



# The Seventh Inauguration Ceremony of Named Professorships

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

## Named Professorships Program – Partnership for Excellence

Generously supported by donors, the University's Named Professorships honor and encourage the achievements of our first-class scholars. In an era of global competition for talented academics, these distinguished titles provide vital recognition as well as additional funding to attract, nurture and retain the very best minds.

We gratefully thank our donors and applaud our distinguished faculty. Let us joyously celebrate this far-sighted partnership for excellence together!



"The recipients of this year's Named Professorships have each made a significant impact on society through their research. They have contributed to HKUST's continuous strive for excellence to make positive impacts to mankind.

Our ability to honor this year's inductees is founded upon the limitless kindness of our donors. We express our deepest appreciation for their ongoing support for HKUST's mission, which allows us to provide an environment in which excellence can thrive."

**Professor Harry Heung-Yeung Shum**  
Council Chairman  
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology



"For the last decade, HKUST has proudly bestowed the title of Named Professor on over 70 faculty whose teaching and research achievements are worthy of the highest commendation. These scholars have excelled in both academic and pedagogical pursuits, exerting significant influence in various fields of study worldwide while also dedicating themselves to nurturing the next generation.

We sincerely thank our generous donors for their support, which enables us to commend, reward, and attract academic leaders from diverse fields, working together with the university to reach new heights and contribute to society."

**Professor Nancy Y. Ip, PhD, SBS, BBS, MH, JP**  
President  
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

## Newly Appointed Named Professorship Holders

### Lo Ka Chung Charitable Foundation Professor of Science Professor Guojun Bu

Chair Professor, Division of Life Science

**Research interests:** Aging, Neurodegenerative and age-related disorders, Alzheimer's disease, Neuroscience, Molecular and cellular neuroscience, Protein trafficking

Professor Guojun Bu is a renowned neuroscientist with significant contributions to understanding the etiology of Alzheimer's disease. His expertise lies in cell biology and neuroscience. He is a world leader in the study of APOE and APOE receptors, which play crucial roles in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Professor Bu's research has resulted in over 350 highly impactful publications and more than 40,000 citations. He has received prestigious accolades, including the Zenith Fellows Award from the Alzheimer's Association and the MeLife Foundation Award for Medical Research in Alzheimer's disease. As an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and an esteemed editor for journals like Molecular Neurodegeneration, Neuron, and Science Advances, Professor Bu continues to shape the field through his influential work and leadership.

"The Lo Ka Chung Charitable Foundation Professorship in Science was established to support HKUST's advancement in the area of neuroscience and biochemical therapies. We hope the Professorship will enable Professor Bu to further his groundbreaking research in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. We believe that his work has potential to significantly maintain the living quality of individuals affected by these debilitating conditions."

**Mr. Lo Pak Shiu**  
Director  
Lo Ka Chung Charitable Foundation

### Dr Tai-chin Lo Associate Professor of Science Professor Can Yang

Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics

**Research interests:** Statistical machine learning, Applied statistics

Human genomic data has long been a focal point for researchers worldwide. With the advancements in big data analytics, scientists can now handle large amounts of genomic data much more quickly and accurately. Professor Can Yang, as a pioneer in data science and its applications in genetics and genomics, contributes to computational and statistical methods in genomic data analysis which earned him the 2012 Hong Kong Young Scientist Award for Engineering Science and later The Hong Kong Mathematical Society Young Scholar Award and The School Research Award (School of Science, HKUST) in 2023. Professor Yang's research has facilitated knowledge transfer and found applications in business. His publications in high-impact journals made significant economic impact and led to skill upgrading in fields like machine learning and analyzing multi-ethnic genetic data. Collaborating with his team, he developed accurate and efficient methods for clients to gain deeper insights into themselves through DNA data analysis.

"The Dr Tai-chin Lo Professorship, which is dedicated to Associate or Assistant Professors, carries a special meaning for me. As one of the founding faculty of HKUST's former Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (now Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering), I understand how important it is to support young faculty members' teaching and research as well as their early-career development. We hope to enlighten preminent faculty members and give the University a competitive edge to innovate in teaching and research."

**Dr. Tai-chin Lo**  
Vice Chairman  
W Haking Enterprises Limited

### Stephen Kam Chuen Cheong Professor of Science Professor Kun Xu

Head and Chair Professor, Department of Mathematics

**Research interests:** Computational fluid dynamics, High-order compact schemes for Navier-Stokes equations, Multiscale modeling and gas-kinetic schemes, Non-equilibrium transport and rarefied flow

Professor Kun Xu is an eminent scholar in applied mathematics and a leading authority in the field of computational fluid dynamics (CFD). With expertise in CFD and rarefied gas dynamics, he has made significant contributions to the development of numerical algorithms and software for CFD analysis. Professor Xu's research breakthroughs include the construction of gas-kinetic schemes, a unified gas-kinetic scheme, and a unified gas-kinetic wave-particle method. His work has been widely applied across industries and integrated into computational packages and commercial software. Professor Xu has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals, with over 200 articles to date. He authored the book *A Unified Computational Fluid Dynamics Framework from Rarefied to Continuum Regimes* in 2021. He also holds editorial positions in major journals such as *Advances in Aerodynamics and Communications in Computational Physics*, and receives significant citations for his research contributions.

"The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology has always held a dear place in my family's heart and we cherish our longstanding partnership with the University. We are tremendously proud of the establishment of the Stephen Kam Chuen Cheong Professorship in Science, named in honor of my late husband, Stephen Kam Chuen Cheong. It is my personal and my family's hope that the University could continue to create breakthroughs in the realms of science and engineering which would ultimately lead to the betterment of humankind."

**Mrs. Joan Cheong**  
Stephen Kam Chuen Cheong Education Fund

### Hari Harilela Assistant Professor of Physics Professor Adrian Hoi Chun Po

Assistant Professor, Department of Physics

**Research interests:** Condensed matter physics, Topological phases and topological materials, Strongly correlated materials, Quantum magnetism, Quantum information

Professor Adrian Po is a condensed matter theorist with broad interest in studying collective phenomena arising from a large number of quantum particles. His research includes topics such as symmetries, topology, quantum information, and out-of-equilibrium dynamics. With an impressive academic journey from Hong Kong to renowned institutions like Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Professor Po brings expertise and passion to his role as an assistant professor at HKUST. He has published his research in prestigious scientific journals such as *Nature*, *Nature Physics*, and *Physical Review X*. He has also received numerous awards and honors for his research, teaching, and service to the field.

"HKUST is known as a research university for achieving research breakthrough in a number of areas. Education has always been very close to our heart and therefore, we decided to give support to HKUST. We hope the professorship will enable Professor Po to continue his research on the field of condensed matter physics for the betterment of the society."

**The late Dr. Hari Harilela and Mrs. Padma Harilela**

### Distinguished Visiting Professor

#### Professor Ben Zhong Tang

Adjunct Professor, Department of Chemistry, and Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering

**Research interests:** Materials science, polymer chemistry, Biomedical theranostics



Professor Ben Zhong Tang is widely recognized as a prominent researcher in the fields of macromolecular chemistry and materials science. He coined the scientific concept of aggregation-induced emission (AIE) and is the spearhead of AIE study, a hot research frontier. With over 2,300 publications, ca. 180,000 citations and an h-index of 186, he is regarded as a Highly Cited Researcher in both areas of Chemistry and Materials Science. He received many prestigious awards, including Croucher Senior Research Fellowship Award, National Natural Science Award (First Class), HLHL Scientific and Technological Progress Award and Biomaterials Global Impact Award, and holds membership in esteemed scientific societies such as Member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Fellow of the Third World Academy of Sciences. Currently serving as the Editor-in-Chief of *Aggregate* (Wiley), Professor Tang is making significant contributions to the advancement of scientific knowledge.

This Distinguished Visiting Professorship was established with the generous support of an anonymous donor, who chose to contribute to Professor Tang's ongoing research efforts, aiming to create a brighter future for society.

### Fang Professor of Engineering

#### Professor Yuan Xie

Chair Professor, Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering

**Research interests:** Computer architecture, VLSI, Electronic design automation, Machine learning



Professor Yuan Xie's research interests lie in computer architecture, very-large-scale integration design, electronic design automation, and embedded systems design. He founded the Scalable Energy-Efficient Architecture Lab (SEAL) at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Under his leadership, the research team broke new ground in computer design and architecture, focusing on technology-driven and application-driven innovations in areas ranging from emerging memory technologies to novel computer architectures. A leader and innovator in the field, Professor Xie has published more than 400 IEEE/ACM journal and conference papers, and in recognition of these prominent contributions, he received numerous honors and awards including the prestigious IEEE computer society Edward J. McCluskey Technical Achievement Award in 2020 and IEEE circuits and systems society Industrial Pioneer Award in 2023. Professor Xie's contribution to the field is not just limited to the production of research, he also has rich industry experience with IBM, AMD, and Alibaba Group.

"The Fang Professorship was established by my late father, Mr. Kenneth Fang many years ago. Since its inception in 1991, HKUST has long been a model of academic excellence. The University provides promising students exceptional opportunities to learn, grow and lead. My family and I are proud to be a partner of HKUST. We are delighted to congratulate Professor Yuan Xie on receiving the Fang Professorship in Engineering, and we hope the professorship will enable Professor Xie to continue his impactful research on emerging and future technologies for the betterment of the society."

**Mr. Douglas Fang**  
Chairman  
Fang Brothers Holdings Limited

### Liwei Huang Associate Professor of Business

#### Professor Yan Ji

Associate Professor, Department of Finance

**Research interests:** Asset pricing, Macrofinance, Macroeconomics, Financial intermediation



Professor Yan Ji is a financial economist whose research focuses on finance and macroeconomics, especially their connection to industrial organization. He has a record of impactful research that uses cutting-edge theory to guide industry practice. He uses economic theories, structural models, and micro data to advance two key research agendas, which are to analyze the implications of imperfect product market competition for asset prices, and to understand important questions related to financial inclusion, resource misallocation, income inequality, and economic growth. Professor Ji's scholarly contribution lies at the intersection of asset pricing and industrial organization, which has won him numerous awards, including the Best Paper Award at the China International Conference in Macroeconomics and the Marshall Shume Prize in Financial Research. His publications and ongoing research provide critical implications for the future of real businesses and economies.

"Outstanding faculty are a key factor for university development. As an alumnus of HKUST Business School, I am proud to establish the Liwei Huang Professorship in Business, which aims to retain outstanding international scholars and promote academic exchanges. I hope this would ultimately enhance the competitiveness of businesses in both Hong Kong and Mainland China."

**Mr. Huang Liwei**  
Founder and Chairman  
Prosnav Holding Limited

### Cheong Ying Chan Professor of Energy Engineering and Environment

#### Professor Minhua Shao

Head and Chair Professor, Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering

**Research interests:** Electrochemical energy technologies, Battery, Fuel cell, Electrocatalysis



Professor Minhua Shao is an internationally recognized scholar with over 20 years of track record in spearheading research on electrochemical systems, nanomaterials, and electric vehicles. Having published over 240 peer-reviewed articles and filed over 30 patent applications (19 issued), he is currently leading projects on the development of high-performance and long-life hydrogen fuel cells and high-energy density solid-state lithium batteries among other innovation directions. Professor Shao has received myriad honors and awards in recognition of his outstanding achievements, including the International Outstanding Young Chemical Engineer Award and Teaching Excellence Appreciation Award of the HKUST School of Engineering. He is the Fellow of The Electrochemical Society and one of the founding members of Young Academy of Science of Hong Kong.

"The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology has always held a dear place in my family's heart and we cherish our longstanding partnership with the University. We are tremendously proud of the establishment of the Cheong Ying Chan Professorship in Engineering and Environment, named in honor of my late father-in-law, Cheong Ying Chan. It is my personal and my family's hope that the University can continue to create breakthroughs in the realms of science and engineering which would ultimately lead to the betterment of humankind."

**Mrs. Joan Cheong**  
Stephen Kam Chuen Cheong Education Fund

### Crown Worldwide Professor of Business

#### Professor Ying-Ju Chen

Chair Professor, Department of Information Systems, Business Statistics and Operations Management, and Department of Industrial Engineering & Decision Analytics

**Research interests:** Socially responsible operations, Operations-marketing interface, Supply chain management, Social interaction



Professor Ying-Ju Chen is spearheading the interdisciplinary research at the interface of network economics, electrical engineering, marketing, and supply chain management, which are especially important in today's increasingly networked world as to manage and control the flow of money, goods, services, and people in a sustainable and socially responsible manner. He is the most productive faculty member in the School of Business and Management, as more than 60 of his journal papers have been published in world-leading business journals like *Management Science*, *Operations Research* and *Journal of Economic Theory*. An internationally recognized and respected scholar within his field, Professor Chen also has an exceptional record of teaching and service. He has received multiple awards for his excellence in teaching at HKUST, and he also serves on conference committees and judges at international paper competitions.

"The amazing success of HKUST in just 30+ years has inspired all of us at Crown Worldwide to support the University as it strives to be the world's best in all fields of education. We are very pleased to have Professor Ying-Ju Chen, a veteran in the fields of operations-marketing interface and supply chain management, as the Crown Worldwide Professor of Business. Since its founding, the Crown Worldwide Group has today grown into an extraordinary global business to provide support to companies and individuals with the services they need. We're delighted to support HKUST in its efforts to seek better methods of improving our industry and we firmly believe there are many opportunities for innovation in this area."

**Dr. James E Thompson**  
Chairman  
Crown Worldwide Group

### Elman Family Visiting Professor of Jewish and Israeli Studies

#### Professor Gad Yair

**Research interests:** Social theory, Culture, Education



Professor Gad Yair is an internationally renowned cultural sociologist from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. During his four-month period at HKUST, Professor Yair supports the teaching of Jewish and Israeli studies, from Jewish history, philosophy and literature to Israeli society, politics and contemporary history. Professor Yair has won global acclaim for his scholarship on Israeli, German, American, and French social theory and social life, with a particular focus on higher education and science. Professor Yair has published several books and journal articles on a wide range of subjects, including the myth of the "golem" in German social theory to transformative experiences in higher education. He has also won several major research grants, including one from the World Zionist Organization for a survey of Israelis abroad in 2022.

"In a world that is becoming ever more complex as the new emerging global players look to take their positions on the stage of international politics, communication and the sharing of our different cultures and histories becomes ever more important as a means through which we can gain a common understanding of our fellow man. In this context, we are delighted to be able to support Professor Gad Yair as Visiting Professor of Jewish and Israeli Studies, as his appointment marks a very tangible initiative to foster closer connections between our two parts of the world, both inside and outside the academic community."

**Mr. Richard Elman**  
Elman Family Foundation

More about HKUST  
Named Professorships Program:  
<https://np.hkust.edu.hk>

