In a remarkable display of academic excellence, five Professors and two affiliated Professors from our Faculty have achieved top honours in the 2023 Best Scientists Rankings within their respective fields globally. The ranking is based on a scientist's D-index (Discipline H-index), which includes only publications and citation data for a specific discipline. Additionally, Clarivate Analytics has recognized eight of our esteemed scientists, including five academics and three affiliated scholars, as the most influential researchers in the world in its ‘2023 Highly Cited Researchers’ list. Highly Cited Researchers are selected for their exceptional research performance, determined by the production of multiple highly cited papers that rank in the top 1% by citations for field and year in Web of Science. These accolades serve as a testament to the dedication, expertise, and impactful contributions of our scholars, further solidifying our position as a global leader in academic excellence.

External Awards and Honours

A team led by Professor Hongzhe SUN, Norman & Cecilia Yo Professor in Biorganic Chemistry and Chair Professor of the Department of Chemistry, was elected by the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC)’s Dalton Prize Committee to receive the 2023 Horizon Prize. The team was honored for their pioneering research on the medicinal chemistry of bismuth and its application in the treatment of COVID-19, as well as the identification of target sites in SARS-CoV-2 enzymes using metalloenzymes methods.

Professor Xiang David LI of the Department of Chemistry was awarded the Tetrahedron Young Investigator Award 2024 for his exceptional contributions to the field of Bioorganic and Medicinal Chemistry. The award is given to just two individuals each year who have exhibited exceptional creativity and dedication in the fields of organic synthesis and bioorganic and medicinal chemistry, respectively. The previous awardees included Nobel Prize winners in Chemistry.

Professor Zhongxing HUANG of the Department of Earth Sciences, received the Xplorer Prize 2023, becoming the first non-Chinese recipient of this esteemed accolade. The prize acknowledged his significant contributions to the field of geosciences and was bestowed by his peers in Hong Kong.

Professor Zhongxing HUANG of the Department of Earth Sciences was honoured with the 2023 Chinese Chemical Society Young Chemist Award in recognition of his achievements in the synthesis and application of novel, 3D structural metal catalysts. This placed him among the ten outstanding young chemists who received this recognition.
Dr Isis Aline Clemence, Faculty Awards on Teaching Excellence and Outstanding Performance 2022-23, was awarded the Outstanding Researcher Award in recognition of her outstanding research accomplishments.

Professor Xiang David LI of the Department of Chemistry was awarded the Outstanding Researcher Award, acknowledging his promising potential in his research field accomplishments.

Professor Junshi LIU of the Department of Chemistry was honoured with the Outstanding Young Researcher Award, acknowledging his promising potential in his research field accomplishments.

Professor Aleksandra DJURIŠIĆ of the Department of Physics was awarded the Faculty Research Output Prize for her research titled ‘Monolithic perovskite/organic tandem solar cells with 23.6% efficiency enabled by interconnecting layer’, which was published in Nature Energy 2022.

Professor Aline Clemence GUIBERT, Postdoctoral fellow and PhD student Miss Even LEUNG of School of Biological Sciences received the Excellent Teaching Assistant Awards 2022-23 for their enthusiasm in providing teaching support in classes.

Professor Zhongxing HUANG and Dr Pengwei XU of the Department of Chemistry were awarded the Faculty’s Research Output Prize 2022-23 for research regarding the impact of operator splitting algorithms in Huawei cloud’s live streaming business.

Professor Ying Wai CHAN of the School of Biological Sciences won the Early Career Teaching Award, under the Teaching Excellence Award Scheme, which is designed to recognize individuals for their potential for leadership in teaching as well as their past achievements.

Professor Xiaoming YUAN, Head of the Department of Mathematics was recognised by the Faculty Knowledge Exchange Award 2022-23 for his dedication to providing technical solutions to the Faculty throughout the years.

Professor Hongzhe SUN, Head of the Department of Physics, was presented with the Research Output Prize 2021-22 for leadership in teaching as well as their past achievements.

A major part of Bovern’s research centres around understanding the interaction between animal hosts and their associated microbial community in high thermal environments, with implications for unravelling tolerance mechanisms in warming oceans. The awarded grant was applied with the support of Bovern’s PhD supervisor, Professor Juan Diego GAITÁN-ESPÍTIA, currently, Bovern is a Postdoctoral fellow supervised by Professor Bayden RUSSELL.

Professor Zhongxing HUANG, Senior Professional Practitioner of the Faculty of Science, was honoured with the Award for Teaching Excellence 2022-23 for his dedication to high-quality teaching.

Postdoctoral fellow Dr Lisa Alme Clemence GUIBERT and PhD student Miss Even LEUNG of School of Biological Sciences received the Excellent Teaching Assistant Awards 2022-23 for their enthusiasm in providing teaching support in classes.

The Award for Outstanding Professional Services Staff 2022-23 was presented to Mr Raymond CHAN, IT Manager of the Faculty of Science, in recognition of his ongoing dedication to providing technical solutions to the Faculty throughout the years.

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKU) Students Captured Gold Medal in International iGEM Competition 2023

A multidisciplinary team of HKU students, including members from the Faculty of Science, won a Gold Medal at the International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) Competition Grand Jamboree 2023. Their winning project aimed to improve solid tumour treatment through genetically engineering macrophages with CAR and SIRPα blockers, aiming to enhance immunotherapy methods. Their dedication, hard work, and commitment to wet lab work, science communication, and education have led to this well-deserved recognition.

PhD student Chaowei Charlene ZHANG from the School of Biological Sciences was awarded the Best Talk Award at the Third AsiaEvo Conference held in December 2023 at the National University of Singapore. This highly competitive grant is conferred on students and researchers who have demonstrated exceptional potential and achievements in their respective fields.

Miss Even LEUNG

PhD student Won Best Talk Award at AsiaEvo Conference for Research on Germline Mutation Rates in Sticklebacks

PhD graduate Dr Bovern ARROMRAK from the School of Biological Sciences was awarded the Early-Career Research Grant by the Malacological Society of London in 2023. This highly competitive grant is conferred on students and researchers who have demonstrated exceptional potential and achievements in their respective fields.

From the left: Hassan Ali NAEEM and Muhammad Ali NASEEM, both from the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science; Faculty of Science; Shah Jahan ISHAQ is a second-year student of the Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Engineering.

Professor Xiaoming YUAN, Head of the Department of Mathematics was recognised by the Faculty Knowledge Exchange Award 2022-23 for research regarding the impact of operator splitting algorithms in Huawei cloud’s live streaming business.