

SERIES OF YOUNG ACADEMY OF SCIENCES SUMMIT:

HONG KONG SCIENCE SUMMIT

匯聚智慧 引領前瞻

CONVERGING KNOWLEDGE INSPIRING FUTURE

12.12.2025

PROGRAMME BOOKLET 2025–2026

Organisers:



Co-Organiser:

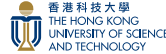


Funding Organisation:



Any opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material/event for members of the project team do not reflect the views of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Innovation and Technology Commission or the 'Setting Committee of the General Support Programme of the Innovation and Technology Fund'.

Local academic partners



Supporting organisations



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About Young Academy of Sciences Summit (YASS) & Introduction of Organisers and Co-organiser

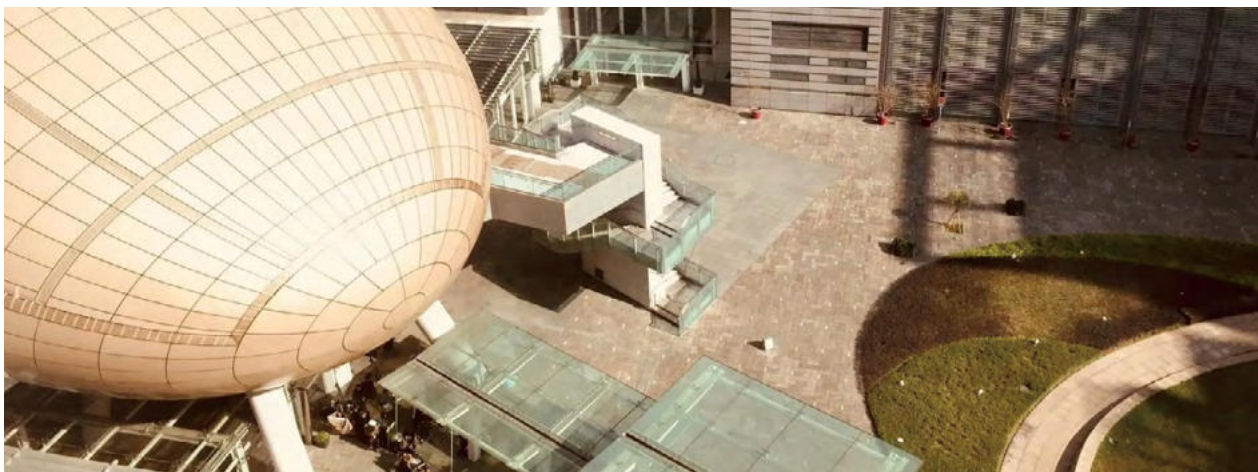
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Converging Knowledge
Inspiring Future

About YASS

- Showcases the excellent research work of the young scientists in Hong Kong.
- Provides a unique platform for local young academics and scientists to gather and engage in a cross-disciplinary, cross-cultural and cross-institutional cooperation in Hong Kong.
- Demonstrates Hong Kong's unique position as a strong and energetic research base, well prepared for any knowledge transfer collaborations.





About the Organisers



Hong Kong Academy of
Sciences 香港科學院



THE HONG KONG YOUNG
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
香港青年科學院

The Hong Kong Academy of Sciences

The Hong Kong Academy of Sciences (ASHK) was established in 2015 by a group of most distinguished scientists who have contributed substantially to Hong Kong to promote the development and advancement of science and technology in Hong Kong.

The Academy brings together leading scientists both within and outside of Hong Kong to promote science and technology in Hong Kong. Under the vision of “The Academy thrives to provide leadership in developing Hong Kong as a centre of scientific and technology excellence”, the Academy and all its Members have worked unceasingly on achieving its objectives and informing the public on relevant issues.

🔗 <https://ashk.org.hk>

The Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences

The Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences (YASHK) was established in 2018 and is a chapter of The Hong Kong Academy of Sciences (ASHK). YASHK offers a strong platform for young scientists to make meaningful contribution to the Hong Kong community and build up a better research and education environment for science and technology. Currently, YASHK has 61 young scientists as its Members.

🔗 <https://yashk.org.hk>

About Co-organisier



Tencent Foundation

Established in 2007, the Tencent Charity Foundation (“Tencent Foundation”) was the first charitable foundation in China launched by an internet company, dedicated to leveraging technology to empower philanthropy. In 2022, the Tencent Foundation expanded its presence in Hong Kong. Through innovative funding models and partnerships with local organizations, we strive to promote “Tech for Good” initiatives among the youth. Leveraging Tencent’s technological strengths and resources, we also facilitate cross-sector and regional collaboration to drive the use of technology for social good in the digital age.

<https://www.tencentfoundation.org/>



About the Funding Organisation



Any opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material/event (or by members of the project team) do not reflect the views of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Innovation and Technology Commission or the Vetting Committee of the General Support Programme of the Innovation and Technology Fund.



Innovation and Technology Commission

To promote the development of innovation and technology, an Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) was set up on 1st July 2000, with the mission to spearhead Hong Kong’s drive to become a world-class, knowledge-based economy. The Commission formulates and implements policies and measures to promote innovation and technology; supports applied research, technology transfer and application; promotes technological entrepreneurship; facilitates the provision of technology infrastructure and development of human resources; and promotes internationally accepted standards and conformity assessment services to underpin technological development and international trade. The Commission works closely with its partners in the Government, industry, business, tertiary education institutions and industrial support organisations.

02

YASS

Activity Overview

3rd YASS Summit

December 2025

Sub-Conference VII
March 2026

Sub-Conference VIII
June 2026

Sub-Conference IX
September 2026

4th YASS Summit

December 2026

Sub-Conference X
March 2027

Sub-Conference XI
June 2027

Sub-Conference XII
September 2027



Members of the Programme Committees

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The Programme Committee provides
general oversight and advice to the YASS 2025/26 & 2026/2027.



Prof. Anderson SHUM
City University of Hong Kong



Prof. Stephanie MA
The University of Hong Kong



Prof. Minhua SHAO
The Hong Kong University of
Science and Technology



Prof. Kathy Oi Lan LUI
The Chinese University of
Hong Kong



Prof. Zijian ZHENG
The Hong Kong
Polytechnic University



Prof. Johnny HO
City University of Hong Kong



Prof. Zhifeng HUANG
The Chinese University of
Hong Kong



Prof. Timothy BONEBRAKE
The University of Hong Kong



Prof. Yang CHAI
The Hong Kong
Polytechnic University



Prof. Fuk Yee KWONG
The Chinese University of
Hong Kong



Prof. Shih-Chi CHEN
The Chinese University of
Hong Kong



Prof. Giulio CHIRIBELLA
The University of Hong Kong



Prof. Kai LIU
The Hong Kong University of
Science and Technology



Prof. Dangyuan LEI
City University of Hong Kong



Prof. Ken LEUNG
Hong Kong
Baptist University



Prof. Zuankai WANG
The Hong Kong
Polytechnic University



Prof. Amos TAI
The Chinese University of
Hong Kong



Prof. Joelle WANG
Hong Kong
Baptist University

YASS (2025-2026) Programme Rundown

12.12.2025

Time: 9:30–17:00

Vence: Charles K Kao Auditorium · HK Science Park

09:00 – 09:30

Registration 簽到

09:30 – 09:40

Welcome Remarks 歡迎辭



Dennis Y M LO, President, Hong Kong Academy of Sciences
盧煜明，香港科學院院長



Dowson T S Tong, Senior Executive Vice President of Tencent,
CEO of Tencent Cloud and Smart Industries Group (CSIG)

09:40 – 09:50

Opening Remarks 開幕辭



Dong SUN, Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, HKSAR
孫東，香港特別行政區政府創新科技及工業局局長

09:50 – 10:00

Group Photos 合照

10:00 – 12:35

Session 1

Overview of Global Scientific Development

第一節 – 全球科學發展概覽

10:00 – 10:05



Topic | Introduction by the Convener

Vivian W W YAM, Hong Kong Academy of Sciences (ASHK)

召集人簡介 – 任詠華，香港科學院

10:05 – 10:30



Topic | Keynote Speech: Building resilient research institutions: Experiences from South Africa

Quarraisha ABDOL KARIM, The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS)

世界科學院

10:30 – 10:55



Topic | Keynote Speech: Translating Science into Systems: The Academia Europaea Model

Péter HEGYI, Chair, Basic & Clinical Translational Sciences Section, Academia Europaea

10:55 – 11:20



Topic | Keynote Speech: Briefing on Chinese Academy of Sciences and its International Cooperation

BAI Chunli, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS)

白春禮，中國科學院，世界科學院

11:20 – 11:45



Topic | Keynote Speech: Overview of Global Scientific Development

Alison NOBLE, The Royal Society

英國皇家學會

11:45 – 12:10



Topic | Keynote Speech: Converging Global Talents: Hong Kong as an International Innovation and Technology Centre

Dennis Y M LO, Hong Kong Academy of Sciences (ASHK)

盧煜明，香港科學院

12:10 – 12:35

Panel Discussion and Q&A
討論與提問

12:35 – 13:35

Luncheon
午宴

13:40 – 15:45

Session 2
The Power of Young Scientists
第二節 – 青年科學家的力量

13:40 – 13:45



Introduction by the Convener

Stephanie MA, Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences (YASHK)
召集人簡介 – 馬桂宜, 香港青年科學院

13:45 – 14:00



Topic | Keynote Speech: The Power of Young Scientists

Sam CHAN, Global Young Academy
全球青年學院

14:00 – 14:15



Topic | Keynote Speech: Youth Power, Beyond Border

GAO Chunbo, World Association of Young Scientists (WAYS)
高春波, 世界青年科學家聯合會

14:15 – 14:30



Topic | Keynote Speech: Bridging Knowledge and Action:
ASEAN Young Scientists as Drivers of Local and Regional Progress

Abhi VEERAKUMARASIVAM,
ASEAN Young Scientists Network (ASEAN YSN)
東協青年科學家網絡

14:30 – 14:45



Topic | Keynote Speech: Building bridges: Learning from a decade of building community and collaboration across nations, sectors, and disciplines

Denis NEWMAN-GRIFFIS, UK Young Academy
英國青年科學院

14:45 – 15:00



Topic | Keynote Speech: Thriving with Thai Society: How Young Scientists Help Cultivate Future Generations of Scientific Minds

Ekaphan KRAICHAK, Thai Young Scientists Academy
泰國青年科學家學院

15:00 – 15:15



Topic | Keynote Speech: Connecting, Cultivating, Contributing through Cross-Cultural Collaborations: The Role of Young Academics and Scientists in Hong Kong

Anderson SHUM, Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences (YASHK)
岑浩璋，香港青年科學院

15:15 – 15:45

Panel Discussion and Q&A
討論與提問

15:45 – 16:05

Coffee Break
茶歇

16:05 – 16:45

Session 3
The Next Decade of Science
第三節 – 科學的下一個十年 – 三代科學人



Moderator

Anderson SHUM, Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences (YASHK)
岑浩璋，香港青年科學院

Panel Discussion and Q&A
討論與提問



Kathryn CHEAH Song Eng
Hong Kong Academy of Sciences (ASHK)
謝賞恩，香港科學院



Carmen WONG
Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences (YASHK)
黃澤蕾，香港青年科學院



Zher Yee OOI
PhD Student at The University of Hong Kong



Tsz Yan LAM
Shau Kei Wan Government Secondary School
林芷欣，筲箕灣官立中學

16:45–16:55

Concluding Remarks



Anderson SHUM
President, Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences (YASHK)
岑浩璋，香港青年科學院

04

Speaker Profile



Professor Dennis Yuk Ming Lo President & Founding Member, Hong Kong Academy of Sciences

Dennis Lo is the Director of the Li Ka Shing Institute of Health Sciences, the Li Ka Shing Professor of Medicine and Professor of Chemical Pathology of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). He is also the Associate Dean (Research) of the Faculty of Medicine of CUHK. Dennis Lo received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Cambridge and the Doctor of Medicine and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from the University of Oxford.

Following his training at Oxford, he was appointed as the University Lecturer in Clinical Biochemistry and Honorary Consultant Chemical Pathologist at the John Radcliffe Hospital, the teaching hospital of the University of Oxford Clinical School. He was also a Fellow at Green College, Oxford.

Dennis Lo returned to Hong Kong in 1997. In the same year, he discovered the presence of fetal DNA in maternal plasma. His group has since remained at the forefront of this field. His group was the first to report the presence of cell-free fetal RNA and fetal epigenetic markers in maternal plasma and pioneered the use of such markers for noninvasive prenatal diagnosis. Dennis Lo and his colleagues were also the first to show that cell-free fetal nucleic acids in maternal plasma could be used for the noninvasive prenatal diagnosis of fetal trisomy 21 and had devised multiple solutions for this hitherto difficult diagnostic problem, including methods based on plasma RNA-SNP allelic ratios, plasma epigenetic markers, digital PCR and massively parallel DNA sequencing. With the use of massively parallel sequencing and the development of novel bioinformatics strategies, Dennis Lo's group succeeded at deciphering a genome-wide genetic map of the fetus through the analysis of the small amounts of fragmented DNA floating in the blood of pregnant women. This scientific achievement lays the foundation for developing non-invasive prenatal diagnostic tests for multiple genetic diseases.

In the area of cancer detection, Dennis Lo has pioneered a number of approaches to cancer liquid biopsy, especially for the detection of nasopharyngeal carcinoma and genomewide approaches for screening multiple types of cancer.

In recognition of his work, Dennis Lo has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the King Faisal International Prize in Medicine in 2014, the Future Science Prize – Life Science Prize in 2016 and the 2021 Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences. He was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2011, as a Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences in 2013 and as a Founding Member of The Hong Kong Academy of Sciences in 2015.



Professor Dong Sun Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, HKSARG

Professor Dong SUN was appointed as the Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry on 1 July 2022. Professor Sun is a world-renowned scholar and scientist. He is a pioneer in robotic manipulation of biological cells and robot control. His research has led to breakthroughs in the use of robotics combined with various micro-engineering tools. He has also received numerous awards. Professor Sun was elected as Fellow of Canadian Academy of Engineering, Member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, Fellow of the International Academy of Medical and Biological Engineering, Fellow of IEEE, and Fellow of ASME. Prior to his appointment, Professor Sun was the Chair Professor and Head of the Department of Biomedical Engineering at City University of Hong Kong, and the Legislative Council Member (Election Committee).



Professor Anderson H C Shum

President & Founding Member, Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences

Professor Anderson Ho Cheung SHUM is the Vice-President (Research) and Chair Professor of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering in Department of Chemistry, Department of Biomedical Engineering, and Department of Materials Science and Engineering at City University of Hong Kong. He holds a PhD and a master's degree in applied physics from Harvard University and a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Princeton University. His research interests include aqueous two-phase systems, emulsions, biomicrofluidics,

biomedical engineering and soft matter. Professor Shum has received numerous awards, including the Lab on a Chip & Aline Pioneers of Miniaturisation Lectureship (2025), the 15th Guanghua Engineering Science and Technology Prize from the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE, 2024), the RGC Senior Research Fellow Scheme (SRFS, 2024), and the Croucher Senior Research Fellowship (2020). He was also selected as a Young Fellow of the Hong Kong Academy of Engineering (2024), and as Fellows of the International Association of Advanced Materials (FIAAM, 2023), the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (FHKIE, 2023), and the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC, 2017).

Professor Shum is the President and a founding member of the Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences, and the Founding Centre Director and Co-Director of the Advanced Biomedical Instrumentation Centre. He currently serves as an Editorial Board Member for Colloids and Interfaces (MDPI AG), an Editorial Advisory Board Member for Lab-on-a-Chip (RSC), an Editor-at-large for Droplet (Wiley), an Editor for Biomedical Instrumentation (Elsevier) and Microsystems & Nanoengineering (Springer Nature), and an Associate Editor for Biomicrofluidics (AIP).



Dowson T S Tong

Senior Executive Vice President of Tencent,
CEO of Tencent Cloud and Smart Industries Group (CSIG)

Dowson Tong joined Tencent in 2005 and currently serves as Senior Executive Vice President of Tencent and CEO of the Cloud and Smart Industries Group (CSIG). He also plays a key leadership role on the Tencent Technology Committee and the company's Advertising and Marketing Services.

Since 2018, Dowson has led CSIG in driving innovation across cloud computing, AI and data technologies. Under his leadership, CSIG has accelerated digital

transformation in various sectors, including finance, manufacturing, automotive, healthcare, education and agriculture. He also oversaw the launch of flagship products like Tencent Meeting, which now serves millions of users across over 220 countries and regions. In 2025, Dowson's portfolio expanded to include the strategic development of Tencent Yuanbao AI services, QQ Browser, Sogou Input Method, and Ima AI Knowledge Assistant. This paves the way for a new generation of AI-era products that meet the evolving needs of users and enterprises.

Dowson has earned multiple industry accolades, including being named a "2022 Technology Leader in the Greater Bay Area" by the 21st Century Business Herald, a "2021 Business Innovation Leader" by Jiemian News, and one of the "Top 50 Best Professional Managers of Chinese Listed Companies" in 2020.



Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim

President, The World Academy of Sciences

Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim, FRS, President of The World Academy of Sciences is a South African infectious diseases epidemiologist and co-founder of the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA), where she is the John C. Martin Chair in Global Health and Associate Scientific Director. She is also Professor of Clinical Epidemiology at Columbia University and Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Health Sciences at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Over the past three decades, she has been instrumental in

shaping global HIV prevention strategies, with a particular focus on empowering women through science-based interventions. She led the groundbreaking CAPRISA 004 trial, which was the first to demonstrate that antiretroviral drugs, specifically tenofovir gel, can prevent the sexual transmission of HIV. This landmark study laid the scientific foundation for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), a major advancement in HIV prevention. Her work has also significantly advanced understanding of HIV and tuberculosis (TB) co-infection, as well as the implications of COVID-19 for individuals living with HIV. Abdool Karim has authored over 300 peer-reviewed publications and co-edited several influential global health textbooks, including the 6th and 7th editions of the Oxford Textbook of Global Public Health. She has mentored and trained more than 600 scientists across Africa, helping to build and nurture a robust pipeline of public health leaders on the continent.



Professor Péter Hegyi

Chair, Basic & Clinical Translational Sciences Section, Academia Europaea

Professor Péter Hegyi is a clinician–scientist internationally recognized for his discoveries in pancreatic physiology and translational pancreatology. His pioneering work revealed the critical role of ductal bicarbonate secretion and CFTR function in maintaining pancreatic health and preventing pancreatitis. He has successfully translated his laboratory findings into clinical trials, bridging fundamental mechanisms with patient care.

As Director of the National Academy of Scientist Education (NASE), he founded Europe’s largest talent development network, connecting high–school, university, and PhD education to clinical and translational research. Under his leadership, NASE engages thousands of students annually and serves as a model for European science education. Professor Hegyi also leads major European collaborations in acute pancreatitis, diabetes, and cystic diseases of the pancreas, promoting evidence–based medicine and open science. His achievements have been recognized by multiple international awards, including the 2025 Pitts Award, one of physiology’s highest distinctions.



Professor Bai Chunli

Former President, Chinese Academy of Sciences;
The World Academy of Sciences

A renowned chemist and pioneer of nanoscience, Professor Chunli Bai was the former President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and first Chinese President of the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS). Professor Bai’s rigorous research in scanning tunnelling microscopy leads to the breakthrough of the first laser atomic force microscopy in China, and is instrumental to numerous nanotechnological advancements. His research achievements have been honored by numerous accolades, including the TWAS

Medal Lecture in Chemistry, the TWAS–Abdus Salam Medal and the UNESCO Medal of “Contributions to Development of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology”. Additionally, Professor Bai’s standing as a scientist has been recognized internationally as a member or foreign member of academies such as the US National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Royal Society (UK), the Academy of Europe, German National Academy of Science and Engineering, the Japan Academy, and the Royal Society of Canada.



Professor Alison Noble

Vice President & Foreign Secretary, Royal Society

Professor Alison Noble CBE FREng FRS is currently the Technikos Professor of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Oxford and a Vice President and Foreign Secretary of the Royal Society.

Alison has worked in industry and academia. Her academic research interests are at the inter–disciplinary interface of artificial intelligence (computer vision) and healthcare imaging. She has worked with clinical partners in the UK, India, and Kenya on translational AI–based imaging science, and commercialised

some of her group’s research on ultrasound AI via a spinout which is now used in clinics worldwide. A former ERC Advanced Grant recipient (2016–23), Alison was awarded a UKRI Turing AI World–Leader Researcher Fellowship themed around human–AI collaboration in healthcare imaging in 2023. Recent personal recognition awards include: Distinguished Fellow, British Machine Vision Association (2022); Gabor Medal, Royal Society (2019); and the MICCAI Society Enduring Impact Award (2019).

Alison is a Fellow of the UK Royal Academy of Engineering (2008) and of the Royal Society (2017). She is a former President of the society in her field (MICCAI) and is a current trustee of HDRUK and the Oxford Trust. Alison received an OBE in 2013 and a CBE for services to engineering and biomedical imaging in the 2023 King’s Birthday Honours List.



Professor Vivian Wing Wah Yam

Founding Member, Hong Kong Academy of Sciences

Vivian W.-W. Yam obtained both her BSc (Hons) and PhD from The University of Hong Kong (HKU), and is currently the Philip Wong Wilson Wong Professor in Chemistry and Energy and Chair Professor of Chemistry at HKU. She was elected to Member of Chinese Academy of Sciences, International Member (formerly Foreign Associate) of US National Academy of Sciences, Foreign Member of Academia Europaea, Fellow of TWAS and Founding Member of Hong Kong Academy of Sciences. She was the Laureate of the 2011 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Award. She has received a number of

awards, including the Josef Michl ACS Award in Photochemistry, RSC Centenary Medal, RSC Ludwig Mond Award, Porter Medal, Bailar Medal, IUPAC Distinguished Women in Chemistry Award, I-APS Presidential Award, JPA Eikohsha Award, JSCC International Award, State Natural Science Award, CCS-Sinopec Chemistry Contribution Prize, etc. She is currently the Vice-President of the Chinese Chemical Society (CCS), Chair of the CCS Women's Chemists Committee, and President of the International Organization for Chemical Sciences in Development (IOCD). Her research interests include inorganic/organometallic chemistry, supramolecular chemistry and controlled assembly of nanostructures, photophysics and photochemistry, and metal-based molecular functional materials for sensing, organic optoelectronics and energy research.



Dr. Sam Chan

Co-chair, Global Young Academy

Associate Professor Dr. Chan Siok Yee has played a pivotal role in advancing scientific leadership and youth engagement through her involvement in the Young Scientist Network and the Global Young Academy (GYA). Within her expertise, she was awarded the Asian Young Pharmacy Award for outstanding achievements in pharmaceutical sciences. In Malaysia, she chaired the Science Leadership Working Group in the Young Scientist Network, spearheading

initiatives to cultivate leadership skills among early-career researchers. In collaboration with the Higher Education Leadership Academy (AKEPT), Dr. Chan has fostered future leaders in science and academia and hosted a Women in Science Forum to empower female scientists.

Internationally, Dr Chan attended the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting (2018), later selected to join Young Leaders Program at the STS Forum in Kyoto (2022), and represented GYA at the same event October of this year. She has been a GYA member since 2021, she serves as Co-Lead of the Education for Youth championing outreach programs bridging pharmaceutical science with community education. Due to her impactful contributions, she is now Co-Chair of the Global Young Academy and an elected member of the Committee on Capacity Building in International Academic Partnerships, amplifying her influence in global science diplomacy.



Mr. Gao Chunbo

Vice-Chairperson & Secretary-General, The World Association of Young Scientists

Gao Chunbo currently serves as Vice-Chairman and Secretary-General of the World Association of Young Scientists (WAYS). He previously served as Deputy Director of the Enterprise Innovation Service Center of the China Association for Science and Technology and Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of China Science and Technology Press. He also holds concurrent positions as Executive Vice-President of the "Innovation China" Open Source Innovation Societies, Executive Director of the China Intellectual Property Research Association.

Mr. Gao has held key positions within CAST, including in the General Office and the Department of Organization and Personnel, as well as at the China Science and Technology Museum. He possesses profound expertise in innovation and entrepreneurship, and in advancing institutional development and talent cultivation within the science and technology sector.



Dr. Abhi Veerakumarasivam

Immediate Past Chair, ASEAN Young Scientists Network

Professor Abhi Veerakumarasivam is a Malaysian geneticist, educator, and science policy leader. He is the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University. A Cambridge-trained cancer geneticist, his research explores the molecular pathways driving cancer recurrence and invasion, as well as Asian genetic variations influencing disease risk and treatment response. His work bridges genetics, education, and policy, advocating for the use of scientific evidence to advance institutional and national decision-making.

Abhi was the first Asian to win the FameLab International Best Science Communicator Award, and has received numerous accolades, including the National Cancer Research Award, Merdeka Award Grant, and Study UK Alumni Award for Science and Sustainability.

He was the inaugural Chair of INGSA-Asia (the International Network for Government Science Advice) and co-chaired the ASEAN Young Scientists Network, leading regional efforts to strengthen science advice, research integrity, and evidence-based policy. He has contributed to many major national initiatives, including the Malaysian Higher Education Blueprint 2025–2035 and the country's first Responsible Conduct of Research framework.

At Sunway, Abhi leads the largest UK–Malaysia transnational education partnership and the collaboration with Arizona State University, nurturing thousands of next-generation leaders with the knowledge, skills, and values to



Dr. Denis Newman-Griffis

Executive Group Member & Past Co-Chair, UK Young Academy

Dr Denis Newman-Griffis (they/them) is Senior Lecturer and AI for Health Lead in the University of Sheffield's Centre for Machine Intelligence, and a founding Member, Executive Group Member, and immediate past Co-Chair of the UK Young Academy. Dr Newman-Griffis' award-winning research investigates the responsible use of AI technologies to support human flourishing, bridging across AI applications in policy and public services, science systems, health and disability, and skills and education. Their work in close co-production with

national government departments, local authorities, and public and private research funding organisations from around the world is helping to shape responsible AI in the practice of public services and science policy, and their research on AI and disability has brought together technological innovation and critical analysis to advance disability justice in AI-enabled health and welfare. Dr Newman-Griffis is a passionate advocate for inclusion and support of diverse early-career researchers, innovators, and professionals, and their leadership has helped to establish the UK Young Academy as an international innovator in bringing together transformative early-career leadership across sectors. Dr Newman-Griffis has been recognised with a British Academy Innovation Fellowship and the American Medical Informatics Association's Doctoral Dissertation Award.



Dr. Ekaphan Kraichak

Former Co-Chair, Thai Young Scientists Academy

Ekaphan Kraichak is an Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Botany at Kasetsart University's Faculty of Science in Thailand. He earned his Ph.D. in Integrative Biology from the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Kraichak's research integrates molecular biology and data analytics to advance understanding of plant systematics, biodiversity, ecology, and evolution, with particular focus on bryophytes and lichens. Beyond his research contributions,

he is deeply committed to science education, developing pedagogical programs for high school students and teachers that emphasize research methodology and biological data analysis. Recognized as Thailand's Outstanding Young Scientist of the Year in 2019, Dr. Kraichak actively serves the scientific community as Webmaster of the Southeast Asian Bryological and Lichenological Group and Co-Chair of the Thai Young Scientists Academy (2023–2025). His work bridges fundamental research with capacity building for the next generation of scientists in Southeast Asia.



Professor Stephanie Ma

Vice President & Founding Member, Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences

Prof. Ma obtained her B.Sc. (Cell Biology and Genetics) and M.Sc. (Experimental Medicine) degrees from the University of British Columbia (Canada), and graduated from The University of Hong Kong (HKU) with a Ph.D. of outstanding ranking that was awarded the Li Ka Shing Prize for the Best PhD Thesis of that year. Since then, she has been working at HKU where she is currently the Jimmy and Emily Tang Professor in Molecular Genetics at the School of Biomedical Sciences in Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, HKU (HKUMed), and

Associate Vice-President (Research and Innovation) at HKU. Prof. Ma's team is dedicated to better understand how a more stemness and undifferentiated state in cancer can contribute to drug resistance, immune evasion and tumor recurrence, using liver cancer as a model system. In her field, she has been listed by Clarivate as a top 1% most-cited scholar and by Stanford University as a top 2% scientist worldwide. She is the recipient of a number of awards including the more recent 2017 University of British Columbia Alumni Builder Award (Canada), the 2021 Research Grants Council (RGC) Research Fellow Scheme as well as the 2023 Croucher Senior Research Fellowship. Professor Ma currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors at Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks (HKSTP) and a member of the Advisory Board of the Hong Kong Life Sciences Society (HKLSS). Prof. Ma is a founding member and current Vice-President of the Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences (YASHK).



Professor Kathryn Song Eng CHEAH

Member, Hong Kong Academy of Sciences

Prof Cheah, is a developmental geneticist and stem cell biologist working on genomic and regenerative medicine to address development and ageing for improved health. She received her PhD in molecular biology from the University of Cambridge, UK, was a postdoctoral fellow in the University of Manchester and Imperial Cancer Research Fund, UK. Since joining HKU, she has served as Head, Department of Biochemistry and Director of the Centre for Reproduction, Development and Growth. She was awarded a Croucher Foundation Senior

Fellowship (2000) and is an elected Fellow of the global academy for the advancement of science in developing countries, The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) and The Hong Kong Academy of Sciences. In 2023 she was elected Associate Member of the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO). From 2014–2023 she held the Jimmy & Emily Tang Endowed Professorship in Molecular Genetics. In 2021 she was awarded the British Society for Matrix Biology Medal Lecture for her contributions to the field.

Her research focuses on the functional genomics and developmental genetics of skeletal and inner ear development, and the molecular pathogenesis of human congenital and degenerative skeletal disorders. Using stem cells and mouse models, she studies skeletal and inner ear development, revealing key roles of SOX2/SOXE genes in hearing. Her team challenged long-held beliefs by showing chondrocytes transform into osteoblasts during bone formation and the essential role of the lineage for bone homeostasis. Her research aims to develop therapies for osteoarthritis, osteoporosis, and disc degeneration. She is well known for seminal contributions: the discovery of SOX2 as a gene essential for hearing; insights in the regulation and function of genes in skeletal development; that cartilage and bone cells are a lineage continuum; a causative link between cellular stress and skeletal disorders with therapeutic implication; identification of several genetic risk factors in intervertebral disc degeneration. She and her research team are currently using human and mouse embryonic stem cells and genetically modified mice as models to study development and disease and develop therapeutic approaches for disorders of cartilage (e.g. osteoarthritis) and low bone mass (e.g. osteoporosis) and intervertebral disc degeneration.

In addition to her research she has contributed to the development and promotion of science and technology in Hong Kong. She and her team pioneered the introduction of transgenic and knockout mouse technology to Greater China and Hong Kong. She is passionate about contributing to the public and professional understanding of science and promoting the international profile of Hong Kong science through organizing international symposia and Advanced Study Institutes. She chaired the Bid Committee for bringing the International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR) Annual Meeting 2025 to Hong Kong. She is co-Chair with Eugenia Piddini of the ISSCR 2025 program committee. She is also co-Chair for the ISSCR Public Symposium on June 10th: "Innovating the Future: The Power of Stem Cells in Medicine and Biotechnology". She contributed to and presents in the new, open-access @ISSCR continuing education course, Stem Cell Medicine: From Scientific Research to Patient Care jointly provided with @HarvardMed This resource is a major milestone for the field providing expert-led education on stem cell medicine for healthcare providers.

She has served as Biology & Medicine Panel member on the Research Grants Council and as panel member for all the University Grants Committee Research Assessment exercises including the upcoming one in 2026. She is currently a panel member of the Health and Medical Research Fund. Internationally she has served on the Editorial Boards of Matrix Biology, Annual Reviews of Genomics & Human Genetics, BioEssays and as a Guest Associate Editor for PLoS Genetics. She was Asian Editor for Development Growth & Differentiation (2015–2016) and Associate Editor of Genesis (2010–2018). Currently she serves on the Editorial Board of Journal of Orthopedic Research, as Editorial Advisor: Emerging Topics in Life Sciences, on the Advisory Board, Natural Sciences and is Senior Editor for eLife.

She was elected President of the International Society for Matrix Biology 2006–2008; the founding President of the Hong Kong Society for Developmental Biology (HKSDb) (2004–2013); Hong Kong representative for Asia-Pacific Developmental Biology Network and the International Society of Developmental Biology; appointed Senior External Fellow of the University of Freiburg Institute of Advanced Studies 2011–2012; elected member, Board of Directors of the International Society of Differentiation (2012–2018). Currently she serves on the Hong Kong Advisory Board of the Gordon Research Conferences (GRC) and the GRC Board of Trustees Conference Evaluation Committee.



Professor Carmen Chak-Lui Wong

Member, Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences

Dr. Carmen Chak-Lui Wong is currently the Assistant Dean of the LKS Faculty of Medicine, Professor and Principal Investigator in the Department of Pathology and the State Key Laboratory of Liver Research at HKU. She obtained her PhD degree in HKU and completed her post-doctoral training at Johns Hopkins University. She is the recipient of the NSFC Distinguished Young Scholars Fund, NSFC Excellent Young Scientists Fund (Hong Kong and Macau), RGC Research

Fellowship, Croucher Innovation Award, HKU Outstanding Young Researcher Award (OYRA), HKU Outstanding Research Student Supervisory Award (ORSSA), Hong Kong Young Scientist Award, and Li Ka Shing Prize. Her research team is devoted to unraveling the complex mechanisms that drive metabolic reprogramming and immune evasion in liver cancer. Her team employs precision mouse models to gain a deeper understanding of personalized medicine for liver cancer. Her work has paved the way for precision medicine for liver cancer. She is the ESI top 1% most cited scholar. She is an elected member of the Hong Kong Young Academy of Science. She currently serves as the co-editor-in-chief of Hepatology Communications (AASLD). She is also the council member of the governing board of the International Liver Cancer Association (ILCA).



Miss. Zher Yee OOI

Student, PHD Student at The University of Hong Kong

Zher Yee is a final-year PhD student in the Faculty of Medicine at HKU. She obtained her BSc degree from Imperial College London and started her research journey in Professor Carmen Wong's laboratory. Her study focuses on elucidating the mechanisms and regulatory pathways underlying metabolic alterations in liver cancer, with the goal of exploiting these vulnerabilities through dietary manipulation of nutrient availability within tumours.

Her research aimed to explore dietary interventions as safe, non-pharmacological, and translationally feasible strategies not only to disrupt cancer metabolism but also potentially reverse immunosuppression in tumours, thereby enhancing the efficacy of existing therapies.

Zher Yee actively shares her research at local and international conferences and has received several accolades, including Best Presenter Awards at the Inter-University Life Sciences Symposium and the HKU-Med Postgraduate Student Symposium. Beyond her research, she serves as a Graduate School Ambassador, where she shares her motivation for research and inspires students to pursue postgraduate studies.



Miss. Tsz Yan LAM

Student, Shau Kei Wan Government Secondary School

Ms. Lam is a student at Shau Kei Wan Government Secondary School. She represents the perspective of Hong Kong's younger generation, sharing her views on science education and the future of learning.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

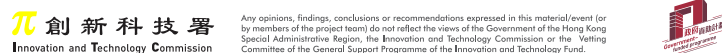
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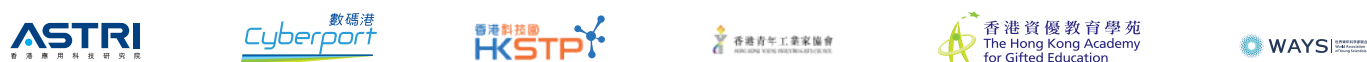
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