

**ASHK Founding Member Professor Joseph Sriyal Malik Peiris receives
the 2021 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award**

Professor Joseph Sriyal Malik Peiris, a Founding Member of the Hong Kong Academy of Sciences (ASHK) and Professor Yi Guan, Chair Professor of Emerging Viral Diseases for the School of Public Health at the Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong, have been awarded the 2021 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award granted by The Gairdner Foundation.

Dr Lap-Chee Tsui, the Founding President of ASHK, expressed his gratitude to these two distinguished scholars for receiving this important global award. He said that these scholars' experience in the study of infectious diseases in Hong Kong and Asia and their strategic advices to combat infectious diseases have contributed significantly to the health of mankind in the world. On top of this, they fought passionately for Hong Kong through demonstrating the importance of science in combating diseases. Dr Tsui also encouraged students to study sciences and technology.

The Gairdner Foundation remarked that Peiris and Guan had initiated studies in major infectious diseases — such as H5N1, SARS and MERS — and their comprehensive strategies for surveillance, monitoring, identification, investigation, diagnosis, and control of emerging infectious disease outbreaks provided critical guidance and insight for countries throughout the world.

In 1990, The Gairdner Foundation awarded the Canada Gairdner International Award to Dr Lap-Chee Tsui for his contributions to the identification of the gene for cystic fibrosis.

About The Gairdner Foundation

The Gairdner Foundation was established in 1957 by James Gairdner, with the purpose of recognising and rewarding international excellence in fundamental research that impacts human health. 402 awards have been bestowed on laureates from over the world since 1959.

Annually, seven awards are presented: five Canada Gairdner International Awards for biomedical research, one John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award, specifically for

impact on global health issues, and one Canada Gairdner Wightman Award, reserved for a Canadian.

For more information, please visit: <https://gairdner.org/>

About The Hong Kong Academy of Sciences

Established in 2015, The Hong Kong Academy of Sciences (ASHK) is committed to promoting the development and advancement of science and technology in Hong Kong, and fostering Hong Kong as a centre of scientific excellence.

The Academy cooperates with organisations with complementary objective, including those in the industrial and commerce sectors to achieve its objectives. It also conducts independent studies relating to public policy in science and technology.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.ashk.org.hk/>

The above information is released by AsiaNet Communications Limited on behalf of ASHK.

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