

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Awards and Achievements

The Faculty is proud to celebrate the exceptional achievements of our scholars, who continue to set new benchmarks in academic and research excellence. In the 2024 Best Scientists Rankings, four of our Professors and two affiliated Professors have earned a place among the top 100 scientists globally in their respective fields. Position in the ranking is based on a scientist's D-index (Discipline H-index), which take into account only the publications and citation values within a specific discipline.

Adding to these accolades, eight of our esteemed scientists —six academics and two affiliated scholars—have been named 2024 Highly Cited Researchers by Clarivate Analytics. Each researcher selected has authored multiple highly cited papers which rank in the top 1% by citations for their fields and publication year in the Web of Science over the past decade. 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.



Professor Xiang ZHANG

President and Vice-Chancellor of HKU,
Chair Professor in both Faculty of
Science and Faculty of Engineering
2024 Best Scientist – ranked 82nd
globally in Physics
2024 Highly Cited Researcher in Physics



Professor Guochun ZHAO

Mok Sau-King Professor and
Chair Professor of Earth Sciences
2024 Best Scientist – ranked
8th globally in Earth Science
2024 Highly Cited Researcher
in Geosciences



Professor Hongjie DAI

Sapientia Eminence Professor and
Chair Professor of Chemistry
2024 Best Scientist – ranked
11th globally in Materials Science
2024 Highly Cited Researcher in
Chemistry



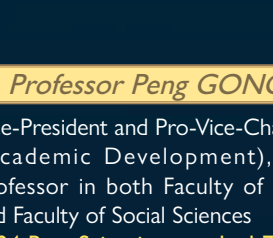
Professor Wang YAO

Chair Professor of Physics
2024 Highly Cited Researcher
in Physics



Professor Min SUN

Professor Emeritus of Earth Sciences
2024 Best Scientist – ranked 20th
globally in Earth Science



Professor Peng GONG

Vice-President and Pro-Vice-Chancellor
(Academic Development), Chair
Professor in both Faculty of Science
and Faculty of Social Sciences
2024 Best Scientist – ranked 76th globally
in Environmental Sciences
2024 Highly Cited Researcher in Geosciences



Professor Chi-ming CHE

Zhou Guangzhao Professor in
Natural Sciences, Chair Professor
of Chemistry
2024 Best Scientist – ranked
71st globally in Chemistry



Professor Shuang ZHANG

Interim Head and Chair Professor of
Physics
2024 Highly Cited Researcher in Physics



Professor Zhengxiao GUO

Chair Professor of Chemistry
2024 Highly Cited Researcher
in Cross-field



Professor Renhao DONG

Associate Professor of Chemistry
2024 Highly Cited Researcher in
Cross-field



Professor Xuechen LI



Professor Xuechen LI,
Professor of the Department
of Chemistry has succeeded
to the prestigious position
of **Morningside Professor**
in **Chemical Biology**. This
recognition highlights his
significant contributions to the
interface of chemistry and biology,
particularly his work on biomolecules such as peptides,
proteins, and glycans to develop novel therapeutics.

Professor Xiaoming YUAN,
Professor of the Department
of Mathematics has been
awarded the **Croucher Senior**
Research Fellowship 2025.

Renowned for his contributions
to artificial intelligence and cloud
computing, Professor Yuan has made
significant strides in addressing optimisation challenges
posed by increasing data volumes and computational
complexity. His research seamlessly integrates classical
optimisation tools with modern machine learning
techniques, resulting in scalable algorithms that bridge
theoretical advancements with practical applications.

This fellowship recognises Professor Yuan's exceptional
achievements in mathematics and his impactful work in
advancing both academic research and industry practices.



Professor Xiaoming YUAN

Professor Xuhua HE, Chair Professor in the
Department of Mathematics, has been named
a **Fellow of the American Mathematical**
Society (AMS) for 2025. This prestigious
recognition honours his significant
contributions to arithmetic geometry,
algebraic groups, and representation
theory, particularly his innovative work on Weyl
groups and flag varieties.

Recognised by their peers, AMS members designated as Fellows
of the AMS have made outstanding contributions to the creation,
exposition, advancement, communication, and utilisation of
mathematics. This year's class was selected from a large and
excellent pool of candidates, highlighting the many ways that
individuals advance their profession.



Professor Yi YANG

Professor Yi YANG, an Assistant Professor in the
Department of Physics, has been recently named the
Belinda Hung Outstanding Young Professor, a
newly established Outstanding Young Professorship
at HKU. His innovative research in nanophotonics
and free-electron optics has earned him with
significant recognition, culminating in the receipt of the
2024 Xplorer Prize and the **Croucher Tak Wah Mak**
Innovation Award.

As the sole Hong Kong recipient of the Xplorer Prize, funded by the New
Cornerstone Science Foundation, Professor Yang's work on free-electron-
light interactions has promising applications in quantum light generation,
radiation sources, and particle accelerators.

He was also awarded the **Croucher Tak Wah Mak Innovation Award** for
his pioneering research in photonics, specifically his work on 'Nonrelativistic
free-electron-light interaction with nanophotonics'. His research holds
potential for advancements in electron microscopy and spectroscopy,
the generation of entangled electrons and photons for quantum light
applications, and the development of integrated free-electron radiation
sources and accelerators.

Professor Ziyang MENG from the
Department of Physics has received the **2024**
Top China Cited Paper Award (Physics)
for his research paper, 'Momentum Space
Quantum Monte Carlo on Twisted Bilayer
Graphene', published in *Chinese Physics*
Letters.

This award highlights the ten most cited papers
authored by researchers based in China, all ranking in the top 1% of
articles published by IOP Publishing. It underscores the widespread
impact of Professor Meng's work in the scientific community.



Professor Ziyang MENG

Awards and Achievements



Professor Vivian Wing Wah YAM

Professor Vivian Wing Wah YAM, Vice-President
and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global Innovation
Centre) (Interim), Philip Wong Wilson Wong
Professor in Chemistry and Energy, and Chair
Professor of Department of Chemistry, has been
awarded the **International Union of Pure and**
Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) 2025 Award for
Distinguished Women in Chemistry or Chemical
Engineering.

The award recognises the significant contributions of women in the fields
of chemistry and chemical engineering. Awardees were selected for their
excellence in research, distinguished achievements in teaching or education, and
demonstrated leadership or managerial excellence in the chemical sciences, with
a strong emphasis on leadership and community service.



Professor Hongjie DAI

Professor Hongjie DAI, Chair
Professor of the Department of
Chemistry, has been named the
inaugural **Sapientia Eminence**
Professor, a newly established
Endowed Professorship. Renowned for
his work in infrared fluorescence imaging,
his research focuses on advancing imaging-
guided tumour resection and surgical navigation to improve
cancer treatment.

The professorship, established through a generous
\$15 million donation from Moral Properties Limited, will support
Professor Dai's continued contributions to innovation and
scientific advancement.

SCIENCE SPARKS

Professor Guochun ZHAO, Chair Professor of the
Department of Earth Sciences, has
been appointed the **Mok Sau-King**
Professor, one of the prestigious
Endowed Professorships bestowed
upon eminent academics within
the University to support their
academic and research activities.

As a distinguished academic, Professor
Zhao has made significant contributions
that have advanced the field of earth
sciences. This appointment stands as a testament to his
exceptional achievements, dedication, and commitment to
the pursuit of scientific knowledge.



Professor Guochun ZHAO



Professor Xuhua HE



Learn more on 2024
Clarivate Highly Cited
Researchers



Learn more on 2024 Best
Scientists Rankings

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The HKU Excellence Award Scheme 2024



Professor Timothy BONEBRAKE

Professor Timothy BONEBRAKE, Associate Dean of Science and Professor of the School of Biological Sciences, received the **Faculty Research Output Prize** for his research titled *'Genomic analyses reveal poaching hotspots and illegal trade in pangolins from Africa to Asia'*, published in the journal *Science* in 2023.

Professor Shuang ZHANG, Interim Head and Chair Professor of the Department of Physics, was honoured the **Outstanding Researcher Award** in recognition of his exceptional research accomplishments.



Professor Shuang ZHANG



Professor Jian HE



Professor Zhongxing HUANG

Professors Jian HE and Zhongxing HUANG, both Assistant Professors of the Department of Chemistry, were awarded the **Outstanding Young Researcher Award**, acknowledging their promising potential and achievements in their respective research fields.

Dr Ka Ho LAW, Associate Head (Teaching & Learning) and Lecturer of the Department of Mathematics, received the **Outstanding Teaching Award** under the University's Teaching Excellence Award Scheme (TEAS) in recognition of his dedication to teaching and the impact he has made on student learning.



Dr Ka Ho LAW

Faculty Awards on Teaching Excellence and Outstanding Performance

Dr Angela Mai Yan YUEN, Associate Head (Teaching & Learning) and Lecturer of Department of Chemistry was honoured with the **Award for Teaching Excellence 2023-24** in recognition of her dedication to delivering high-quality teaching.



Dr Angela Mai Yan YUEN

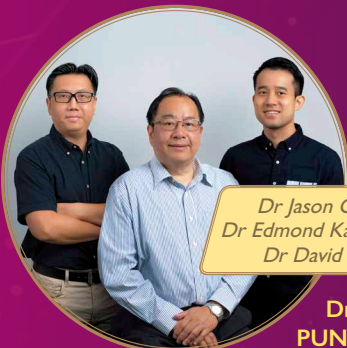
Mr Shun LI, PhD student of the Department of Mathematics, and Mr Yueliang YAO, PhD student of the Department of Chemistry, were awarded **Excellent Teaching Assistant Awards**.



Mr Shun LI



Mr Yueliang YAO



Dr Jason Chun Shing PUN, Dr Edmond Kar Man LEUNG and Dr David Hoi Fung YU

Dr Jason Chun Shing PUN, Principal Lecturer of the Department of Physics, along with Dr Edmond Kar Man LEUNG and Dr David Hoi Fung YU, both Lecturers of the Faculty of Science, received the award for **Teaching Innovations in E-learning 2023-24** for their outstanding efforts in enhancing students' learning experiences.



Professor Francis Chi Chung LING

Professor Francis Chi Chung LING, Associate Professor of the Department of Physics, was recognised with the **Faculty Knowledge Exchange (KE) Award 2024** for his research on silicon carbide (SiC) defects. His work led to a novel annealing process that improved device performance and enabled the mass production of 20 million SiC devices.



Professor Edmund Chun Ming TSE

Professor Edmund Chun Ming TSE, Associate Professor of the Department of Chemistry, receives the **Outstanding Service Award 2023-24** for his leadership in science communication, outreach, and efforts to enhance the Faculty's reputation.