



Dear JCC Community,

As I walk through the To Yuen Building over the past two weeks, it is a bit of a ghost-town. Many people are travelling, enjoying much needed vacation time, presenting at conferences or collaborating, while our students are busy on summer internships, EMS placements and having a break.

It's pleasing to see the progress on the One-Health Tower with the building now proudly occupying its footprint and its name on display on the outside of structure and clearly visible from Tat Chee Avenue. The internal fit-outs are still some-way off, so we will need to be patient before measuring up for office-furniture.

I am pleased to announce that [Professor Huiyong Lin from the Department of Biomedical Sciences](#) is our new JCC Associate Dean of Research. Prof. Lin has a wealth of research expertise in human metabolic diseases, metabolomics and pharmacology. With an impressive track record of successful grant funding and high impact publications, I have no doubt his expertise will be invaluable to help the College reach higher peaks in our research success. On that note, congratulations are in order for many of our College's researchers for their recent grant application research. Prof Yu Huang is the team leader for a Theme-Based Research Scheme Grant from the UGC, securing HK\$55.5 million for his team to focus on atherosclerotic vascular disease. Many other colleagues in BMS, NS and PH were successful in the recent GRF round of grants, as you will see in the Departmental news below.

A special shout-out to the admissions teams for all of our majors, who have been incredibly busy with admissions. This is especially the case for our BVM program, where admission requirements are rigorous and involve face-to-face interviews to help us select applicants who will succeed in the 6-year BVM degree and beyond.

Kind regards

Dean



News From Our Departments

Neuroscience

New External Grant:



- Congratulations to **Prof Jufang He**, **Prof Wing Ho Yung**, **Prof Jan Schnupp**, **Prof Qiang Liu** and **Prof Xiaowei Zhu** for they have been awarded General Research Fund (GRF) 2023/24 of the Hong Kong Research Grants Council (RGC). Professor Yung received his BSc and MPhil from The Chinese University of Hong Kong and DPhil from the University of Oxford. He was previously a Professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.
- Congratulations to **Prof Jufang He**, who has been awarded Senior Research Fellow Scheme (SRFS) 2023/24 of the Hong Kong Research Grants Council (RGC) for his exceptional contributions and the potential impact of his proposed research projects.

Events



Inhibition in the CNS
Gordon Research Conference

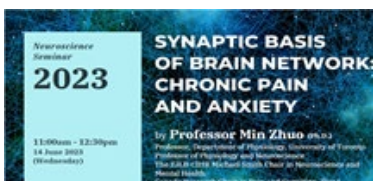
Prof Geoffrey Lau was a poster presenter at the [Gordon Research Conference, Inhibition in the CNS \(Switzerland\)](#) on 16 - 21 July 2023.

- **Prof Kwok-On Lai** gave a talk about RNA transport in neuron **The specific role of the motor protein KIF5B in dendritic transport, synaptic plasticity and memory** at the symposium "*Mechanisms and Role of Dendritic Organelle and Membrane Trafficking in Synaptic Plasticity*" during the [17th Meeting of the Asian-Pacific Society for Neurochemistry \(APSN\)](#) in Singapore on 19 June 2023.

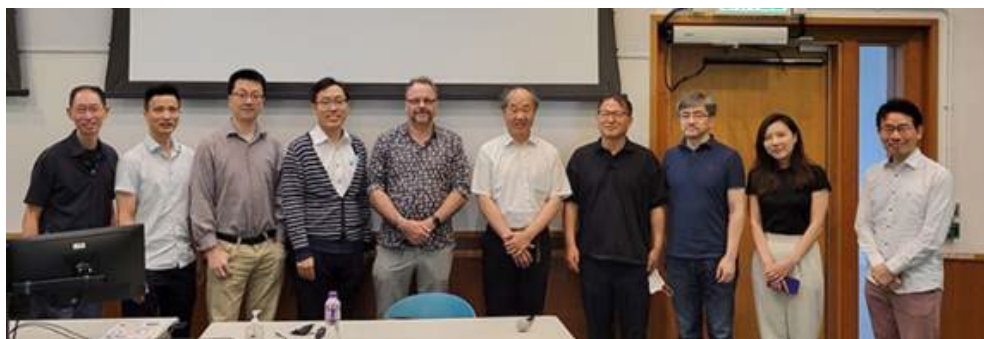


Prof Geoffrey Lau gave a talk on "**Inhibition of connexin hemichannels alleviates neuroinflammation and hyperexcitability in temporal lobe epilepsy**" at the [17th Meeting of the Asian-Pacific Society for Neurochemistry \(APSN\)](#) in Singapore on 19 June 2023.

- **Prof Min Zhuo**, Professor, Department of Physiology, University of Toronto, presented a seminar entitled "Synaptic Basis of Brain Network: Chronic Pain and Anxiety" on 14 June 2023.



- **Prof Yoshiyuki Kubota**, Associate Professor, Section of Electron Microscopy of National Institute for Physiological Sciences (NIPS), delivered a seminar entitled "Cortical Spine Dynamics During a Single Seed Grasp Motor Learning" on 6 June 2023.



Research (included new awards, new publications, new **successful** external grants, etc.)



- Rui Dong, Xuejun Li, Angelo Flores, **Kwok-On Lai*** (2023). The translation initiating factor eIF4E and arginine methylation underlie G3BP1 function in dendritic spine development of neurons. *J. Biol. Chem.* (Nature-index journal), in-press Jul 11, 2023; [Link to the article](#)

ADVANCED SCIENCE

Research Article | Open Access | © |
 Transplanting Human Neural Stem Cells with ≈50% Reduction of SOX9 Gene Dosage Promotes Tissue Repair and Functional Recovery from Severe Spinal Cord Injury

Jessica Aijia Liu, Kin Wai Tam, Yong Long Chen, Xianglan Feng, Christy Wing Lam Chan, Amos Lok Hang Lo, Kenneth Lap-Kei Wu, Man-Ning Hui, Ming-Hoi Wu ... See all authors

First published: 09 June 2023 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/advs.202205804>

JOURNAL ARTICLE
 Competition on presynaptic resources enhances the discrimination of interfering memories

Chi Chung Alan Fung, Tomoki Fukai | Author Notes

PNAS Nexus, Volume 2, Issue 6, June 2023, pgad161.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/pnasnexus/pgad161>

Published: 15 May 2023 | Article history

- **Liu JA***, Tam KW, Chen YL, Feng X, Chan CWL, Lo ALH, Wu KL, Hui MN, Wu MH, Chan KK, Cheung MPL, Cheung CW, Shum DK, Chan YS, Cheung M. Transplanting Human Neural Stem Cells with approximately 50% Reduction of SOX9 Gene Dosage Promotes Tissue Repair and Functional Recovery from Severe Spinal Cord Injury. *Adv Sci (Weinh)*. Jun 9 2023:e2205804. [Link to the article](#)
- **Chi Chung Alan Fung***, Tomoki Fukai (2023). Competition on presynaptic resources enhances the discrimination of interfering memories. *PNAS Nexus*, Volume 2, Issue 6, June 2023, pgad161. [Link to the article](#)

Staff



- We are delighted to announce that staff promotions to recognize their outstanding research, teaching, servicing and administration at CityU:

Prof Eddie Chi Him MA, promoted to Professor

Prof Geoffrey Chun Yue LAU, promoted to Associate Professor

Biomedical Sciences

Research (included new awards, new publications, new **successful** external grants, etc.)

New External Grant:

- 9 faculty members (**Prof Ming CHAN, Prof Kwan CHOW, Prof Xin DENG, Prof Yu HUANG, Prof Gigi LO, Prof Li WANG, Prof Wenjun XIONG, Prof Sean YUAN, Prof Zongli ZHENG**) have been awarded **General Research Fund (GRF) 2023/24** released by RGC recently.

Events

- A Hong Kong Scholars Annual Symposium 2023 was held in hybrid mode on 8 July 2023 (Saturday), organized jointly by the China National Postdoctoral Council under the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (全國博士後管委會辦公室), The Society of Hong Kong Scholars (香港學者協會) and Beijing-Hong Kong Academic Exchange Centre (京港學術交流中心), and supported by the Department of Biomedical

Sciences, City University of Hong Kong. The event comprising research presentations and an award ceremony to celebrate the research excellence of Hong Kong scholars, was a resounding success with close to 170 participants. It was graced by Prof. Michael YANG, Senior Vice-President (Innovation & Enterprise), who gave an opening address, and also Prof. Yu HUANG (Department Head), who participated as one of the judges for the oral presentation awards. The event provided a great platform for active young scholars to exchange ideas and research results with their peers as well as the scientific community, and to explore opportunities for research collaborations. It concluded with an exclusive dinner, providing great networking opportunities.

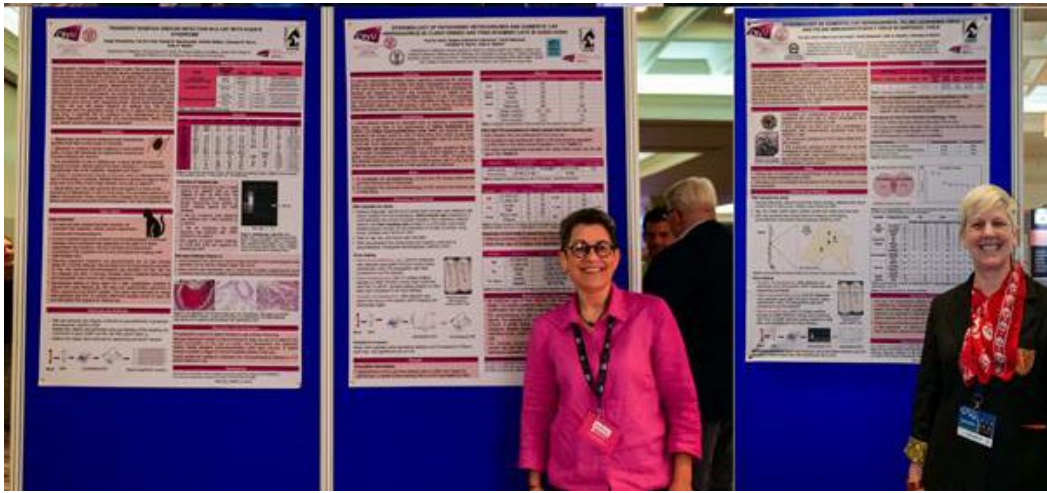


Veterinary Clinical Sciences

Research

- **Professor Julia Beatty, Professor Vanessa Barrs and Miss Sabine Marangoni** (works in Professor Paulo Steagall's research group) attended the International Society of Feline Medicine Congress in Dublin and presented three abstracts from their research group.





- **Professors Kate Flay, Santiago Alonso, Gareth Fitch, Rebecca Parkes & Mrs Susanna Taylor** were awarded a HK\$150,000 CityU Teaching Excellence Award Grant for their project “Validation of innovative low-fidelity large animal models for veterinary education”

Service

- **Professor May Tse** was invited as a guest speaker for the Life Panning Programme organized by Rotary clubs and gave a talk to secondary school students on 24 Jun 2023. A brief introduction of working as veterinarian and career options and development in Hong Kong, and how to be a veterinarian in Hong Kong was given to the students.



- **Professor May Tse** has been invited by the Hong Kong Accreditation Service to act as a technical expert for The Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (HOKLAS) in the assessment of AFCD Tai Lung Veterinary Laboratory for anatomical pathology under HOKLAS test category of ‘Veterinary Testing’ on 24-25 July 2023. The audit has been carried out smoothly.

Award / Others

- **Professor Paulo Steagall** who has served on three of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association’s (WSAVA’s) clinical committees and has played a key role in some of its most important projects, is to receive the prestigious **WSAVA President’s Award** at its upcoming World Congress. This occasional award recognizes exceptional service to the WSAVA, with awardees selected by the WSAVA President, Dr Ellen van Nierop.

- **Professor Antonio Giuliano** has been elected de facto diplomate of the Asian College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Oncology).
- News sharing: The Hong Kong Veterinary Association will be offering free membership for the year 2024 to all registered veterinarians in Hong Kong. More information will be shared by HKVA later this year.



Infectious Diseases and Public Health

PH Retreat

- PH organized the Annual Retreat on 27 Jun 2023 at Cordis Hong Kong. The event provided an opportunity to boost the connections among PH colleagues away from daily business and to develop actions in line with the PH operational plan.



Awards

- **Prof. LIU Kai** awarded by The American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers as one of the 2023 ASABE Outstanding Reviewers.
- A PhD student, **Ms. HUANG Qianjun** won 3rd Place in 3-Minute Thesis Competition at the InnoVet-AMR Final Learning Event organized by International Development Research Centre in June 2023.



Research (included new awards, new publications, new **successful** external grants, etc.)

- **Sophie St-Hilaire**, Stephen Chi Ho Chan, Kwok Zu Lim, Brett MacKinnon, Tzu Hsuan Cheng, Ka Po Fiona Cheng, Aaron Chi Fai Leung, Sabrina HeiYuet Lam, Vidya Bhardwaj & Olivia Sinn Kay Chan. Subsidized veterinary extension services may reduce antimicrobial resistance in aquaculture. Scientific Reports, 2023, 13(1), 10118 <https://rdcu.be/de4wt>.
- Bukhari SSUH, **McElligott AG**, Rosanowski SM, Parkes RSV (In press) Welfare concerns for mounted load carrying by working donkeys in Pakistan. Recognition of emotion and pain by owners benefits the welfare of donkeys in a challenging working environment. PEERJ. Accepted June 22, 2023
- **Article:** Mao, A., Huang, E., Wang, X., **Liu, K.*** (2023). Deep Learning-based animal activity recognition with wearable sensors: overview, challenges, and future directions. Computers and Electronics in Agriculture, 211, 108043.

Research Blog

Blog posted by **Prof. Sophie ST-HILAIRE:-**

New study: Subsidized veterinary extension services may reduce antimicrobial resistance in aquaculture

City University of Hong Kong (CityU) and the Agriculture Fisheries Conservation Department of the government of Hong Kong in 2018 initiated a subsidized aquatic animal veterinary service to help small stakeholder farmers improve their fish production and reduce the use of antibiotics on farms.

<https://microbiologycommunity.nature.com/posts/subsidized-veterinary-extension-services-may-reduce-antimicrobial-resistance-in-aquaculture>

Service, events, conference, and symposium

- On June 15th, **Prof. Alan McElligott** attended the Meeting of Farm Sanctuary - Research with the Animals Advisory Committee <https://www.farmsanctuary.org/sanctuary-based-research/>
- On June 29th, **Prof. Alan McElligott** attended the Invited talk: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) at the Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences (JCC), City University of Hong Kong. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in Veterinary Education: Importance and Potential Way Forward for Asia. This Online Workshop was organized by Asian Association of Veterinary Schools (AAVS).
- On July 11th, **Prof. Alan McElligott** attended the Meeting of International Society for Applied Ethology, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA) Committee. https://www.applied-ethology.org/Committees_and_Experts.html
- **Prof. Surya Paudel** participated in the XI European Symposium on Poultry Welfare.



Media

- BBC Radio interview about goat welfare with **Prof. Alan McElligott** on July 18th (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001nv6l> - from 51 min 30 sec). BBC Radio Ulster, UK

Research Grants

Notable grants application deadlines upcoming:

1. [Shenzhen Science & Technology Research Grants](#)
[深圳市科技计划项目](#)
[- 基础研究专项 \(深圳市自然科学基金\) 面上项目](#)
Deadline: 31 July 2023
2. [Chengdu Science & Technology Research Grants](#)
[2023 年成都市软科学研究项目](#)
Deadline: 1 August 2023
3. [National Key Technologies R&D Programme \(for Hong Kong Institutions\)](#)
[國家重點研發計劃專項\(對香港高校開放申請\)](#)
[- 合成生物學 \(部市聯動項目\)](#)
Deadline: 1 August 2023
4. [Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Macau Science and Technology Project \(Category C\)](#)
[\(for Hong Kong Institutions\)](#)
[深港澳科技計劃項目\(C類項目\)](#)
Deadline: 3 August 2023
5. [RGC Strategic Topics Grant \(STG\)](#)
Deadline: 8 August 2023
6. [Shenzhen Medical Research Funding](#)
[深圳市医学研究专项资金](#)
Deadline: 15 August 2023
7. [Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme \(PASS\)](#)
Deadline: 21 August 2023
8. [Environment and Conservation Fund \(ECF\)](#)
Deadline: 21 August 2023
9. [RGC grant proposal writing Webinar1](#)

For more information on Research Grants
[Research Grants and Contracts Office](#)

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

Upcoming DEI Events

Click on the events tab on our DEI website for the full list of events
<https://www.cityu.edu.hk/jcc/about-us/diversity-equity-and-inclusion>

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