

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 SIRPa blocker, 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.



Actuarial Science Students Thrived in CASH Algo Trading Challenge 2023 with Winning Strategy

The HKU Team 'MASS', comprising Muhammad HUSSAIN and Hassan Ali NAEEM, both second-year students majoring in Actuarial Science in the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, collaborated with HKU Faculty of Engineering, achieved remarkable success in the CASH Algo Trading Challenge 2023, a global competition for algorithmic trading. They were crowned **Grand Champions** and received **Silver Awards in both Best Return and Best Sharpe categories**. The team's dedication over a span of nearly four months, involving extensive backtesting and careful monitoring, led to the development of a winning trading strategy.



From the left: Hassan Ali NAEEM and Muhammad HUSSAIN, 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.

Biological Sciences PhD Graduate Awarded Prestigious Grant by Malacological Society of London in 2023

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.

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-ESPITIA; currently, Bovern is a Postdoctoral fellow supervised by Professor Bayden RUSSELL.



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

PhD student Chaowei Charlene ZHANG from the School of Biological Sciences was honoured with the **Best Talk Award** at the Third AsiaEvo Conference held in December 2023 at the National University of Singapore.

She won the award by presenting her research paper titled 'Pedigree-based Germline Mutation Rate in Sticklebacks,' which shed light on the significance of accurately estimating mutation rates in genetics. Her findings served as a valuable resource for researchers studying fish population genetics, especially in the context of sticklebacks. Charlene is supervised by Professor Juha MERILÄ in the Area of Ecology and Biodiversity.

