Faculty of Science
- C.W. Chu College



Prof. Amos Tai of CUHK's Faculty of Science has built a career upon his fascination with the wonders of the natural world. He's come a long way from his childhood attempting to raise small insects to studying atmospheric science in graduate school and finally to becoming an award-winning researcher in CUHK's Earth Science Programme. This precocious, millennial professor aims to protect and preserve our Earth through groundbreaking research and impassioned teaching.

After completing his undergraduate degree from MIT, Professor Tai continued with graduate studies at Harvard. Later, he returned to MIT for his postdoctoral studies.

'I became humbler when I was surrounded by renowned scholars and intelligent classmates. With an urge to make real-world impact, there was a moment early in my PhD studies when I thought of quitting graduate school to work in an NGO or environmental agency instead. But later, I realized I really loved to teach and interact with students and my passion for scientific research intensified over time, so I decided to continue my academic pursuit.'

Professor Tai's ability to connect with his students—many of them fellow millennials—makes him a standout teacher in addition to his abilities as a researcher. His ability to see and think from his students' perspectives remains a priority for Professor Tai. Outside interests such as music and Broadway musicals dovetail with his classroom persona. His background in drama and theatre adds character to his presentation, allowing for lively, animated lectures.

'I can expound on recondite theories and concepts in a narrative style. It hopefully helps to hold the students' attention and make the content comprehensible at the same time.'

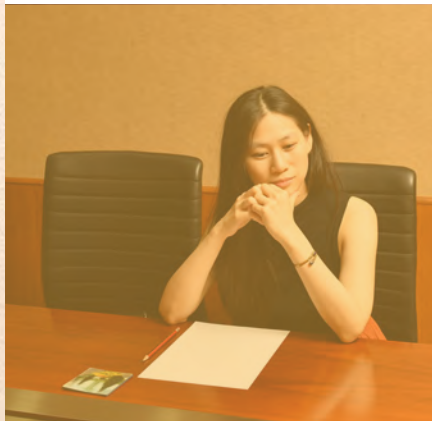
Millennial *Alumni*

If a person graduates from university at the average age of 21, then the millennials should have graduated from university between the years 2002 and 2018. By a rough estimate, those who graduated from CUHK in the same period account for 62% of the 200,000-strong alumni body of the University. Mixing and matching interest with aspiration, the talents of these CUHK alumni are as many and diverse as the professions or callings they have chosen for themselves. Many of them have not paused at a first degree but have continued to acquire for themselves new knowledge and skills. Though many are just starting on their life's journey, a number of them have already gained renown and recognitions in their respective fields with their innovative spirits and commitment to good causes.

Janice Tsang

b. 1989

- 2011 BA in English,
- 2012 MA in English (Literary Studies),
- 2016 MPhil in English (Literary Studies)
- United College

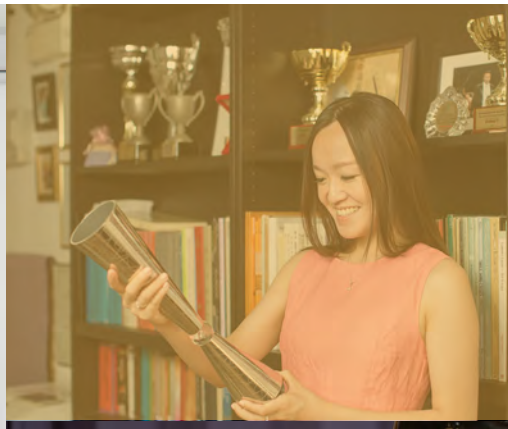


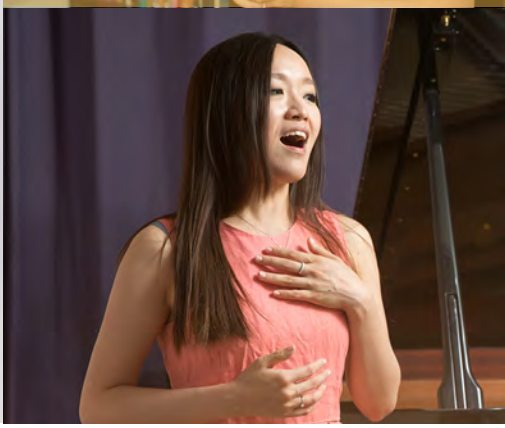
The flashes of wit in Janice Tsang's eyes tell you how enthusiastically she embraces life. Her conversations are filled with her beloved literature, education and photography. She quotes from *Macbeth* and recites the lyrics of Bob Dylan. Listening to her, one is reminded that though life is full of the sound and the fury it is also guided by illumining intelligence.

Despite her immersion in the world of literature, her relationship with the English language is actually one of love and hate. This is because English is the 'mother tongue' thrust upon her. She explained: 'In the run-up to 1997, my family was planning to emigrate and so thought little of the Chinese language. I was made to use English at home. It was only when I went to primary school that I started learning Cantonese with Cantopop.' This special experience in her growing up made her identify with the struggle to rebuild a self-identity experienced by many post-colonial writers.

After getting her master's degrees, Janice has done some part-time teaching and research at many tertiary institutions. She teaches community art and practical English and has organized seminars for teachers' professional development.

The second character in her Chinese name (顗), which she only learned to write correctly in high school, is made up of a part which means to *reveal* and can be extended to mean *divine wisdom*. What we should and can do, Janice pointed out, is to bear witness to the present moments so as to reveal the future. To bear witness to and record flashes of revelation fall upon Janice's shoulder.





Arnold Chan

b. 1989

- 2010 BBA in the Global Business Programme
- United College

This April, Arnold Chan was named in 'Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia', a prestigious list for precocious social entrepreneurs and change-makers. A graduate from CUHK's signature Global Business Studies programme, his laurels did not come from business but from education.

'I realized that business is not just about making money, and that business majors do not necessarily have to pursue a career in finance. To study business is to become a strategic thinker who can tackle social problems effectively,' said Arnold.

He founded Teach for Hong Kong (Teach4HK), a nonprofit, in 2015 after a stint with Teach for China. He has been recruiting university graduates to teach at underprivileged schools, making a positive impact for over 10,000 students.

In 2016, Arnold received a Hong Kong Youth Service Award from the Federation of Youth Groups, a testament to his contributions to a worthy social cause. His goal is to reduce the education gap—the disparity in education quality between upper- and lower-class students—by providing not only teachers but stand-in life coaches and mentors. Teach4HK's volunteers run extracurricular activities outside the classroom.

While he previously held a lucrative job with Goldman Sachs, Arnold desired to improve the education system through fundraising to found his non-profit. Making an impact took precedence over a top-dollar package.

'Many people pay lip service to their support of NGOs but jeer at their young friends and families who devote themselves to a non-profit venture. Social innovation depends a lot on fresh minds. The public should show more support and encouragement to those young activists,' said Arnold.

'Each of us should define our own path to success rather than yielding to the expectations of others. I'm lucky to have benefited from the existing system. Isn't that enough reason to do something nice for it in return?'

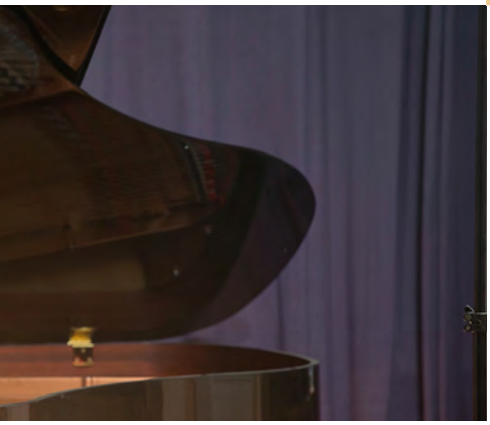
The musical life of Louise Kwong began in the same way as many other children's did. She started her piano lessons at six, and joined the Hong Kong Children's Chorus at nine. She practised singing of her own accord, and she was always picked by the teachers to sing solo. In Form 4, she won the solo contest in an inter-school music festival. Seeing her talent, her family arranged for her to take vocal lessons from the famous vocalist **Chan Siu-kwan**. When she was of university age, she hovered between majoring in business and music and was admitted by the Department of Music. She has not looked back since.

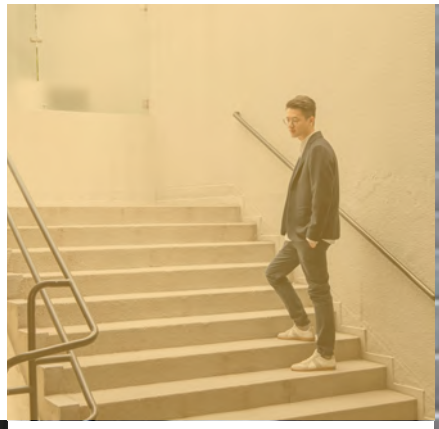
'The Department's curriculum was quite theory-laden,' said Louise, 'Only three or four out of a cohort of 30 majored in singing. I am the only one who finally made a career out of singing.' After graduation, she went for further studies in the UK and the Netherlands, after which she stayed in Europe while waiting for performing opportunities. The uphill battle for

Louise Kwong

b. 1987

- 2009 BA in Music
- Chung Chi College





Tommy Kwan

b. 1993

- 2015 BSSc in Government and Public Administration
- Chung Chi College

Asians in the European operatic scene cannot be overstated. Auditioning at European theatres was a test of both ability and will. Louise recalled: 'Whenever I got an invitation to audition, I'd promptly book the flights and hotel and make arrangement for transportation and meals, at my own expense of course. On the second day of arrival, I'd arrive at the theatre on time with food, water and a mattress. A five or six hours' wait was followed by five minutes' performance. Then I went home and waited for the news.'

Last year, Louise beat 300 competitors to become the first one from Hong Kong to be appointed soprano for the 'Fabbrica' Young Artist Program at the Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, which does not usually appoint a woman under 30 or a man under 32. She was 31 when she was appointed, which could count as an exceptional achievement. Where to after the contract is over? Louise mused, 'Maybe to Germany. It's going through an operatic boom. Whether 30 or 60, I think I'll keep on singing.'

Prof. **Li Lianjiang** of the Department of Government and Public Administration once wrote that scholars belong to the spiritual class of elites. It's both good and difficult to be a scholar, for scholarship is a privilege that comes with a mission. Upon graduation, Tommy Kwan chose to follow the footsteps of the scholars he admired to lead a life of learning and travelling. He said, 'While still a student, I interned at a publishing house and came into contact with some distinctive works in the humanities and the social sciences. I had also worked at the current affairs programmes at RTHK. Such experience made me realize I prefer to analyse politics from a researcher's and observer's point of view and to publish my views.'

Tommy is now studying for a PhD in London. But he's not staying all the time in London and had gone to do fieldwork in Taiwan, stopping over now in Germany. To drift along in pursuit of scholarship has always been like fighting a one-man battle. He remarked, 'PhD research is a long and drawn-out process. It's easy to lose one's focus and direction. We must try our best to know what we're doing and to discipline ourselves.'

There should be more than just studying in a postgraduate student's life. One of Tommy's diversions is to write. From political commentaries at the beginning to the penning of his thoughts and life's memorable episodes in a newspaper, Tommy sees writing as a way of having a dialogue with himself. If he cannot write, he surmised, he 'may have to speak incessantly.'

In March, he published his articles in book form—*learning from solitude*. A youth with literary aspirations, Tommy knows a few things about classical music, football and whiskey as well. When he travelled to the small island off the coast of Scotland famous for its single malt, he saw with keen eyes the place and the people there and even noted an anecdote of Prince Charles. When he stayed in Bloomsbury, he conjured up what its heyday must have been like with inhabitants such as Virginia Woolf and John Maynard Keynes. Tommy is a scholar who learns from his solitude.

The Millennials. The Diamond Jubilee.

Twelve sketches from the CUHK community, 12 stories, 12 lives. For more than half a century, CUHK has nurtured and looked after generations of young men and women aspiring to the pursuit of knowledge, the advancing of their life goals, and the receiving and passing on of life's baton. The University has always been their staunchest supporter and unremitting custodian through good times and bad. In a few years, the University will welcome its Diamond Jubilee. Millennials or not, its members will continue to impress and inspire with their fine work and fine deeds and make the University proud.

Eighteenth Honorary Fellowship Conferment Ceremony

CUHK held its Eighteenth Honorary Fellowship Conferment Ceremony on 6 May. At the ceremony, Dr. Norman N.P. Leung, Council Chairman, conferred honorary fellowships on four distinguished persons in recognition of their remarkable contributions to the University and the community.

Dr. Lam Ko-yin Colin

Dr. Lam manages a number of listed companies in various industries. He is currently Vice Chairman and Executive Director of Henderson Land Development Company Limited, Chairman of Hong Kong Ferry (Holdings), and a director of Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited, Miramar Hotel and Investment Company Limited. As a director of Union Hospital, Dr. Lam has shouldered responsibility for the hospital's strategic planning and development. The companies under his management showed compassion for the community during the city's economic downturn. Dr. Lam has been actively promoting education and nurturing the younger generations. He has made generous donations to educational institutions all over the world. Being an ardent supporter of CUHK, apart from setting up scholarships and bursaries, he also supported the campus development of Lee Woo Sing College.

Mr. Lee Chun-kee Charlie

A native of Zhongshan City, Guangdong Province, Mr. Lee founded the Hecny Group (Hecny), and is currently its President and Chairman of the Board. In its early days, Hecny was dedicated to air- and sea-freight forwarding. It has developed a global network for its cargo freight and logistics businesses. Mr. Lee has not forgotten his roots while going from strength to strength. His beneficence reaches back to his hometown. In his father's name, he funded the establishment of a school. Mr. Lee also sponsored the town's power station and hospital projects. In 2010, Mr. Lee set up the Charlie Lee Charitable Foundation which supported the University's research projects.

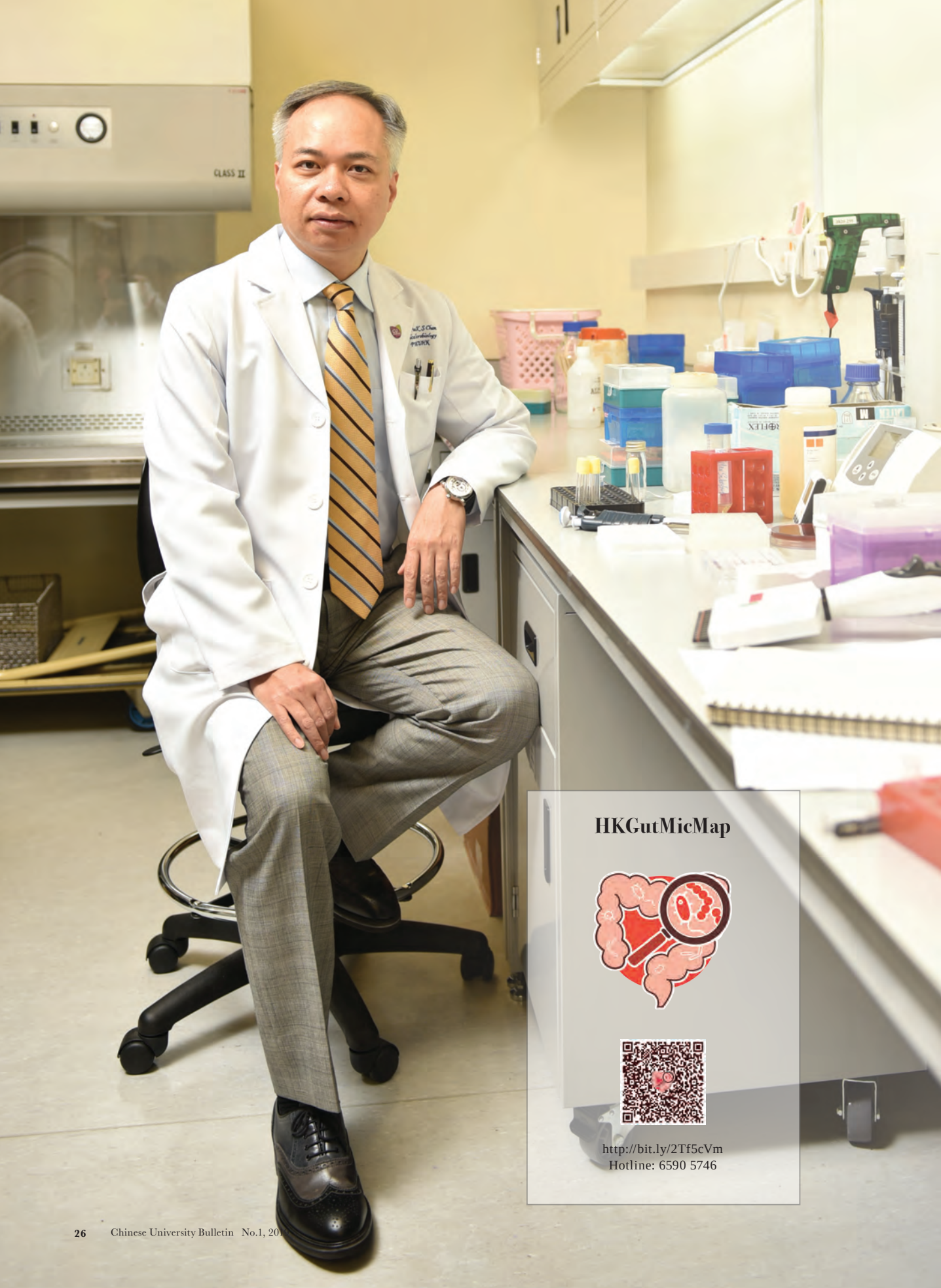
Citations of the four Honorary Fellows:

Mr. Lee Tak-lun William

A leading figure in Hong Kong's securities sector, Mr. Lee founded the Grand Finance Group. During his tenure as President of the Chinese Gold and Silver Exchange Society, he spearheaded the establishment of Hong Kong's first Electronic Trading Platform. He transformed the open outcry method into electronic trading, increased the trading hours, and turned a 99 Tael Gold trading platform to an international spot gold trading market. Mr. Lee also took care of students in need of financial assistance, setting up scholarships to support them. During Mr. Lee's tenure as the President of Shanghai Fraternity Association Hong Kong Limited, the Association sponsored the establishment of a clinic of 'The Chinese University of Hong Kong —Shanghai Fraternity Association Integrative Medical Centre' in Wan Chai to promote the development of Chinese-Western integrative therapies.

Mr. Wong Man-yin Denny

Mr. Wong graduated from New Asia College of CUHK with a major in Economics. As a co-founder of the Centaline Property Agency, Mr. Wong has advocated professional ethics, services, and an operable management system, and suggested the practice of social responsibility. In 1996, he established the Hong Kong Chamber of Professional Property Consultants Limited with other captains of the industry. Mr. Wong has not neglected his role in community service. Every year on average, he donates half of the net profit of Easy Property acquired in 1999 to charity. He has also donated significantly to establish scholarships that encourage students to further themselves and broaden their horizons. He is now a member of the Board of Trustees of New Asia College.



HKGutMicMap

http://bit.ly/2Tf5cVm
Hotline: 6590 5746

Trust Your Gut

Diabetes, hypertension and depression persist as pervasive ailments of modern society. The health assumptions we draw seem to push us, almost instinctively, toward the pill cabinet. Prof. **Paul K.S. Chan**, Associate Director of the Centre for Gut Microbiota Research, suggests otherwise: we must first look inwards before seeking external solutions.

Professor Chan is Chairman of the Department of Microbiology at the Faculty of Medicine in CUHK. As an expert in clinical virology and epidemiology, he is one of the foremost researchers in gut microbial function. Rather than adopting the assumption that health issues invariably stem from our own cells, Professor Chan posits the crux is gut bacteria imbalance.

While gut bacteria of healthy populations are generally well-balanced, evidence points to a correlation between disease—both mental and physical—and a disrupted gut microbiome. Professor Chan's 2018 pilot study included over 400 subjects and established five categories for bacterial patterns. It marked the first time categorical differences in gut health emerged and gut microbial profiles were set.

Chronological age influences the gut microorganism, though it is just one piece of a multifaceted puzzle. Older individuals may have dissimilar patterns than younger individuals, though to ascribe disparities entirely to age is untoward—diet, lifestyle, and genetics have a say too. Evidence suggests a correlation between gut health and aspects such as sleep quality, mood, blood pressure, mental health, and metabolic syndrome.

Even subtle factors such as marital status and mode of birth (cesarean section versus vaginal delivery) revealed correlations. A single individual living alone exhibited a disparate gut microorganism pattern than an intimate partnership co-inhabiting a single household. The dissimilar yet patterned characteristics that distinguish between cesarean section births and vaginal delivery births provides further intrigue—how could a baby's very first step into the world hold sway in the future of their gut health?

Defining reference points for gut health improves the chance for anticipatory, personalized interventions while potentially limiting surprise onsets of disease. 'Until we can determine what a normal healthy gut pattern looks like, we cannot recommend specific interventions,' Professor Chan explains. 'Once we establish this, we can develop predictions regarding health advice.'

Earlier this year in May, Professor Chan sought to establish a gut microbiota data bank specific to Hong Kong. Entitled 'HKGutMicMap,' the project focused on determining a baseline pattern of a healthy gut microorganism profile for Hong Kong people. Professor Chan hopes to construct an applicable health target for Hong Kong residents.

'This research can set the course for medicine in the future,' adds Professor Chan. 'With today's undertakings, future generations can enjoy the progress of research.'

Because of the distinction of gut patterns between populations and geographies, there cannot be a substitute for Hong Kong people. Data from other countries' research cannot replace this study. Studies from North America and Europe can be useful for other medical fields, though the uniqueness of gut health precludes borrowing data.

The field of gut health research remains in its incipient stages, and Prof. Paul K.S. Chan is spearheading these next steps. If progress continues at this rate, administering health interventions on an evidence-based, preemptive basis will be within reach. In the not-so-distant future, treatment plans for cancer, diabetes and other afflictions will trend towards the predictive and prophylactic, rather than the reactive and palliative.

To solve our most prevalent diseases we may just need a gut check.

Phil Rosen

The full article originally appeared in No. 538 of *CUHK Newsletter*. Scan to read:

Prof. Wong Wing-shing

Master of S.H. Ho College

Prof. Wong Wing-shing started his mastership at S.H. Ho College in August 2018 and has since been looking out for this closely-knit community 24/7.

A Master of All Weathers

What are the joys and pains of being the Master of S.H. Ho College?

No pains. But because College activities are always taking place, my schedule is less stable and there are times I have to deal with emergencies during the holidays. As for joys, I am happy for the chance to get to know undergraduates across different academic disciplines. I attend communal dinners at least twice a week, and also see students during evening activities. It is a drastically different experience from my time at the Graduate School, when I was mainly responsible for institutional planning and supervising graduate students. My wife used to take care of household matters, but now she also takes part in College activities and helps organize the 10 tea gatherings with students throughout the year.

Young people long to be away from home, yet S.H. Ho makes 'home' its core value. Isn't it counterintuitive?

What we wish to bring out when we say 'home' is not paternalism, but a cosy, congenial environment where people respect and talk openly to each other like a family. We are trying to avoid top-down management. I hope my students will not see me as an aloof and distant master, but a friend they can chat with casually. Students are part of this family—they enjoy rights and are bound to shoulder group responsibilities. More so, I hope our College can be a haven in their learning journey. Here, they can find the spiritual support and replenishment they need.

Can you name some landmark events?

The students in our Medical Society once proposed to perform health checks for foreign domestic helpers in Hong Kong. Though the costs were exorbitant, the campaign was tremendously meaningful. Our Runner Force, founded in 2012 and joined by 30 to 40 teachers and students, has members jog together and run in international competitions. The drills instil self-discipline, stamina and comradery among the runners. The College also offers full support for students to join international contests, a particularly memorable one being the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone) International Peace Marathon in Korea.

Any goals you want to achieve during your term of office?

Heightening students' curiosity and hence pushing them out of the cocoon of passive and sedentary learning. We also hope to cultivate students' empathy and indomitable spirit in the face of hardships.

Do you take cues from the relationship with your daughter while interacting with students?

When my daughter was small, I read her a bedtime story every night. I am an introvert who warms up to people slowly. She can elicit my emotional side and we are like friends. I hope my students will not see me as an aloof and distant master, but a friend they can chat with casually.

What is your favourite spot in this home on the hill?

The Oasis. There were nights when I was partaking in students' mini-concerts, where they leisurely sang and played instruments as they improvised along the way. Under the tender light, I rested on a bean bag, listening to the flowing melodies and gazing far into the light spots winking on the opposite shore of Ma On Shan. It was mesmerizing and relaxing.

S. Lo

The full article originally appeared in No. 539 of *CUHK Newsletter*. Scan to read:

▼ Front row, from left: Prof. Kwan Hoi-shan, Beatrice Ho; back row, from left: Caity Tam, Yannes Tang, Crystal Ng and Helen Lai

Mushroom Impossible

Kwan Hoi-shan and his Team's Fungi Enterprise

Prof. **Kwan Hoi-shan** has investigated mushroom research for decades. He is Research Professor of CUHK's School of Life Sciences, Director of Food Research Centre and co-founder of Mushroom-X. Mushroom-X members from the School of Life Sciences have been developing high-quality, edible mushrooms and biomaterials and sowing the seed of sustainable living in the community.

Without chlorophyll, mushrooms cannot derive nutrients through photosynthesis. They instead get the necessary nutrients by parasitism, saprophytism or symbiosis. After maturation, the spores develop into mycelium which then releases enzymes to decompose branches, fallen leaves, animal carcasses, etc., to obtain nutrients. Professor Kwan said, 'The largest organism on earth isn't the blue whale but *Armillaria solidipes* in Oregon, US. Its mycelium keeps growing underground and covers an area of 1,350 standard football fields.'

Mycelium can be used to make biomaterials and replace plastic and bricks. The team collects composts, coffee grounds, bean dregs and wood chips to mix with mycelium. The mix-and-match of various containers and nutrients cultivate biomaterials in different sizes and textures, which are nonflammable, heat-insulating, and biodegradable.

Some US companies attempt to replace bricks with the new material, but would have to put them in an oven to kill the mushrooms with heat to prevent the growth of fruiting bodies. The Food Research Centre, however, has developed a new technology that suppresses the fungal bricks from further vegetating. The team has obtained a provisional US patent and seek an industry partner. Professor Kwan believes mushrooms could alleviate food shortage and provide vital nutrients.

◀ Mushrooms grow from mycelium. The upper part is the fruiting body and the rest is used for producing biomaterials

The Mushroom Germplasm Bank, a legacy of Professor Kwan's teacher Prof. **Chang Shu-ting**, has more than a hundred mushroom species. The bank enables the team to identify ideal species for local planting. Food safety is ensured by monitoring the production process 'from gene to table' without pesticide.

Mushroom-X adds an 'A' to 'STEM' to make STEAM education (art is added to science, technology, engineering and mathematics). The team has been teaching students spore print artwork production. Co-founder **Beatrice Ho** said, 'Students can appreciate the beauty of mushrooms by recognizing the uniqueness of spore print. Such learning is more effective than textbook learning.'

Members have developed confidence and communication skills in promoting mushrooms. **Helen Lai** attributes it to Professor Kwan's advocacy for entrepreneurship competitions. From the 'Challenge Cup' National Competition Hong Kong Regional Final, Vice-Chancellor's Cup of CUHK, Nanshan 'Entrepreneurship Star' Contest to the 'Chuang Qing Chun'—China College Students' Entrepreneurship Competition joined by 150,000 student teams nationwide in 2018, Professor Kwan and Beatrice had offered guidance on business proposals, presentation slide design, delivery skills, etc. With the team's solid practice in the community and excellent presentation, their project 'Mushroom for the NeXt' impressed the judges and won the Gold Award in the 'Chuang Qing Chun' social entrepreneurship category, the only Gold Award won by a Hong Kong team.

▲ The team is developing mushroom powder products to accommodate the needs of the aged

Founded in 2017, Mushroom Social Project offering mushroom education on campus is a prototype of the social enterprise. The project received HK$400,000 from CUHK's Sustainable Knowledge Transfer Fund last year to set up Mushroom-X. The Fund is the first social enterprise seed fund among the local institutions, supporting CUHK practitioners to translate their research discoveries into social enterprises to benefit the community with sustainable business models.

The team relies on profit from STEAM education and other funds to support their fungal technology. They will keep perfecting their business model and 'spreading the spores' of mushroom value and sustainable living in the community.

J. Lau

The full article originally appeared in No. 535 of *CUHK Newsletter*. Scan to read:

新亞七十・結隊而前行

New Asia 70 Years: Together We March Forward

更多關於新亞七十
More about New Asia 70 Years

CUHK O-DAY

FOR UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

12 OCTOBER 2019

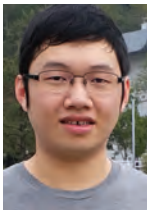
THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST

Top Mathematics Problem Solvers

Twenty eight CUHK students took part in the 2018 Simon Marais Mathematics Competition (SMMC), outperforming more than 40 universities across the Asia-Pacific region and winning the first place in University Prize. Kwok Man-yi and Lee Shun-ming won the first place in Pairs Prize, Tung Kam-chuen and Wong Chun-shing won the second place in Pairs Prize and Shen Jianhao the second place in Individual Prize.


Kwok Man-yi


Lee Shun-ming


Tung Kam-chuen


Wong Chun-shing


Shen Jianhao

Six Students Awarded Innovation and Technology Scholarships

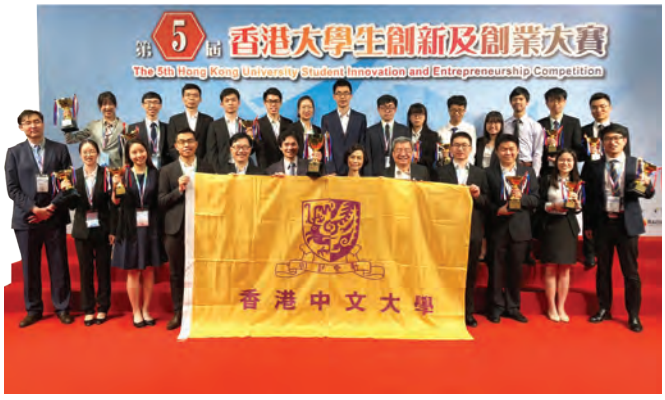
Six CUHK students were awarded the Innovation and Technology Scholarship 2019, each receiving HK$150,000 for participating in a series of initiatives to widen their international exposure. They included Yeung Chun-yat, a Physics major who would go on exchange at the University of California, Berkeley, Wong Chung-hei of the Global Physician-Leadership Stream who is going to research in the field of neuroprosthetics at John Hopkins University in the US. Other awardees include Cheung Cheuk-sin Bernice, Lam Li-man Maggie and Chiu Kwan-ho Nicholas from the same stream, and Electronic Engineering student Leung Ho-man.

Bronze Medal in International Collegiate Programming Contest

The programming team from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering partook in the 43rd Annual World Finals of the International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC) held in Porto, Portugal, and won a bronze medal in April this year. The team consists of three undergraduate students, Yik Wai-pan (centre), Ho Ngan-hang (left), and Poon Lik-hang (right). This year over 50,000 contestants from 3,200 universities in 110 countries took part in the competition, and 135 teams advanced to compete in the world finals. This is the third time CUHK has won medals at the ICPC.

Leading in Innovation and Entrepreneurship

CUHK received the Outstanding Institution Award at the Hong Kong University Student Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition 2019 held in May. Twenty-one projects picked up accolades. Ren Mindan and his team members, PhD students from the Department of Mechanical and Automation Engineering, won the first-class award in innovation with 'Multi-modality Digital Holography-based Two-photon Excitation Microscope'. Zou Li, PhD students from the Department of Orthopedics and Traumatology, worked with team members from the School of Biomedical Sciences to design a smart medical device for the prevention and treatment of knee osteoarthritis and related degenerative diseases. The device won a first-class award in entrepreneurship.



News in Brief

Appointments


Mr. Simon K.C. Lee


Dr. Daniel H.S. Lee


Prof. Nicholas Rawlins


Prof. Martin D.F. Wong


Prof. Kwan Hoi-shan


Prof. Leung Kwok-nam

Council Members

		Name	Appointment Period
New	Member	Prof. Fung Tung	until 31.7.2021
		Mr. Simon K.C. Lee	16.3.2019–15.3.2022
Re-appointed	Chairman and Member	Dr. Norman N.P. Leung	1.5.2019–30.4.2022
	Vice-Chairman	Dr. Chien Lee	2.3.2019–1.3.2021
	Member	Dr. Ho Tzu-leung	21.1.2019–20.1.2022
		Mr. Aubrey K.S. Li	11.2.2019–10.2.2022
		Prof. Shaw Pang-chui	23.4.2019–22.4.2022
		Mr. Vincent M.K.H. Lee	1.6.2019–31.5.2022

Associate Vice-President/College Master/Faculty Deans

Name		Effective Date
Dr. Daniel H.S. Lee	Associate Vice-President (Innovation and Enterprise)	27.5.2019
Prof. Nicholas Rawlins	Master of Morningside College	7.12.2018
Prof. Martin D.F. Wong	Dean of Engineering	4.1.2019
Prof. Francis K.L. Chan	Dean of Medicine (re-appointed)	1.2.2019

Award of the Title of Emeritus Professor

Name	School/Department	Effective Date
Prof. Kwan Hoi-shan	School of Life Sciences	15.1.2019
Prof. Leung Kwok-nam		

Two Scientists Granted Croucher Awards

Two scholars from the Faculty of Science received prizes from the Croucher Foundation in recognition of their achievements in scientific research and the support they give to the next generation of scientists. Prof. Tjonnie Li (left), Department of Physics, whose research focuses on astrophysics and gravitational waves, received the Croucher Innovation Award 2018. The CUHK research team led by Professor Li has been a member of the LIGO Scientific Collaboration and responsible for analysing data from the LIGO detectors since 2016. Prof. Qian Miao (right), Department of Chemistry, who has been exploring and developing organic chemistry and molecular functional materials, was awarded the Croucher Senior Research Fellowship 2019. The research team Professor Miao leads has experimented with organic rather than inorganic materials in the fabrication of thin film transistors, a fundamental device in electronic products.

Prof. Emily Chan Receives National Teaching Award

Prof. Emily Chan (3rd from right, front row), Assistant Dean (Global Engagement), Faculty of Medicine and Associate Director of the Jockey Club School of Public Health and Primary Care and Head of its Division of Global Health and Humanitarian Medicine, the Centre for Global Health, has won a second prize in the 2018 National Teaching Achievement Award (High Education) from the Ministry of Education for leading the 'Evidence-based Interdisciplinary Global Field Experiential Teachin and Learning' project. Professor Chan, also Director of Collaborating Centre for Oxford University and CUHK for Disaster and Medical Humanitarian Response, initiated the field-based Ethnic Minority Health Project. She has been dedicated to pulling together an extensive global, field-based experiential learning network through her academic projects and partners.

CUHK Receives Two Ministry of Education Higher Education Outstanding Scientific Research Output Awards

Two scientific research projects conducted by CUHK have received Higher Education Outstanding Scientific Research Output Awards (Science and Technology) 2018 from the Ministry of Education.
Prof. Michael Lyu (centre), Chairman of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, won a second-class award in Natural Sciences with his research of 'Reliability Prediction and Evaluation towards Software Services'.

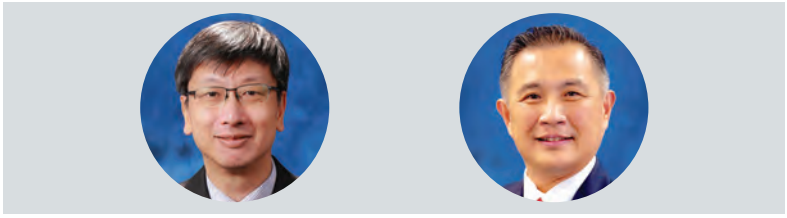
Prof. Dennis Lo (2nd right), Director of the Li Ka Shing Institute of Health Sciences and Chairman of the Department of Chemical Pathology, and Prof. Allen Chan (2nd left), Department of Chemical Pathology, won a second-class award in Technological Innovation with their research of 'Analysis of Plasma DNA to Screen for Early Nasopharyngeal Cancer'.

Fourteen Awards in the 47th International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva

CUHK received fourteen awards, including two Gold Medal with Congratulations of the Jury, one Gold Medal, eight Silver Medals, two Bronze Medal and the Prize of the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation—Romania in the 47th International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva. The three projects granted Gold Medal are as right:

Team	Project	Award
Prof. Yang Shenghao and Prof. Raymond Yeung, from the Institute of Network Coding	BATS: Enabling the Nervous System of Smart Cities	Gold Medal with Congratulations of the Jury
Prof. Philip Chiu, from the Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, Prof. Yam Yeung and Dr. Lau Ka-chun, from the Department of Mechanical and Automation Engineering, Faculty of Engineering	Endoscopic Surgical Robot	Gold Medal with Congratulations of the Jury
Nezha (by Dr. Gabriel Fung, from the Department of Systems Engineering & Engineering Management, Faculty of Engineering, with technology licensed by CUHK)	Nezha—an AI-driven Checkbot for proof reading Chinese	Gold Medal

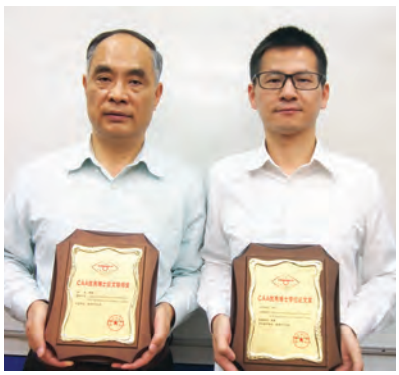
Engineering Professors Elected IEEE Fellows



Prof. Tsang Hon-ki (left) and Prof. Irwin King (right) from the Faculty of Engineering were elected Fellows of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) in the class of 2019 for their research contributions to 'nonlinear silicon photonics and advanced waveguide grating couplers' and the 'theory and applications of machine learning in social computing'.

Kudos for MAE Researchers

Prof. Huang Jie (left), Choh-Ming Li Professor of Mechanical and Automation Engineering, and Dr. Liu Wei (right) of the Department of Mechanical and Automation Engineering received the CAA Excellent PhD Thesis Supervisor Award and the CAA Excellent PhD Thesis Award from the Chinese Association of Automation, respectively. Their thesis is among 10 PhD theses that were selected out of 500 in the field of automation in 2018.



Bridge Project Recognized by Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

The 'Yi Xin Qiao' bridge project in Dujia Village, Chongqing, was awarded the Jury's Award of Sustainability Achievement of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Awards China 2019. This collaboration project between CUHK, Tsinghua University, Chongqing Jiaotong University and Chongqing University, led by CUHK Architecture PhD student Shao Changzhuan, was recognized for its bamboo research and outstanding ideas and achievement in promoting rural sustainability. The design would also help eliminate the dangers in river-crossing.

Math Professor Honoured as SIAM Fellow

Prof. Zou Jun, Chairman of the Department of Mathematics and Choh-Ming Li Professor of Mathematics, was honoured by the Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) in the United States as a Fellow of the 2019 Class. Professor Zou was awarded in recognition of his contributions to 'numerical methods and analyses of direct and inverse problems of partial differential equations'.

Outstanding Research and Care in Diabetes

Prof. Juliana Chan (left) of the Department of Medicine & Therapeutics received American Diabetes Association's 2019 Harold Rifkin Award for Distinguished International Service in the Cause of Diabetes in recognition of her achievements in the diabetes research and international impact. Professor Chan has set up large patient cohorts, biobanks and databases to define the causes and consequences of people with diabetes in Asia. She also developed an 11-country Joint Asia Diabetes Evaluation programme.

The World's First Reference-grade Wild Soybean Genome

An international collaborative research team led by Prof. Lam Hon-ming, Director of the State Key Laboratory of Agrobiotechnology (The Chinese University of Hong Kong) and Professor of the School of Life Sciences, completed the world's first reference-grade wild soybean genome, which provides an important tool for soybean genetic research internationally. It provides foundation for comparative genomic studies of legume and soybean improvement programmes, helps improve the tolerance of soybeans, and extends the habitats of soybean cultivation. The research findings were published in the academic journal *Nature Communications* in March 2019.

Intercropping Boosts Productivity

Prof. Amos Tai (1st right) of the Earth System Science Programme teamed up with Prof. Lam Hon-ming (2nd right) of the School of Life Sciences to investigate the feasibility of a total replacement of the traditional farming practice of monoculture with intercropping. Using computer models, they found that intercropping enables higher productivity in crops with less synthetic fertilizers and hence reduces the air pollutants being volatilized from the cropland soil. This may help maintain a stable food supply and alleviate air pollution in China.

Killing Cancer with Microwaves

Thoracic surgical professors from the Faculty of Medicine performed Asia-Pacific's first non-invasive bronchoscopic microwave ablation for lung cancer on 4 March. By means of electromagnetic navigation bronchoscopy, surgeons can deploy the microwave catheter tip for ablation into the lung cancer and raise the surrounding temperature to above 60°C, under which the lesion is destroyed. With the help of real-time tomography scans, surgeons can be assured of the proper placement of the catheter and monitor the ablation outcomes.

▲ Dr. Calvin Ng (left), Associate Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, and Dr. Rainbow Lau, Clinical Assistant Professor (honorary) from the same division, simulating the process of the treatment

Safe, High-rate and Long-life Organic-oxygen Battery

A safe, high-rate and long-life oxygen battery that exploits a potassium biphenyl complex anode instead of the problematic potassium metal anode was developed by Prof. Lu Yi-chun, Department of Mechanical and Automation Engineering. The technology provides a safe and efficient solution for the storage of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind.

CUHK-led 'God Particle' Experiment Recognized by UGC as Area of Excellence

A team of particle physics researchers from local institutions, led by Prof. Chu Ming-chung (front) of the Department of Physics of CUHK, took part in the ATLAS experiment based at The European Organisation for Nuclear Research (known as CERN). The project was awarded funding in excess of HK$78 million from the Areas of Excellence (AoE) Scheme under the University Grants Committee (UGC). The award would boost the team's involvement in the ATLAS experiment, including the ATLAS detector upgrade, data analysis, exploring new theories, and contributing to the R&D work of the proposed Electron-positron Collider in China.

Microrobots Detect Toxins in Minutes

▲ Prof. Joseph Sung (left), Director of the Institute of Digestive Disease at CUHK, and Prof. Zhang Li (right), Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical and Automation Engineering at CUHK, are core members of the research team

A collaborative research team from the Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Medicine developed fungi spore-inspired microrobots to detect *Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*) bacterial toxins. The microrobots are active sensors capable of detecting toxins accurately within 15 minutes. The current clinical test of the toxins normally takes one to two days. The new test tool could shorten the diagnosis time and allow hospitals to carry out infection management measures in the earliest possible time, which can effectively prevent the spread of bacteria.

Investigating Familial Link with Parkinson's Disease

The Faculty of Medicine of CUHK, in collaboration with Sichuan University, the University of Hong Kong and McGill University in Canada, conducted the world's first rapid eye movement sleep behaviour disorder (RBD) family study to investigate the familial link and aggregation of the disease, and its influence on neurodegeneration.

Results showed that the first-degree relatives of RBD patients are at three to five times greater risk of having Parkinson's disease (PD) and other neurodegenerative diseases than those of healthy controls. A number of biomarkers were also identified. The findings would help future diagnosis and treatment. By tracking early PD symptoms, the intervention could be brought forward by 20 years.

New Light on Treating 'Little Brain Diseases'

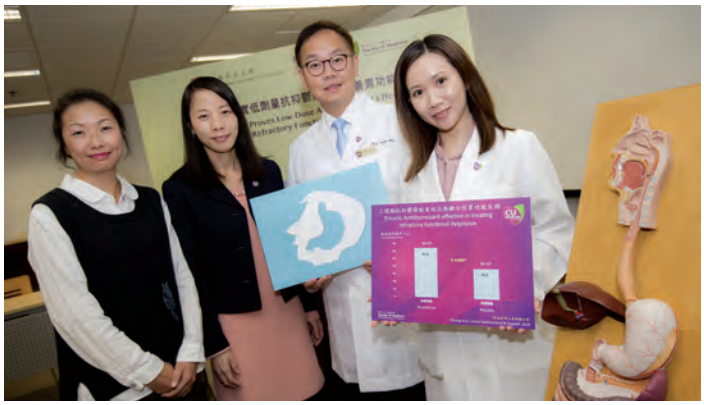
Prof. Edwin Chan (centre) of the School of Life Sciences and his research team discovered a small molecule compound termed Anti-polyQ Aggregation for Machado-Joseph-Associated Neurodegeneration (AQAMAN) which can dissociate toxic protein aggregates and restrain neurodegeneration. AQAMAN has the potential to be developed into medication which would help individuals suffering from spinocerebellar ataxias (SCAs) and other polyglutamine (polyQ) diseases.

Low-Concentration Atropine Eye Drops Reduce Myopia Progression in Children

Several international studies suggested atropine eye drops could slow down myopic progression in children. However, the main concerns that deter the use of traditional atropine drops include the loss of focusing for near reading, and photophobia (excessive sensitivity to light) due to pupil dilation. The Faculty of Medicine conducted the world's first randomised placebo-controlled, double-masked trial on low-concentration atropine eye drops to evaluate their efficacy and safety. Results showed low-concentration atropine eye drops could reduce myopic progression for school children by nearly 70%.

Low-Dose Antidepressant Proved Effective in Treating Refractory Functional Dyspepsia

A recent study conducted by the Faculty of Medicine proved low-dose imipramine, a tricyclic antidepressant, is efficacious for patients with refractory functional dyspepsia and showing resistance to first-line treatment. The patients' level of anxiety was lowered too. Sixty-four percent of the recruited subjects were satisfied with the outcome.



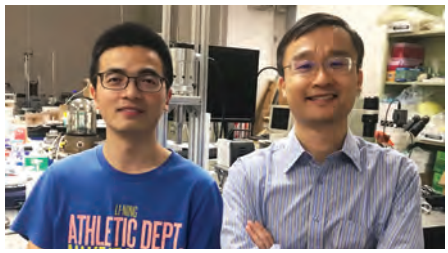
Automatic Manufacturing of Products that Fit Perfectly

Prof. Charlie Wang from the Department of Mechanical and Automation Engineering and his team pioneered a Shape Driven Technology with fast scanning, big-data driven artificial intelligence and digital knitting technology. The users only need a smartphone with the relevant pre-installed apps to capture the front and the side photos of a human body, which can serve as an alternative to the complicated 3D scanning procedure. 3D human models can be built with a list of dimensional measurements based on the photos taken by the smartphone. As the system is equipped with the surface flattening technique, the 3D human model will be converted into 2D pattern information, followed by the preparation of the pattern and raw materials by the machines. The personalised clothes, footwear, beauty, dental and medical appliances could then be produced to accurate measurements.

'IoT-Augmented Airfield Service System' Piloted at Hong Kong International Airport

The Centre of Cyber Logistics under the Asian Institute of Supply Chains & Logistics at CUHK was commissioned to develop the 'Internet of Things (IoT)-Augmented Airfield Service System' (AS2), which has been piloted at the Hong Kong International Airport to assist in the best use of apron facilities. AS2 actively delivers a view of the overall real-time situation on the apron to those using it so that their work could be coordinated and the performance of baggage delivery would be improved. A multi-dimensional dashboard service, combining the data of flights and facilities on the ground, is available to manage aircrafts turnaround.

New Pattern-forming Paradigm Found



Prof. Xu Lei (right) and Dr. Shen Hongchuan (left), post-doctoral fellow, from the Department of Physics collaborated with scientists from mainland China and Japan to reveal a fundamentally new pattern-forming paradigm, in which particle shape plays little role in the static structure but determines the relaxation dynamics. Their findings shed new light on diverse problems involving structure formation, self-assembly and packing and also provide a strong basis for designing new materials and regulating their rigidity and plasticity in the future.


5th Year Greater China
Legal History
Seminar Series 2019-20
Scan to know more


CUHK ALUMNI
HOMECOMING
中大校友日 2019
16 November 2019
(Saturday)
11 am - 5 pm
University Mall

智慧的探索 The Pursuit of Wisdom

'The Pursuit of Wisdom' Public Lecture Series

To celebrate the 55th anniversary of CUHK, the University launched 'The Pursuit of Wisdom' Public Lecture Series which showcases the wisdom, strength and distinction of CUHK experts from across different disciplines. So far five lectures have been held at Lecture Theatre One of Cheng Yu Tung Building.

The lecture delivered by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Rocky S. Tuan on 11 January titled 'Regenerative Medicine: Promises and Challenges' was the first in the series. Professor Tuan, a world-renowned biomedical scientist specializing in musculoskeletal biology and tissue regeneration, shared on how he integrated smart biotechnology with his stem cell research and developed translational applications for the repair and regeneration of human tissues. He engineered the first-ever three dimensional joint-on-a-chip, called the 'microJoint', to replicate a human joint using a microbioreactor platform.

On 15 February, Prof. Dennis Lo, Associate Dean (Research) of the Faculty of Medicine, spoke on the topic 'The Joys and Challenges of Scientific Research'. He talked about the 'Non-Invasive Prenatal Test' and the 'Plasma DNA Screening Study of Nasopharyngeal Cancer' he developed, and how he spent 22 years in transforming the relevant technologies from laboratory into clinical applications.

Recognized internationally for his research in soybean, Prof. Lam Hon-ming, director of the Centre for Soybean Research and professor of the School of Life Sciences, disclosed that he knew little about soybean before engaging in the research. His work is a result not only of his commitment to advancing agricultural development, but also of a promise made to a senior scientist in the field. On 1 April, Professor Lam hosted the third lecture entitled 'Soybean Research: A Journey from Laboratory to Field'.

Prof. Chu Ming-chung of the Department of Physics has been studying the smallest particles of the universe. He is leading a team of Hong Kong scientists to work on an international experiment to study the origin and fundamental structure of matter. He gave a lecture on 'Beautiful Asymmetries in the Universe' on 24 May, and explored the universe with the packed house of audience.

Prof. Helen Meng of the Faculty of Engineering has been studying artificial intelligence for years. She is also an expert in speech and language technologies. In recent years, Prof. Meng has been dedicated to developing Cantonese intelligent speech systems for patients with strokes and cerebral palsy to facilitate their reintegration into society. On 3 June, she spoke on 'Artificial Intelligence in Speaking and Listening for Learning and Well-Being' and shared with the audience how artificial intelligence may be applied to enhance speech technology and used in aid of communication and language learning.

Three more lectures will be held in the second half of the year. Details are as follows:

Date/Time (5:00–6:30 pm)	**Speaker**	**Topic**
9.9.2019	Prof. David Faure	Filial Piety and Business Enterprise: Why is Filial Piety Good for Business?
23.9.2019	Prof. Chiu Chi-yue	Mindset and Success: The Psychology of a Flourished Life
14.10.2019	Prof. Tony Mok	The Long and Winding Road to Conquer Cancer

Quadripartite Collaboration on Medical Robotics Research

CUHK established partnerships with ETH Zurich, Imperial College London and Johns Hopkins University on 31 January to deepen ties on transdisciplinary medical robotics research. The Multi-Scale Medical Robotics Centre would be set up to develop effective and accessible imaging and robotic technologies that would reshape the future of medical diagnosis and treatment of diseases in multiple specialties and thus improving the patients' quality of life.

Joining Forces to Nurture AI Talent

The Faculty of Engineering and artificial intelligence company SenseTime Group have agreed to collaborate to promote AI education among Hong Kong students. Under the agreement, CUHK will join hands with SenseTime to nurture the next generation of AI talent over the coming three years.

Through the participation in international AI competitions, exchange programmes and exhibitions, promising students will be encouraged to enrol in the engineering programmes in universities. The two parties also plan to engage in future educational activities that aim at encouraging the youth to explore AI and improve their understanding of the positive and ethical use of AI, as well as its limitations and risks.

▲ Prof. Martin D.F. Wong, Dean of Engineering (left) and Mr. Shang Hailong, Managing Director of SenseTime Hong Kong (right)

Transforming Mental Healthcare Service in Hong Kong

Prof. Fanny M.C. Cheung (left), CUHK Pro-Vice-Chancellor, and Prof. Ian Everall, Executive Dean, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College London, renewed their longstanding partnership on 8 March. Cooperative research and other forms of academic interaction will be launched. For the first time, the field of mental health will be covered by establishing a laboratory that adopts novel technologies into mental health research and services with the goal of becoming a leading research centre for mental health in Asia.

Research Centre for Parkinson's Disease Established

The Faculty of Medicine established the Margaret K.L. Cheung Research Centre for Management of Parkinsonism on 11 April with a generous donation from Ms. Cheung Kam-ling Margaret (6th from left). The centre aims at unravelling disease mechanisms, and predicting and monitoring disease progression from early stages. It would establish registries for early-stage Parkinson's disease and cerebral small vessel disease in Chinese subjects and collect data for identifying biomarkers and diagnostics. With the data, the centre would look for novel therapeutics that can delay the progression of cerebral small vessel disease.

New Training Station for Chinese Medicine Students

The School of Chinese Medicine of the Faculty of Medicine collaborates with the Community Med Care (The Clinic) and the Hong Kong T.C.M. Orthopaedic & Traumatic Association to provide residents clinical services. The Clinic will also offer clinical practicum and training based on syndrome differentiation for Chinese Medicine students. The Clinic, which was open on 22 June, provides free traditional Chinese medicine services for disabled children.

Promoting Sign and Speech

The Centre for Sign Linguistics and Deaf Studies of CUHK and Bilingualism Matters of The University of Edinburgh set up the first Asia Branch of Bilingualism Matters at CUHK on 18 April. Bilingualism Matters, a network of 25 higher institutions across Europe and the US, aims to promote bilingualism education and study of its effect on speech and cognitive development. As the first Asian member promoting bimodal bilingual education in the network, the Centre for Sign Linguistics and Deaf Studies will be the core member to lead the study and promotion of sign language.

Promoting Mindfulness Research and Training

The Faculty of Medicine established the CUHK Thomas Jing Centre for Mindfulness Research and Training in December 2018, aiming to promote health and well-being by fostering mindfulness through education, research and training. CUHK has been working on different studies on mindfulness as an intervention since 2006. They include chronic pain, generalised anxiety disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, chronic stress and insomnia. These studies have projected a positive outcome from mindfulness practice which improves patients' psychological condition and alleviates suffering. Future projects include investigations on how mindfulness can become a health intervention for cancer patients and for people with substance use disorders.

China-UK Humanities Annual Forum

The China-UK Humanities Annual Forum, hosted by the China-UK Humanities Alliance for Higher Education, took place between 5–7 December 2018 at CUHK. With the theme of China and the Humanities, the Forum gathered about 80 delegates including academic members from 18 tertiary institutions of mainland China and the UK. Participants exchanged ideas and shared perceptions on topics like the state of humanities research, the humanistic tradition in Chinese history and culture and issues relating to globalising Chinese humanities. The meeting served as a platform for cross-cultural and transnational dialogue and cooperation in the field of the humanities between the universities of China and UK.

International Conference on Low-Energy Architecture and Urban Design

The 34th International Conference on Passive and Low-Energy Architecture and Urban Design was jointly organized by the School of Architecture, the Institute of Future Cities, and the Institute of Energy, Environment and Sustainability of CUHK between 10–12 December 2018. It was the first time for this conference to be held in Hong Kong. Under the theme of 'Smart and Healthy Within the Two-Degree Limit', the Conference drew over 300 industry practitioners, experts and researchers from around the world to explore how green building and low-energy design can address climate change and the urban climate.

International Workshop on Environmental Sustainability and Resilience

The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) – University of Exeter (UoE) Joint Centre for Environmental Sustainability and Resilience (ENSURE) held an international workshop on issues confronting environmental sustainability and human health, including transboundary air pollution in China and UK, from 25 to 26 February at CUHK. The workshop was co-chaired by the Co-Directors of ENSURE—Prof. Gabriel Lau (centre, front row), Co-Director of the Institute of Environment, Energy and Sustainability at CUHK, and Prof. Gavin Shaddick (right, front row), Chair of Data Science and Statistics and Head of the Department of Mathematics at UoE. The workshop brought together nearly 50 multi-disciplinary researchers from both Universities and the University of Queensland.

Social Business Regional Forum 2019

To encourage tertiary students to set up social businesses, the Yunus Social Business Centre at CUHK—Jockey Club Youth Programme organized the Social Business Regional Forum 2019: Inclusive Social Innovation and University Social Responsibility between 5–7 April. Scholars and students from the mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong were invited to share their strategies on teaching and discuss experiences of setting up social businesses. The dialogue enhanced the students' understanding of social businesses and social innovation and allowed reflection.

First Cochrane Hong Kong Symposium

The Nethersole School of Nursing of the Faculty of Medicine hosted the First Cochrane Hong Kong Symposium between 23–24 May with the theme of 'Paving the Way for and Achieving Excellence in Evidence-informed Health Care in the Belt and Road Regions'. The symposium drew more than 700 health professionals including health care providers, policy makers, academics and researchers from the Belt and Road regions and worldwide to discuss contemporary strategies and issues in evidence-informed health care and policy formulation.

香港中文大學55周年
55th ANNIVERSARY OF CUHK

香港中文大學
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

We all like the feel of paper. But this brochure will increase your carbon footprint. So share a copy with friends or read it online at your own leisure (*www.iso.cuhk.edu.hk/english/publications/bulletin/*).
Thank you for supporting the environment.