

Press release

For immediate release

## Cosmic Light Shows Decoded:

### HKU Space Scientists Unravel the Unified Framework for Diverse Aurorae Across Planets

#### Unlocking Pathways for Better Space Weather Prediction

June 18, 2024



Twelve distinguished scholars from the University of Hong Kong (HKU) have been named by the international academic website Research.com among the top 100 best scientists globally in their respective disciplines in 2024. Among them, five professors have been recognised as the highest-ranked in Asia within their fields out of a total of 26 disciplines, further showcasing HKU's academic excellence.

The five top-ranked professors in Asia are HKU President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Xiang Zhang in physics, Professor Kwok-Yung Yuen in microbiology, Professor Guochun Zhao in earth science, Professor Alec Stone Sweet in law and Professor Tak Mak in molecular biology.

Professor Paul Yip ranks first in China and 72nd globally in the Humanities and Social Sciences discipline.

Professor Guan Yi holds the top position in Immunology in China and ranks 131st among his peers worldwide. Additionally, HKU holds seven of the highest ranked scholars in China in 26 disciplines, making the University home to the highest number of leading scholars in the country.

The rankings are determined by a scientist's D-index (Discipline H-index), which solely considers publication and citation data within a specific discipline. This recognition highlights the significant contributions of these professors to their fields and the substantial impact their work has had on society. It also demonstrates HKU's dedication to research excellence and innovation, inspiring the University to continue pushing the boundaries of knowledge and making a lasting, positive impact on the world.

The HKU professors listed among the best scientists in their fields are:

#### Chemistry

[Professor Sir Fraser Stoddart](#) (21st globally, 2nd in China)

Chair Professor, the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science

[Professor Chi-Ming CHE](#) (71st globally, 5th in China)

Zhou Guangzhao Professor in Natural Sciences and Chair Professor, the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science

#### Earth Science

[Guochun ZHAO](#) (8th globally, 1st in Asia)

Chair Professor, Department of Earth Sciences, Faculty of Science

[Professor Min SUN](#) (20th globally, 4th in China)

Professor, Department of Earth Sciences, Faculty of Science

#### Engineering and Technology

[Professor Chuyang TANG](#) (63rd globally, 7th in China)

Chair Professor of Environmental Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

#### Environmental Sciences

[Professor Peng GONG](#) (76th globally, 3rd in China)

Vice-President and Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Chair Professor of Global Sustainability

#### Immunology

[Professor GUAN Yi](#) (131st globally, 1st in China)

Daniel CK Yu Professor in Virology and Chair of Emerging Viral Diseases, School of Public Health, HKUMed

#### Law

[Professor Alec STONE SWEET](#) (86th globally, 1st in Asia)

Chair of Comparative and International Law, Faculty of Law

#### Material Science

[Professor Hongjie Dai](#) (11th globally, 2nd in China)

Chair Professor, the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science

#### Microbiology

[Professor Kwok-Yung YUEN](#) (8th globally, 1st in Asia)

Henry Fok Professor in Infectious Diseases and Chair of Infectious Diseases, Department of Microbiology, School of Clinical Medicine, HKUMed

### Molecular Biology

[Professor Tak MAK](#) (10th globally, 1st in Asia and in Canada)

Honorary Professor, Department of Pathology, School of Clinical Medicine, HKUMed  
Professor, Department of Medical Biophysics and Immunology, University of Toronto

### Physics

[Professor Xiang ZHANG](#) (82nd globally, 1st in Asia)

President and Vice-Chancellor; Chair of Physics, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science

### Social Sciences and Humanities

[Professor Paul S. F. YIP](#) (72nd globally, 1st in China)

Director, HKJC Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention; Chair Professor, Department of Social Work and Social Administration; Associate Dean (Knowledge Exchange and Development), Faculty of Social Sciences

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