Distinguished Chinese scholars honoured

At a special presentation ceremony of the University's "Distinguished Chinese Visiting Scholars Scheme", six renowned scholars from the Chinese mainland were honoured.

Officiated at by Mr Li Gang, Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR, and President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong, the ceremony provided an opportunity to publicly acknowledge the outstanding works and achievement of the scholars.

In celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Scheme, the honorees over the years also took the occasion to donate more than 150 of their publications to the University. These publications would be stored in the Pao Yue-kong Library in the name of "Donation from Distinguished Chinese Visiting Scholars" for students and staff of PolyU.

(左起) 王眾托院士、艾興院士、汪爾康院士、李剛副主任、潘宗光教授、周考信院士、姚穆院士及陳俊勇院士

新一屆傑出中國學人

本校近日為二零零三年度傑出中國訪問學人計劃舉行頒獎典禮，並邀得中央人民政府駐香港特別行政區聯絡辦公室李剛副主任與校長潘宗光教授聯袂主持。獲選該計劃的學者分別由各學系提名，並於訪港期間與理大教職員進行學術交流及主持公開講座。

今年膺選的六位學者包括：大連理工大學知識科學與技術研究中心主任王眾托院士、山東大學教授艾興院士、長春應用化學科學研究中心主任汪爾康院士、中國電力科學研究院總工程師周孝信院士、西安工程科技學院教授姚穆院士和國家測繪局科學技術委員會主任陳俊勇院士。

王眾托院士是國內外著名的系統工程專家，二零零一年當選中國工程院院士。其科研成果曾獲國家科技進步三等獎、部委科技進步一、二等獎項。他的名字更被收入於《中國大百科全書 • 自動控制與系統工程卷》。

艾興院士是切削加工研究領域的著名專家。他主編的《切削用量手冊》獲全國廣泛應用。歷年來，艾院士為國家教育和科技事業貢獻良多，曾獲多個國家級的獎項，並於一九九九年當選中國工程院院士。

汪爾康院士在分析化學和電化學研究方面成績斐然，於九一年當選中國科學院院士。他成功研製的《極譜絡合物電極過程和新方法》及《液 / 液界面電化學》於八九和九零年獲中國科學院自然科學一等獎。

周孝信院士是國家著名電力系統專家，於一九八五年獲國家科技進步一等獎。他參與編著的《電力系統計算》一書曾獲一九八一年國家優秀科技圖書一等獎，並於一九九三年當選中國科學院院士。

姚穆院士是中國紡織教育和紡織材料的研究先鋒。他曾設計新一代軍服面料，建立系列紡織測試儀器和標準，制定紡織材料及紡織品國家標準，先後獲獎無數。他於二零零一年當選中國工程院院士。

陳俊勇院士在幾何測量學、地球動力學、衛星大地測量學、珠穆朗瑪峰高程及其相鄰地區地殼運動的測定等方面作出重要的研究。他的成果曾獲國家級和部委級科技進步獎，九一年當選中國科學院院士。

Research benefiting society

With its mission to achieve "academic excellence in a professional context", PolyU has long distinguished itself from other institutions with its application-oriented programmes and applied research projects. In this issue,* Profile *brings you updates on its research and development.

$30m boost from ITF

In the April tranche of Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) applications, PolyU took pride in receiving more than $30 million for its six innovative projects – the highest amount received by the University in a single application exercise.

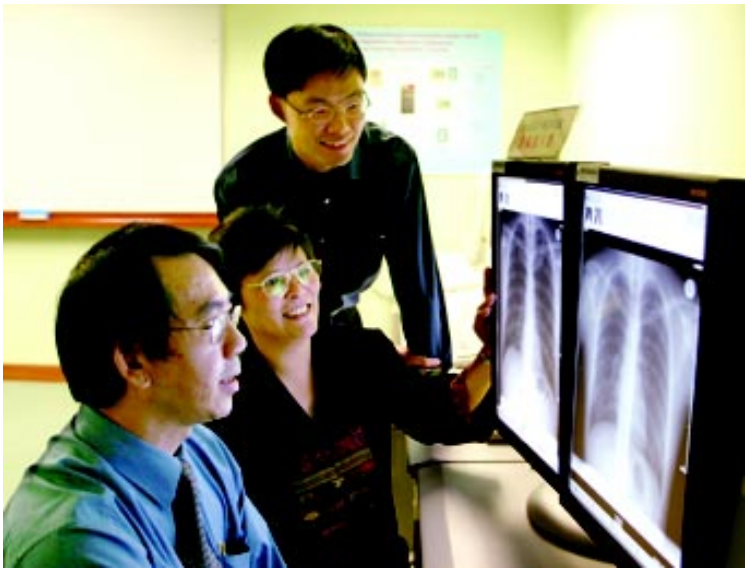
Six out of 10 PolyU submitted projects were awarded ITF in the applications, summing up to a total of $30,441,478. All projects help bring advancement and breakthrough for local industries, including development of innovative apparel products and technologies for textiles and clothing industry, enhancement of motion processing skills for multimedia animation as well as application of "Bat Ears" echo location ability for the vision-impaired people.

EasyGo helps find ways around

The Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics has recently developed a multi-modal public transportation query and guiding system, namely EasyGo. With the application of Geographic Information System and digital mapping, the system provides an all-inclusive, interactive and truly point-to-point route finding solution for commuters in Hong Kong.

To ensure its user-friendliness, EasyGo is designed with both Chinese and English languages, supported by navigation and image maps. Users can simply enter information of the enquired origin and destination into the system and find an array of route options combining modes of transportation such as MTR, KCR, buses, maxi cabs, trams and ferries. Supplementary information like service schedule, fare and estimated travel time will also be provided.

EasyGo is now accessible online for PolyU staff and students and has been installed in information kiosks around campus for PolyU visitors.



PACS makes "filmless" hospital possible

Researchers at the Department of Optometry and Radiography have expedited the use of Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS) to help create a totally "filmless" environment – a way to reduce the risk of contracting SARS and other communicable diseases via viewing medical images within the hospital settings.

PACS is an integrated system with components of radiological image acquisition devices, gateways, computing servers, image display workstations, archival and database management in its communication networks. With the application of PACS, more than one physician can view and access high-resolution images instantly and also via the Internet which helps streamline workflow and enables hospital to accommodate a larger patient volume.

Currently PACS has been installed in PolyU, the Tseung Kwan O Hospital and will gradually phase in three major hospitals.

Collaborative projects with US institutions

Backed by financial support from the US National Institutes of Health and its member organizations, the University has embarked on two mammoth research projects in collaboration with the University of Chicago and other renowned institutions in the US.

With a total value of US$2.63m, of which US$950,000 (or 36 per cent of the total budget) will go to PolyU for supporting related research activities, the two projects consist of a cross-cultural study comparing employers' attitudes towards stigma and urban health in the Chinese mainland and the US and a physiological study on glaucoma. Both projects are led by researchers of the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences.

Novel applications for antioxidant test

Developed by researchers of the Department of Nursing, a unique test for measuring antioxidant capacity has been widely employed by scientists worldwide for probing into the antioxidant and potentially anti-ageing ingredients of different foods, ranging from Lingzhi and green tea to wines and, more recently, in dark chocolate.

Developed in 1996, the test took advantage of the Ferric Reducing Antioxidant Power assay for measuring total antioxidant capacity. A US patent was granted in 2001. European scientists have made use of the PolyU-developed test to compare and evaluate the amount of antioxidants absorbed from milk chocolate and dark chocolate.