

Hong Kong Academy of Sciences elects Professor Dennis YM LO as new President

The Hong Kong Academy of Sciences (ASHK) has a new leadership following the election of **Professor Dennis Y M LO (盧煜明)**, a founding member of ASHK and a molecular biologist, to the position of President during its seventh Annual General Meeting today. **Professor Ngaiming MOK (莫毅明)**, a mathematician, and **Professor Tony MOK Shu Kam (莫樹錦)**, an oncologist, become the Vice-President and Honorary Secretary respectively. Other members to the new Board of Directors are: **Professor Vivian W.W. YAM (任詠華)**, a chemist and a founding member of ASHK; **Professor Kwok-Yung YUEN (袁國勇)**, a microbiologist and a founding member of ASHK; **Professor Anthony G.O. YEH (葉嘉安)**, a geographic information scientist; **Professor Che Ting CHAN (陳子亭)**, an expert in physics; and **Professor Tong YANG (楊彤)**, a mathematician. Founding President **Professor Lap-chee TSUI (徐立之)** has completed his term.

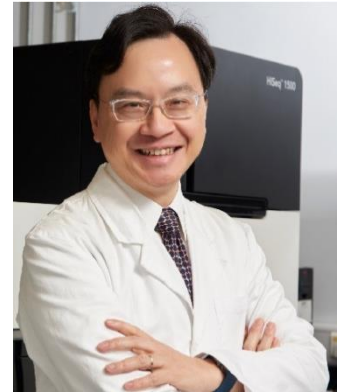
Professor Dennis LO, the new President of ASHK, expresses his gratitude to Professor Lap-chee TSUI for his tremendous leadership in the organisation's contribution to science and technological developments in Hong Kong, and for his efforts to build bridges between local scientists, researchers and the commercial and industrial sectors. Professor LO also pays tribute to his predecessor for his devotion in promoting the city's research capability and science education.

Professor Dennis LO says he has full confidence in the future development of I&T in Hong Kong due to the city's solid research and development capabilities, with the backing by the Central Government amid opportunities presented by the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA). "The Central Government has strong aspirations for the GBA to become an engine of I&T development. As a part of the GBA, Hong Kong could utilise its strength in basic scientific research to assist the country in developing I&T initiatives. It would also benefit Hong Kong's local economy and people's livelihood," he said. "As President of ASHK, I will strive to strengthen the cooperation between ASHK and its stakeholders, including HKSAR Government and other parties in the community, with the aim to bring Hong Kong's scientific and technological innovation to yet a higher level."

Professor Lap-chee TSUI, who served ASHK as Founding President for seven years, congratulates Professor LO for his new role. He expresses sincere appreciation to members of ASHK and the Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences (YASHK) for their past support and trust, and their unceasing efforts on scientific researches and science education. Under the leadership of Professor LO, Professor TSUI looks forward to sustained efforts by ASHK to promote scientific research, science education and development, boosting Hong Kong's quest to become an international innovation and technology hub.

About the new President of ASHK

Professor Dennis Y M LO is a founding member of the Hong Kong Academy of 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 Fellow of The World Academy of Sciences in 2013.



Professor 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. Professor LO joined The Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1997. In the same year, he discovered the presence of cell-free fetal DNA in maternal plasma. He and his colleagues are instrumental in making non-invasive DNA-based prenatal testing a clinical reality. Professor LO's group succeeded in deciphering a genome-wide genetic map of the fetus through the analysis of traces 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. Professor 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.

Professor LO has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2005 State Natural Science Award from the State Council of China, the 2006 International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) – Abbott Award for Outstanding Contribution to Molecular Diagnostics, the 2006 US National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry Distinguished Scientist Award, the 2006 Croucher Senior Medical Research Fellowship, the 2007 American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) Sigi Ziering Award, Fulbright Distinguished Scholar 2009, the 2012 AACC-NACB Award for Outstanding Contributions To Clinical Chemistry in a Selected Area of Research, the 2014 King Faisal International Prize for Medicine, the 2015 Pioneer Award at the Personalised Medicine World Conference, Silicon Valley, the 2015 AACC Wallace H. Coulter Lectureship Award, The 2021 Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences and the Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award in 2022.

About the new Vice-President of ASHK

Professor Ngaiming MOK is a member of the Hong Kong Academy of Sciences. He was elected as Academician of The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) in 2015.

After finishing high school at St. Paul's Co-educational College in 1975, Professor MOK went abroad to pursue his undergraduate studies at the University of Chicago on a scholarship of the International Institute of



Education (IIE). He moved to Yale University in early 1977, obtained his first degree as M.A. at Yale in 1978 and subsequently his Ph.D. at Stanford University in 1980. Professor Mok started his career at Princeton University and was Professor at Columbia University and at Université de Paris (Orsay). Professor MOK joined Department of Mathematics of The University of Hong Kong in 1994. He is the Li Shu Fan Medical Foundation endowed Professor and Chairman of Department of Clinical Oncology at The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Professor Mok is dedicated to research in Several Complex Variables, Complex Differential Geometry and Algebraic Geometry. He was a Sloan Fellow in 1984, and he received the Presidential Young Investigator Award of the US in 1985, the Croucher Senior Fellowship Award of Hong Kong in 1998, the State Natural Science Award (Class II) of China in 2007, the Bergman Prize of the American Mathematical Society in 2009, the Life Science Prize of Future Science Prize Award Ceremony in 2022.

About the new Honorary Secretary

Professor Tony S.K. Mok is a member of the Hong Kong Academy of Sciences, as well as the Past President of the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC).

Professor Tony S.K. Mok was trained at the University of Alberta, Canada and he subsequently completed a fellowship in medical oncology at the Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto.

Professor Mok is the Li Shu Fan Medical Foundation endowed Professor and Chairman of Department of Clinical Oncology at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. His main research interest focuses on biomarker and molecular targeted therapy in lung cancer. He was the Principal Investigator and first author on the landmark IRESSA® Pan-Asia Study (IPASS), which was the first study that confirmed the application of precision medicine for advanced lung cancer. He has led multiple multinational studies and contributed to over 260 articles in prestigious international journals.



His work was recognised by numerous awards including Bonnie Addario Award in 2015, Fellowship of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (FASCO) in 2017, Paul Bunn Jr Scientific Award in 2017, National Science and Technology Progress Award in 2017, CSCO Annual Achievement Award in 2017, ESMO Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018, The 6th Kobayashi Foundation Award, Giant of Cancer Care in 2020 and Hong Kong Leader of the Year 2020 Award.

About The Hong Kong Academy of Sciences (ASHK)

The Hong Kong Academy of Sciences (ASHK) was established by a group of most distinguished scientists in Hong Kong in 2015 to promote the development and advancement of science and technology in Hong Kong, and to raise Hong Kong's profile as a centre of scientific excellence.

The Academy brings together leading scientists in Hong Kong as well as from overseas who have contributed significantly to promoting science and technology in Hong Kong. With the vision that "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 for the mission that "The Academy promotes the development and advancement of science and technology in Hong Kong and informs the public on relevant issues.

To recognise the indispensable contribution of young scientists in Hong Kong and to leverage their enthusiasm for promoting science and technology, the Academy set up the Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences (YASHK) as an autonomous chapter in 2019.

The Hong Kong Academy of Sciences official website: <http://www.ashk.org.hk/>

The Hong Kong Academy of Sciences Facebook: [The Hong Kong Academy of Sciences](#)

The Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences official website: <https://yashk.org.hk/>

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Photo Captions

ASHK01: ASHK completed its seventh Annual General Meeting today, Professor Dennis Y M LO was elected as the new President. (Photo by ASHK)

ASHK02: The new President of ASHK Professor Dennis LO (right) presented the Certificate of Appreciation to ASHK's Founding President Professor Lap-Chee TSUI (left). (Photo by ASHK)

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

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