

Top physician's formulas lead to new health products

Based on the prescriptions provided by Dr Li Furen — a top-notch practitioner of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) who has been serving Chinese leaders for decades, PolyU Modern TCM Research Institute Ltd (PTCMR) has recently launched its very first line of TCM health products.

PTCMR, a new, partially PolyU-owned company, is backed by the strong research expertise of the University. Using the advanced “de-bulking technology” in the modernized production of TCM products, researchers have made the products compact, effective and convenient for consumption. A total of eight products have been planned and the first one launched in the market is a metabolic cleansing product to foster holistic health.

Dr Li Furen is regarded as one of the top five TCM practitioners in China. He is the only TCM practitioner serving on the 21-strong specialist panel providing health and medical services to the leaders of the Chinese Government.

Earlier this year, PolyU obtained the Central Government's approval for establishing at our Shenzhen-based Institute of Modern Chinese Medicine the country's first State Key Laboratory specializing in TCM pharmaceutical sciences and molecular pharmacology. It is also the first State Key Lab being set up by a Hong Kong tertiary institution in the mainland.

This 2,000-square-metre Institute in Shenzhen houses an Open Laboratory of Chirotechnology, a Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) Standard Animal Lab, TCM Formulation Lab, and other laboratories for TCM pharmacology, TCM chemistry, toxicology and molecular pharmacology. ❖



理大漢方精研所進軍現代中藥市場

本校新成立的附屬企業「理大漢方精研所有限公司」，結合雄厚的科研實力和國家領導人保健醫師李輔仁教授的權威驗方，早前把首批現代化中藥健康產品推出市場。新產品使用了先進的「中藥複方去蕪技術」，結合傳統中醫藥智慧和現代製藥知識，將李輔仁教授數十年行醫的經驗處方精萃作現代化和科學化處理，製成更濃縮、藥效更強、服用更方便的中藥保健精品。目前理大漢方精研所已成功開發八種中藥產品，更率先在市場發售一種有助促進自然健美的產品。

李輔仁教授出身中醫世家，曾拜中國四大名醫之一施金墨為師。多年來從事國家中央領導人保健工作，並創立了李氏系列方藥，至今懸壺六十餘年，是當代極負盛名的中醫臨床實踐大家，獲國家衛生部北京醫院評審為當代五大名醫之一，有「中醫泰斗」之美譽。迄今李醫師仍肩負照顧中央領導人健康的重任。

此外，理大設於深圳的現代中藥研究所於年初獲中央政府列為全國首個專門研究中藥開發的國家重點實驗室，亦為全國首個由香港院校設於內地的國家重點實驗室。該實驗室總面積達二萬平方尺，配備齊全，包括手性技術開放實驗室、SPF標準動物實驗室、中藥標準製劑實驗室以及有關中藥藥理、化學、毒理學及分子藥理等實驗室。 ❖



地圖測繪專家 榮獲國家自然 科學獎



National honour for digital mapping expert

With his project “Dynamic and Multi-dimensional Modelling of Digital Ground Models”, Prof. Li Zhilin of the Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics has earned a second-class award under the prestigious State Natural Science Award 2004.

The award certificates were presented by top Chinese leaders, President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao, at a gala event held in Beijing on 28 March. Prof. Li's collaborator Prof. Chen Jun received the award on behalf of their team.

Organized by the State Council, the award is a top honour bestowed by the Central Government for achievements in basic research. This year, a total of 28 winning projects were selected from among more than 100 entries, and Prof. Li is the only awardee from Hong Kong. No first-class awards were given out.

Prof. Li and his team are honoured for their collaborative research with applications in map making

and spatial decision making. This project is the fruit of over 10 years' work, and was nominated by the State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping to compete for the national award.

A few months back, Prof. Li was honoured by the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) with the Schwedfsky Medal in 2004 for his original research and publications. Prof. Li was recipient of the PolyU President's Award for Outstanding Achievement in 2000. ❖



Posing with the University President and Prof. Chen Yong-qi, Head of the Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics.

理大土地測量及地理資訊學系李志林教授，憑着研究項目「數字地表模型的多維動態構模研究」，榮獲二零零四年度國家自然科學獎二等獎。國家主席胡錦濤及總理溫家寶於三月二十八日在北京舉行的國家科學技術獎勵大會上，頒授獎狀證書。與李志林教授合作研究的陳軍教授代表研究隊伍接受獎項。

該獎項由國務院頒授，是中國在自然科學領域設立的最高獎項，表彰科學家對基礎科學研究的卓越貢獻。在二零零四年度，評審委員會在逾百項目中選出共二十八個項目頒授二等獎，而李志林教授是唯一獲該榮譽的香港學者；一等獎則一如上年未有頒發。

李教授及其研究隊伍獲獎的項目，是研究高度複雜的數字地面模型、數字地物模型及空間關係模型，可應用於地圖測繪及空間決策方面。研究員經過逾十年努力，後獲國家測繪局提名競逐國家自然科學獎。

李志林教授早前在二零零四年獲國際攝影測量與遙感學會頒授 Schwedfsky 獎章，以表彰他的原創性研究及在著述方面的重大貢獻。李教授也是二零零零年度校長特設卓越成就獎得主。 ❖



Prof. Li receives the Schwedfsky Medal at the 20th ISPRS Congress in Istanbul.

PolyU inventions shine in Geneva

PolyU inventors have won six major awards at the 33rd International Exhibition of Inventions, New Techniques and Products, held under the patronage of the Swiss government in Geneva from 6 to 10 April. Below is an outline of the award-winning inventions.

Special Gold & Gold Awards

New drug against liver cancer by Dr Thomas Leung Yun-chung, Dr Thomas Lo Wai-hung and Dr Paul Cheng Ning-men, Department of Applied Biology and Chemical Technology

Developed from the mechanism of arginine depletion, the new drug's main constituent is arginase, an enzyme that degrades arginine with urea as an end-product. Called BCT-100, it is the *first* drug developed independently in Hong Kong that will be put to formal clinical trials for liver cancer treatment.



Gold Award

iScream by Dr Stephen Mak and Mr Lennon Choy, Department of Building and Real Estate

iScream (Intelligent systems for construction and real estate asset management) aims to enhance the operations of the construction and real estate industry. Its multi-hierarchical database system includes a fully automatic asset portfolio valuation module.

Silver Awards

Electronic bat ears by Dr He Jufang, Prof. Chetwyn Chan, Mr Pan Guohua and Mr He Junfeng, Department of Rehabilitation Sciences

Drawing from the way bats navigate, the new device can emit ultrasonic waves which enable the visually impaired to "hear" objects around them, so that they can move about without the help of walking sticks. The device looks like a pair of sunglasses with built-in earphones.



Assessment for learning by Mr K.N. Tsang, Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority, and Dr Stephen Mak, Department of Building and Real Estate



The Basic Competency Assessments has been implemented across the territory, assessing primary and secondary school students' competency in Chinese, English and Mathematics. This project has also won a Special Appreciation Award.



Logimizer™ by Dr Henry Lau, Dr Tommy Choy and Mr W.T. Tsui, Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering

The integrated logistics management and optimization system aims at enhancing the operations of air freight and forwarding industry. With the embedded "Heuristics Iterative Reasoning Technology", the system can calculate the optimum use of space in cargo containers. ❖

Top international award for energy-efficient designs

A PolyU team has scooped three top honours in “Efficiency Challenge”, an international power supply design competition jointly organized by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Energy Commission to promote energy efficiency.

The team comprises Dr Martin Chow Hoi-lam, Prof. Lee Yim-shu, Mr Cheng Yiu-lam and Mr Lee Chung-ping of the Power Electronics Research Centre in the Department of Electronic and Information Engineering.

They were crowned Grand Champion in the Open Category and Best in Class A2, for their power supply design for a “stand alone battery charger”, and also named the Best in Class B2, for their power supply design for a “cordless phone”. The good news was announced at the Applied Power Electronics Conference (APEC) 2005 held in Texas.

To recognize their achievement, ON Semiconductor, an industry partner



From left: Mr Lee, Prof. Lee, Dr Chow and Mr Cheng with their winning entries and the Efficiency Challenge award plaques.

supporting the contest, further awarded a cash prize of US\$5,000 to the team on 12 May. The prize presentation was made on campus by Mr Hemen Cheng, ON Semiconductor Business Director of Analog Products Group for Asia Pacific.

The secret to the team’s success, according to team leader Dr Chow, lies in an optimized selection and design of the techniques and components in their entries. Dr Chow said: “We seek to achieve high conversion efficiency, low interference, and minimum material wastage in the design of new products.

“By using energy-efficient products, cities and states can achieve savings in energy and money, and even help alleviate the risk of global warming.”

First announced at APEC 2004, the Efficiency Challenge 2004 contest is divided into the Open Category and the Market Ready Category, drawing entries from companies and universities mainly from the US, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Many of the winning entries go well beyond the US standards, pointing to what is possible with high efficiency and very compact size in future power supply designs. ❖



Head of department Prof. Alex Wai (left), President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong (middle) and Mr Cheng (right) congratulate the award winners.



Mr Hemen Cheng (left) presents a cash prize to the PolyU team.

New Council members on board

The University bids a warm welcome to the following new lay members joining our Council in April:

- Mr Chan Tze-ching, Citigroup Country Officer, Hong Kong and Head of Greater China, Corporate and Investment Banking
- Prof. Harry Lee, Managing Director, TAL Apparel Ltd
- Mr Richard Li Tzar-kai, Chairman, PCCW Ltd.

They succeeded former members Dr York Chow Yat-ngok, Mr Gilbert Lau Wai-kwong, and Dr Kenneth Wang Kuk-kei. ❖



Mr Chan



Prof. Lee



Mr Li

PolyU graduates in hot demand

PolyU graduates are in popular demand in the generally improving local job market, results from the University's latest Graduate Employment Survey revealed.

As high as 96.3 per cent of PolyU's 2,000-plus first-degree graduates of 2004 were engaged in employment or full-time study, while 2.3 per cent were still seeking employment last December, six months after their graduation. A majority of 83.3 per cent of the employed graduates secured their first job offer by the end of August.

It is worth noting that graduates from four programmes reported a *100 per cent employment rate*. They are, namely, the BSc (Hons) in International Shipping and Transport Logistics, BA (Hons) in Financial Services, BSc (Hons) in Optometry, and BSc (Hons) in Nursing. Mrs Dorinda Fung, Director of Student Affairs, commented: "Evidently, such excellent employment rates



Job hunts made easy

To help final-year students prepare for entering the job market, the Student Affairs Office organized a two-day Careers Exhibition on campus in March. President of the Chinese Manufacturers' Association, Dr Jose Yu Sunsay, officiated at the opening of the large-scale exhibition. This year's exhibition featured booths and displays of more than 30 organizations from public and private sectors.

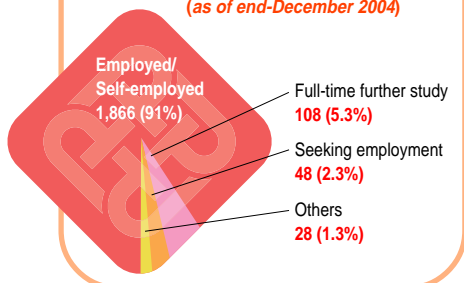
the health and social services fields were the most highly paid, with an average pay of \$19,919 for Nursing graduates, \$15,494 for Optometry graduates, and \$12,619 for Social Work graduates.

These figures are based on the feedback collected from 2,050 of the total 2,241 first-degree students who graduated last June, representing a response rate of 91.5 per cent. The Survey, conducted by the Student Affairs Office, reviewed the employment status of all full-time degree, sub-degree and postgraduate graduates as of 31 December 2004.

For sub-degree graduates, an encouraging 98 per cent of the 1,435 respondents were engaged in work or full-time study, while about 2 per cent were still seeking employment by December. Their average monthly salary remained steady at \$10,278, compared to \$10,421 for the previous year.

For higher degree graduates, 81.7 per cent of the 197 respondents were engaged in work or full-time study, while 16.7 per cent were not seeking employment, not staying in Hong Kong or in the others category, and 1.5 per cent were still seeking employment by end of last December. The average monthly salary of those employed higher degree graduates rose to \$13,229 by 4.3 per cent from \$12,680 of the previous year. ❖

Destination of 2004 batch of first-degree graduates (as of end-December 2004)



reflect the keen demand for high quality professionals in these emerging areas of the Hong Kong economy."

The average monthly salary of all employed first-degree graduates rose by 4.8 per cent from \$9,644 of the previous year to \$10,108. Among them, graduates in