21. 03. 2025

The Inauguration Ceremony of the International Alliance of Academicians & The International Academicians Hong Kong Forum

Programme

Venue: Grand Hyatt Hong Kong

Date: 21. 03. 2025

Organizer International Alliance of Academicians

Co-Organizer HKAORS 香港海外學人聯合會 Hong Kong Association of Overseas-Returned Scholars Limited

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香港學者協會 The Society of Hong Kong Scholars

香港大學 THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Message from the Chair

Professor Nancy Y. Ip
President of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Dear Esteemed Colleagues, Distinguished Guests, and Friends,

It is my privilege to welcome you to the inaugural ceremony of the International Alliance of Academicians (IAA) and the 2025 International Academicians Hong Kong Forum. As we convene in Hong Kong—a global nexus of innovation and cultural exchange—we unite under a shared vision: advancing humanity through collaboration.

The IAA embodies a bold commitment to transcend borders and disciplines, grounded in the principles of openness, equality, integrity, and innovation. This forum exemplifies our mission, bringing together luminaries such as Nobel Laureate Professor George F. Smoot and Fields Medalist Professor Pierre-Louis Lions, alongside thought-provoking discussions on AI for Health and Future Cities. By promoting dialogue among academia, industry, and policy-makers, our goal is to ignite actionable solutions for sustainable development.

Our collective endeavor extends beyond discovery. We aim to strengthen Hong Kong's status as a hub for global talent while nurturing the next generation of scholars and ensuring that scientific progress reaches every corner of our world.

To our partners, sponsors, and the dedicated IAA Secretariat—thank you for your unwavering support. To all the participants, I urge you to engage boldly, challenge conventions, and carry forward the spirit of collaboration long after this forum concludes. Together, we stand at the dawn of a new era in global science development. May this alliance inspire breakthroughs that shape a brighter, more equitable future for all.

With gratitude and optimism,

Professor Nancy Y. Ip
Chair, International Alliance of Academicians

About International Alliance of Academicians

In our interconnected world, technological advancement and international collaboration are increasingly important, especially in fields like artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and robotics. Scientists worldwide are seeking to push the boundaries of research and societal progress amid these changes. In response, the International Alliance of Academicians (IAA) has been proposed by visionary academic leaders in Hong Kong to enhance collaboration among global scientists. The alliance aims to unite experts from various disciplines to address multidisciplinary research challenges and promote the sharing of innovative technologies. Hong Kong, as the host city, will also enhance its reputation as a center for innovative technology and foster scientific cooperation among leading scholars.

Objectives of the IAA

- Establish a platform for collaboration between Hong Kong and high-end international research talents to enhance global cooperation and exchange among scientists and further strengthen Hong Kong's position as an international center for innovation and technology.
- Build Hong Kong into an International Hub for High-calibre Talents. Unite experts from diverse disciplines and regions to address multi-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary research issues and challenges.
- Facilitate the promotion, transformation, and application of research outcomes by organizing high-end forums, academic seminars, talent exchanges, and other activities. Enhance collaboration among educational and research institutions, experts, scholars, and technology enterprises in Hong Kong and beyond.
- Foster understanding and friendship among scientists, enhance scientific exchange, encourage cultural integration, and strengthen Hong Kong’s role as a bridge to the global scientific community.
- Leverage the public influence of international academicians to continuously raise public awareness and interest in science and technology, create a supportive social and cultural environment for innovation, and thereby contribute to the development of science, education, and culture in Hong Kong and beyond.
- Serve and promote global sustainable development.

Principles of the IAA

- Open and inclusive
- Equality and collaboration
- Integrity and compliance
- Innovation-driven

Founding Chairmanship of the IAA
(in alphabetical order of surnames)

Professor Nancy Y. Ip
President of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Professor Pierre-Louis Lions
Fields Medalist (1994)
Senior Fellow of the Hong Kong Institute for Advanced Study, City University of Hong Kong

Professor George Smoot
Nobel Laureate in Physics (2006)
Professor Emeritus in Physics, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Professor Xiang Zhang
President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Hong Kong

Secretary-General of the IAA

Professor Wenwei Tu
Professor of The University of Hong Kong
President of Hong Kong Association of Overseas-Returned Scholars (HKAORS)

Programme of the Day

08:30-13:30 Venue: Grand Ballroom
13:30-17:30 Sub-forum Venue: Grand Ballroom / Salon I-IV

08:30-09:00	**Registration**
09:00-09:05	**Opening**
09:05-09:10	**Welcome speech by Prof. Nancy Y. Ip** **Chair of International Alliance of Academicians (IAA)** **President of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)**
09:10 - 09:15	**Speech by Mr. John KC LEE, GBM, SBS, PDSM, PMSM** **The Chief Executive of The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**
09:15 - 09:30	**Inauguration Ceremony**
09:30 - 10:10	**Plenary Lecture :** International Alliance of Academicians (IAA): Future Roles and Contributions Speaker: Prof. George Smoot, Nobel Laureate in Physics (2006) Session Chair: Prof. Xiang Zhang President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Hong Kong (HKU)
10:10 – 10:30	**Coffee break**
10:30 - 11:10	**Plenary Lecture :** On Mathematics and Their Applications Speaker: Prof. Pierre-Louis Lions, Fields Medalist (1994) Session Chair: Prof. S. Joe Qin President of Lingnan University
11:10 – 12:10	**Round-table Discussion** **Topic: Innovating Together: Global Collaboration for a Sustainable Future** **Panel Chair:** Prof. Alexander Ping-Kong Wai, President and Vice-Chancellor, Hong Kong Baptist University **Panelists (in alphabetical order of surnames):** Prof. Christopher Chao, Vice President (Research and Innovation), The Hong Kong Polytechnic University; Prof. Peng Gong, Vice-President and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Development), HKU; Prof. Yike Guo, Provost, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST); Prof. Chak-sing Lau, Vice-President and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Health), Dean of Medicine, HKU; Prof. Pierre-Louis Lions, Fields Medalist (1994); Prof. Jian Lu, Dean of Faculty of Engineering, City University of Hong Kong (CityUHK); Prof. Nick Rawlins, Pro-Vice-Chancellor/Vice-President (Student Experience), The Chinese University of Hong Kong; Prof. George Smoot, Nobel Laureate in Physics (2006)
12:10 – 13:30	**Lunch**
13:30 – 17:30	**The International Academicians Hong Kong Forum** Sub-Forum 1: AI for Health; Sub-Forum 2: Future City

Sub-Forum 1: AI for Health

Venue: Grand Ballroom

Chair: Prof. Russell Gruen, Associate Provost of Health and Medical, HKUST

Co-Chair: Prof. Lei Chen, Dean of Information Hub, Chair Professor of Trust of Data Science and Analysis, Acting Head of Trust of Artificial Intelligence, HKUST(Guangzhou)

13:30-13:50	**Topic: AI for Impact in a Learning Health System** *Prof. Christopher Longhurst* Chief Clinical and Innovation Officer Executive Director, Jacobs Center for Health Innovation UC San Diego Health, USA
13:50-14:10	**Topic: Mind the Gap: Getting Clinical AI from Algorithm to Routine Use** *Prof. Wendy Chapman* Associate Dean of Digital Health and Informatics Director of the Centre for Digital Transformation of Health University of Melbourne, Australia
14:10-14:30	**Topic: AI in Health: An Implementation Roadmap** *Prof. Tien Yin Wong* Vice Provost, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China Chair Professor and Senior Vice-Chancellor, Tsinghua Medicine, Tsinghua University Senior Advisor, SingHealth & Singapore National Eye Center, Singapore
14:30-14:50	**Topic: Beyond Hospital Walls: Transforming Healthcare with In-Home Monitoring and Training** *Dr. Lili Qiu* Assistant Managing Director Microsoft Research Asia, Shanghai, China
14:50-15:25	**Panel Discussion** **Panel Chair:** Prof. Russell Gruen **Panelists:** Prof. Wendy Chapman Prof. Christopher Longhurst Dr. Lili Qiu Prof. Tien Yin Wong
15:25-15:35	**Coffee break**
15:35-15:55	**Topic: AI-Driven Advances in Acute Pancreatitis Diagnosis and Prediction** *Prof. Peter Hegyi* Director and Professor of Centre of Translational Medicine University of Pécs, Hungary
15:55-16:15	**Topic: Learning to Address Challenges in Ultrasound Imaging** *Prof. Alison Noble* Technikos Professor of Biomedical Engineering in the Department of Engineering Science, Professorial Fellow of St Hilda's College, University of Oxford, UK
16:15-16:35	**Topic: Advances in AI for Radiology** *Prof. Simon Warfield* Professor of Radiology Harvard Medical School, USA
16:35-16:55	**Topic: AI, Medical Imaging & Digital Twins for e-Medicine** *Prof. Nicholas Ayache* Research Director, French Research Institute of Computer Science and Applied Mathematics (INRIA), France
16:55-17:30	**Panel Discussion** **Panel Chair:** Prof. Lei Chen **Panelists:** Prof. Nicholas Ayache Prof. Peter Hegyi Prof. Alison Noble Prof. Simon Warfield

Sub-Forum 2: Future City

Venue: Salon I-IV
Chair: Prof. Hui Lin, Emeritus Professor, Department of Geography and Resource Management, CUHK
Co-Chair: Prof. Jian-Guo Dai, Chair Professor & Head, Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering, CityUHK

	Session 1 Session Chair: Prof. Jian-Guo Dai
13:30-14:00	**Topic: Scientific Cognition of Modern Cities** *Prof. Renzhong Guo* Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering International Eurasian Academy of Sciences Dean of the Institute of Smart City Shenzhen University, China
14:00-14:30	**Topic: Familiar Strangers: Understanding Urban Encounters in the Age of Social Isolation** *Prof. Jonathan Corcoran* Academician of Australian Academy of Social Science Professor of School of the Environment and Deputy Associate Dean (Research) in the Faculty of Science University of Queensland, Australia
14:30-15:00	**Topic: How to Create a City of Social Resilience and Personal Sufficiency Facing Climate Emergency and Ageing?** *Prof. Yoshitsugu Hayashi* Executive Committee Member of The Club of Rome Distinguished Professor, Center for Sustainable Development and Global Smart City, Chubu University, Japan
15:00-15:20	**Coffee Break**
	Session 2 Session Chair: Prof. Min Xie, Chair Professor, Department of Systems Engineering, CityUHK
15:20 -15:50	**Topic: Navigating the Future City** *Prof. Gerard Lachapelle* Academician of Canadian Academy of Engineering Professor Emeritus of Engineering, Schulich School of Engineering Department of Geomatics Engineering, University of Calgary, Canada
15:50-16:20	**Topic: Twin Systems** *Prof. Ioannis Brilakis* Laing O'Rourke Professor of Civil and Information Engineering, University of Cambridge, UK
16:20-17:10	**Panel Discussion** **Panel Chair:** Prof. Hui Lin **Panelists:** Prof. Ioannis Brilakis Prof. Jonathan Corcoran Prof. Mei-Po Kwan Prof. Yoshitsugu Hayashi Prof. Wenzhong Shi

Session Chair

Prof. Xiang Zhang

President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Hong Kong

Born in Nanjing in China's Jiangsu province, he studied at Nanjing University (BS and MS), then moved to the United States where he earned further degrees at the University of Minnesota (MS) and University of California, Berkeley (PhD). He taught as an assistant professor at Pennsylvania State University, and associate professor and full professor at the University of California, Los Angeles.

In 2004, he returned to UC Berkeley. At Berkeley, he served as the inaugural Edward S. Kuh Endowed Chair Professor, Director of the Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center, and Director of the Material Science Division at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

A world leader in nanophotonics and material physics, Professor Zhang developed the first optical superlens — breaking the diffraction limit and transforming understanding of imaging technology. He also pioneered the field of plasmonic lithography with important implications for microelectronics and data storage. Notably, he invented the world's first optical "invisibility cloak", achieving a historic leap from imagination to reality. This earned him a place on TIME's "Top 10 Scientific Discoveries" of 2008 alongside NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander and China's first spacewalk.

Among others, he is a recipient of the Fitzroy Medal, Julius Springer Prize, Max Born Award, and the Eringen Medal which includes five Nobel laureates among its past winners. He is an elected member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering, and an elected foreign member of organizations including the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Academia Sinica.

Session Chair

Prof. S. Joe Qin

President of Lingnan University

Professor Joe Qin is the Wai Kee Kau Chair Professor of Data and President of Lingnan University in Hong Kong. He obtained his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Automatic Control from Tsinghua University in Beijing and his Ph.D. degree in Chemical Engineering from University of Maryland at College Park. Qin's research interests include data science and analytics, statistical and machine learning, industrial AI, process monitoring, model predictive control, system identification, smart manufacturing, smart cities, and smart energy management.

Prof. Qin is a member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts and Fellow of the Hong Kong Academy of Engineering, the U.S. National Academy of Inventors, IFAC, AIChE, and IEEE. He is the recipient of the 2022 AIChE CAST Computing Award, 2022 IEEE CSS Transition to Practice Award, the U.S. NSF CAREER Award. His h-indices for Web of Science, SCOPUS, and Google Scholar are 71, 76, and 89, respectively.

Speech Topic

International Alliance of Academicians (IAA): Future Roles and Contributions

Prof. George F. Smoot

Nobel Laureate in Physics (2006)
Professor Emeritus in Physics
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Professor George Smoot was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2006, jointly with Prof. John MATHER, for their work that led to the “discovery of the black body form and anisotropy of the cosmic microwave background radiation”. This work helped further the Inflationary Universe and the Big Bang theory of the universe.

Prof. Smoot received his Bachelor degrees in Mathematics and Physics and his PhD in Physics in 1970 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has been at the University of California, Berkeley and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory since 1970. He is also Chair of the Endowment Fund "Physics of the Universe" of Paris Center for Cosmological Physics.

Prof. Smoot was elected a member of the US National Academy of Sciences and a Fellow of the American Physical Society. He has been honored by several universities worldwide with doctorates or professorships. He was also the recipient of Gruber Prize in Cosmology (2006), Daniel Chalonge Medal from the International School of Astrophysics (2006), Einstein Medal from Albert Einstein Society (2003), Ernest Orlando Lawrence Award from the US Department of Energy (1995), and the Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal from NASA (1991).

Prof. Smoot is an author of more than 500 science papers and is also co-author (with Keay DAVIDSON) of the popularized scientific book Wrinkles in Time (Harper, 1994) that elucidates cosmology and the discovery of NASA's Cosmic Background Explorer. A great teacher and a keen advocate of popular science, Prof. Smoot received the Oersted Medal in 2009 for his notable contributions to the teaching of physics.

Prof. Pierre-Louis Lions

Fields Medalist (1994)
Senior Fellow of the Hong Kong Institute for Advanced Study
City University of Hong Kong

Speech Topic

On Mathematics and Their Applications

Professor Pierre-Louis Lions is one of the most prominent experts, worldwide, of the theory of nonlinear partial differential equations. He is a Professor at the prestigious Collège de France in Paris, where he holds the Chair of “Partial Differential Equations and Applications” since 2002. He was also a Professor of Applied Mathematics at l’Ecole Polytechnique in Palaiseau, France, from 1992 to 2016.

Professor Pierre-Louis Lions has made profound and lasting contributions to the mathematical analysis of the Boltzman equation, the compressible Navier-Stokes equations, the Hamilton- Jacobi equations, the Hartree-Fock equation, image processing, viscosity solutions, concentration compactness, mean field games, and stochastic partial differential equations.

Professor Pierre-Louis Lions is Commandeur in the National Order of the Legion of Honor in France. He is Large Cross of the National order of merit Scientific Brazilian. He is a member of the French Academy of Sciences, of the Accademia dei Lincei, of the Academies of Sciences of Argentina, Chile, and Brazil, of the Academia Europaea, of the Istituto Lombardo, of the Accademia di Napoli, of the French Academy of Technologies, of the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) and of the Royal Academy of Belgium.

Professor Pierre-Louis Lions has received numerous awards, including the prestigious Fields Medal in 1994, the Grand Prize Ampère from the French Academy of Sciences, the Grand Prize from the INRIA, France, the IBM Prize, and the Philip Morris Prize. He is “ Doctor Honoris Causa” at Heriot-Watt University, at City University of Hong Kong, at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, at Bucharest University, at Santiago of Chile University, at Narvik University and at University of Chicago. He is listed as an ISI highly cited researcher.

Panel Chair

Prof. Alexander Ping-kong Wai

President and Vice-Chancellor
Hong Kong Baptist University

Professor Alex Wai is the President and Vice-Chancellor of Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU). Prior to joining HKBU, Professor Wai was the Deputy President and Provost at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Over the years, he has spared no effort in education, academia and research. He is committed to pioneering innovation and technology and translational research as well as making contributions to the development of Hong Kong, the Nation and the world.

Professor Wai received a bachelor's degree, majoring in Physics, from The University of Hong Kong in 1981, followed by a master's degree and a doctoral degree in Physics from the University of Maryland, College Park in the US in 1985 and 1988 respectively. With academic interests in the field of optical fibre communications, Professor Wai has a rich array of impactful and patented research achievements to his name. He has been elected as a Fellow of the Optical Society of America (OSA), a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) and a Fellow of Hong Kong Academy of Engineering Sciences (HKAES). With the approval of the State Ministry of Science and Technology, he is also listed as one of the experts in the National Science and Technology Programme Expert Database.

Panelist

Prof. Christopher Chao

Vice President (Research and Innovation)
Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU)

Ir Prof. Christopher Chao is Vice President (Research and Innovation), Chair Professor of Thermal and Environmental Engineering, and Director of PolyU Policy Research Centre for Innovation and Technology of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU). He is responsible for the planning and strategic development of research and innovation, knowledge transfer and entrepreneurship activities at PolyU. As an accomplished scholar in thermal and environmental engineering, Prof. Chao has published extensively in leading journals and has an excellent track record in securing external research grants.

He has been making unwavering contributions to the professional community and the HKSAR Government. He is currently a member of the Research Strategy Expert Group of the Chief Executive's Policy Unit, Board of Directors of the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute, Board of Directors of the Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited, Council of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, Council of the Hong Kong Academy of Engineering, and Vice Chairman of the Hong Kong Alliance of Technology and Innovation.

Prof. Chao received his BSc(Eng) degree in Mechanical Engineering (First Class) from The University of Hong Kong (HKU) and obtained his MS and PhD degrees in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. He was Dean of Engineering and Chair Professor of Mechanical Engineering at The University of Hong Kong from 2018 to 2021. Before that he was Head and Chair Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Panelist

Prof. Peng Gong

Vice-President and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Development), The University of Hong Kong

Prof. Peng Gong is Chair Professor of global sustainability and Vice President for Academic Development, The University of Hong Kong. He was professor and Chair of the Department of Earth System Science, Dean of School of Sciences, at Tsinghua University (Beijing, China). In 2001, he became a full professor in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management at the University of California, Berkeley (CA, USA). In 2000, he founded the International Institute for Earth System Science at Nanjing University (China) and in 2004, he served as the founding director of the State Key Laboratory of Remote Sensing Science.

His major research interests include mapping and monitoring of global environmental change, and modelling of environmentally related infectious diseases such as schistosomiasis, avian influenza, dengue, and COVID-19, and healthy cities.

He is the author/co-author of over 600 articles and 10 books. He chaired/co-chaired 9 research reports on climate change and health and healthy cities in China. Internationally, he has served as a member of the Earth League, the Future Earth Advisory Committee, the Earth Commission, and the Publishing Committee of the American Geophysical Union. He is also a member of the editorial board or advisory group of more than 10 international publications including the Lancet.

Panelist

Prof. Yike Guo

Provost, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Prof. Yike Guo is the Provost of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and Chair Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering. He is a world-renowned computer scientist who has led several large-scale AI and data science research projects in Hong Kong, UK and other European countries.

He was the Vice-President (Research and Development) of Hong Kong Baptist University and the founding Director of the Institute of Data Science at Imperial College London's six global institutes. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering (FREng), a Fellow of the European Academy of Sciences (MAE), a Fellow of the Hong Kong Academy of Engineering Sciences (FHKEng), a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (FIEEE), a Fellow of the British Computer Society (FBCS), and a Fellow of the Chinese Institute for Engineering Intelligence (FCAAI).

Professor Guo Yike won the 2022 Wu Wenjun Artificial Intelligence Science and Technology Award for Outstanding Contribution Award, which is considered to be the highest honor in the field of intelligent science and technology in China.

Panelist

Prof. Chak Sing Lau

Vice-President and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Health)
Dean of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong

Professor CS Lau is an international expert in rheumatology. He presided over the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (2016-2020); the Asia-Pacific League of Associations for Rheumatology (2006); and the Hong Kong Society of Rheumatology (1997-2001). He founded the Hong Kong Arthritis & Rheumatism Foundation (2001) and was a member of the Outcomes in Rheumatology, European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) Scientific Committee. He is an expert advisor to the HKSAR Government on multiple health-related policies and an appointed a member of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) representing the health sector, as well as a member of the 14th Beijing Municipal Committee of the CPPCC.

His research interests include systemic lupus erythematosus, rheumatoid arthritis, and related disorders. He is listed in the world's top 2% most cited scientists by Stanford University and has published over 450 articles and delivered more than 370 presentations. He sits on the editorial board of many peer-reviewed journals.

Panelist

Prof. Jian Lu

Dean of College of Engineering,
Chair Professor of Mechanical Engineering, City University of Hong Kong (CityUHK)

Prof. Jian LU, an academician of the National Academy of Technologies of France, is the Chair Professor of Mechanical Engineering at City University of Hong Kong (CityUHK), the President of the Hong Kong Material Research Society (HK-MRS) and a member of the Committee on Innovation, Technology, and Industrial Development (CITID) under the HKSAR Government.

He began his undergraduate studies at Peking University in 1978, where he was awarded a national scholarship for overseas study in 1979. He earned his Diplôme d'Ingénieur, Master's degree and PhD from the University of Technology of Compiègne in 1984 and 1986, respectively. In 1993, he obtained the Diploma of Habilitation, from the University of Paris VI (Paris Sorbonne University). From 1986 to 1994, he was appointed as Senior Research Engineer at the CETIM (French Technical Centre for Mechanical Industry). In 1994, he was appointed as Professor; Head of Department of Mechanical Systems Engineering and Director of Mechanical Systems and Concurrent Engineering Laboratory jointly supported by the French Ministry of Education and CNRS at the University of Technology of Troyes, France. From 2005 to 2010, he was Chair Professor and Head of Department of Mechanical Engineering at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. In 2010, Prof. LU was appointed Dean of the College of Science and Engineering at CityUHK, overseeing the largest STEM-related college or school in Hong Kong. From 2013 to 2020, he served as Vice President of Research & Technology (VPRT) and Dean of Graduate Studies at CityUHK. Professor LU's primary research interest is advanced nanomaterials and its integration in energy and biomedical systems. He has also branched out into several other areas of interest including surface science and engineering, biomechanics, residual stresses, and mechanics of nanomaterials. He has published more than 500 SCI journal papers including papers in Nature (cover story), Science, Nature Materials, Nature Chemistry, Nature Water, Nature Communications, Science Advances, Materials Today, Advanced Materials, PRL, JACS and his research works are cited more than 48000 times. He received the French Knight of the National Order of Merit and French Knight of the National Order of Légion d'Honneur in 2006 & 2017 respectively. He was elected as an academician by the National Academy of Technologies of France in 2011. He received the Guanghua Engineering Science and Technology Award from the Chinese Academy of Engineering in 2018.

Panelist

Prof. Nick Rawlins

Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Student Experience)
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Professor Nick Rawlins is the Master of Morningside College and a Pro-Vice-Chancellor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He moved to Morningside College from a post as Vice-President of the Toulouse School of Economics in France, where he was also a Fellow of the Institute for Advanced Studies at Toulouse. His move to Toulouse followed a fifty year academic career at the University of Oxford.

Professor Rawlins was born in Malta during his father's period of National Service with the Royal Navy, after which the family returned to the UK. Both his primary and secondary schooling (at Winchester College) took place in the UK. He took a B.A. in Psychology and Physiology at University College, Oxford, which was followed by a D.Phil in Oxford's Department of Experimental Psychology, during which period he also held a visiting studentship at the University of Oslo. Thereafter he held a succession of posts in Oxford, as a Junior Research Fellow, enriched by a year as a Fogarty Fellow at Johns Hopkins, and then as a Royal Society Research Fellow, Tutorial Fellow, Statutory Professor, and Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Development and External Affairs during which he was responsible for the largest and most successful fund-raising campaign that had ever been conducted by a university outside North America.

Professor Rawlins's research lies at the intersection of behaviour with brain function and dysfunction. He has studied the neural bases of learning, attention, and memory in organisms ranging from the medicinal leech to healthy human volunteers. These core interests have led to further studies of fear and anxiety, pain, schizophrenia and its treatment, and neurodegeneration and neural repair. Despite these interests he retains a cheerful disposition.

Chair

Prof. Russell Gruen

Associate Provost of Health and Medical Sciences,
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Professor Gruen is Associate Provost (Health and Medical Sciences) and Clinical Professor at HKUST, responsible for growing the university's capabilities and engagement in health and medicine. Prior to joining HKUST he was the Dean of College of Health & Medicine at the Australian National University and a specialist surgeon. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences and a member of its Governing Council, as well as a Fellow of the Academy of Medicine of Singapore, and the International Surgical Society.

After obtaining his medical degree, PhD and surgical qualifications in Australia, Prof Gruen undertook training as a specialist trauma surgeon in Seattle, and qualifications in medical ethics, health policy and business management at Harvard. He has led a number of organisations through strategic growth and change. From 2006 to 2015 he was Director of the Australian National Trauma Research Institute and the world's first Professor of Surgery and Public Health. He then spent 3.5 years at NTU Singapore and the new Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine as Vice-Dean, Research and Director of the NTU Institute for Health Technologies, in which he was responsible for successful research and medical technology partnerships between engineers and clinicians.

Prof Gruen is one of the most influential clinician scientists in trauma and injury care globally. He publishes regularly in the top-tier medical journals, has attracted over HKD 300m in research funds, and is a sought after speaker. He co-invented Covidence, software used for systematic reviews by over 400,000 academics around the world and co-founded its successful parent company. As well as being on Council of the national Academy, Prof Gruen is on the Board of Research Australia, of the Australian Council of Academic Leaders in Digital Health, and the AI in Remote Health Advisory Committee for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Co-Chair

Prof. Lei Chen

Dean of Information Hub, Chair Professor of Trust of Data Science and Analysis,
Acting Head of Trust of Artificial Intelligence, HKUST(Guangzhou)

Professor Lei Chen is a Chair Professor in Data Science and Analytics at HKUST (GZ), a Fellow of ACM and IEEE. Currently, he serves as the Dean of the Information Hub and the Director of the Big Data Institute at HKUST (GZ). Prof. Chen's research spans several areas, including Data-driven AI, Big Data Analytics, the Metaverse, knowledge graphs, blockchain technology, data privacy, crowdsourcing, and spatial and temporal databases, as well as probabilistic databases. He earned his Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Waterloo, Canada.

Prof. Chen has received several prestigious awards, including the SIGMOD Test-of-Time Award in 2015 and the Best Research Paper Award at VLDB 2022. His team's system also won the Excellent Demonstration Award at VLDB 2014. He served as the Program Committee Co-chair for VLDB 2019 and currently holds the position of Editor-in-Chief for IEEE Transactions on Data and Knowledge Engineering. In addition, he was the General Co-Chair of VLDB 2024 and will serve as the General Co-Chair of IJCAI China 2025.

Prof. Nicholas Ayache

Research Director
French Research Institute of Computer Science and Applied Mathematics (INRIA), France

Speech Topic
AI, Medical Imaging & Digital Twins for e-Medicine

Professor Nicholas Ayache is a research director at Inria, where he leads the EPIONE research team, dedicated to the digital patient and digital medicine. He is also the Scientific Director of the Interdisciplinary AI Institute 3IA Côte d'Azur, where he holds a research chair. His current research focuses on the introduction of AI algorithms to guide the prevention, diagnosis, prognosis and therapy of patients based on their medical images and all available data.

Prof. Ayache published over 400 highly cited scientific articles and a dozen of industrial patents, and co-founded seven high-tech companies. He is co-founder and co-editor-in-chief of the scientific journal Medical Image Analysis. He has been a member of several strategic boards in France and abroad.

Prof. Ayache is a member of the French Academy of Sciences and of the French Academy of Surgery. In 2013-2014 he was a visiting professor at the Collège de France, where he introduced a new course on the "personalized digital patient". In 2007, he was a visiting researcher at MIT and Harvard (Boston).

He received numerous prestigious awards including in 2020 the International Steven Hoogendijk Award, in 2019 the Grand Prize of the city of Nice, in 2014 the Grand Prize Inria-Académie des science, in 2012-2017 an advanced ERC Grant from the European Research Council, in 2008 the Royal Society Microsoft Grand Prize for Research in Europe, and in 2006 the EADS Foundation Information Science Award.

Prof. Ayache has been a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques since 2017. He is a Fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE), Fellow of the European Alliance of Medical and Biological Engineering and Science (EAMBES), Fellow of the Asia-Pacific Aritificial Intelligence Association (AAIA) and Fellow of the Medical Image Computing and Computer Assisted Intervention (MICCAI) Society, from which he received the Enduring Impact Award in 2013.

Prof. Wendy Chapman

Associate Dean of Digital Health and Informatics
Director of the Centre for Digital Transformation of Health
University of Melbourne, Australia

Speech Topic
Getting Clinical AI from Algorithm to Routine Use

Professor Wendy Chapman is the Associate Dean of Digital Health and Informatics at the University of Melbourne, as well as the Director of the Centre for Digital Transformation of Health. She is an elected fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics and the US National Academy of Medicine and served as a Board member of the Australasian Institute of Digital Health. Prof. Chapman's research aims to leverage data and digital technology to transform healthcare delivery. She spent two decades developing and evaluating AI / natural language processing algorithms and has led many multidisciplinary programs of work focused on research, education, and application of digital health. Her current passion is how to best design, implement, and validate digital innovations like AI and virtual care in healthcare settings.

Sub-Forum 1: AI for Health

Venue: Grand Ballroom

Speakers

Prof. Peter Hegyi

Director and Professor of Centre for Translational Medicine
University of Pécs, Hungary

Speech Topic

AI-Driven Advances in Acute Pancreatitis Diagnosis and Prediction

Professor Péter Hegyi is a clinical scientist, physician, and professor specializing in translational medicine and gastroenterology. As a member of the Academia Europaea, he is committed to bridging the gap between scientific discovery and clinical application, ensuring that groundbreaking research translates into real-world medical advancements.

Professor Hegyi has an extensive publication record, with over 600 scientific articles published in high-impact journals, accumulating a total impact factor exceeding 3000. His research has appeared in some of the most prestigious medical journals, including Nature Medicine, Gastroenterology, JAMA, and The Lancet. His scientific contributions have significantly advanced the understanding and treatment of gastrointestinal diseases, particularly through a patient-centered approach that enhances diagnostic and therapeutic strategies.

Beyond his research, he is deeply invested in academic education and training. His academic program has provided laboratory training for over 3,000 high school students, inspiring future generations of scientists. Meanwhile, his translational medicine program spans 24 countries and supports 352 PhD students, the majority of whom are healthcare professionals. Through this initiative, he is cultivating a new wave of clinician-scientists who can effectively integrate research with patient care.

Collaboration and community-building are central to his work. As the leader of TEA-NET (Translational European-Asian Network), the Academia Europaea's translational medicine network, he actively fosters interdisciplinary partnerships across Europe and Asia, promoting knowledge exchange and accelerating medical innovation. His leadership continues to shape the future of translational medicine, reinforcing the crucial connection between scientific research and improved patient outcomes.

Prof. Christopher Longhurst

Chief Clinical and Innovation Officer
Executive Director, Jacobs Center for Health Innovation
UC San Diego Health, USA

Speech Topic

AI for Impact in a Learning Health System

Christopher Longhurst MD, MS, is the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and Chief Digital Officer (CDO) at UC San Diego Health. This unique dual and complementary role provides leadership to medical staff, ensuring that standards and protocols are in place to provide the highest quality of care to patients, and positions digital transformation as a key tool in these efforts.

As the executive Director for the Joan & Irwin Jacobs Center for Health Innovation, Dr. Longhurst also has responsibility for the artificial intelligence (AI) portfolio across the health system, managed through the development and hire of the inaugural Chief AI Officer for UC San Diego Health.

Within the UC San Diego School of Medicine, Dr. Longhurst serves as an Associate Dean to help align education and research missions within the clinical environment and lead the journey to become a highly reliable, learning health system. As a faculty member in the Departments of Biomedical Informatics and Pediatrics, Dr. Longhurst also maintains an active clinical practice as a newborn hospitalist and vigorously pursues scholarship in care quality, patient safety, and informatics, especially healthcare AI.

Prof. Alison Noble

Technikos Professor of Biomedical Engineering in
Department of Engineering Science
Professorial Fellow of St Hilda's College
University of Oxford, UK

Speech Topic
Learning to Address Challenges in Ultrasound Imaging

Professor Alison Noble FRS is currently the Oxford University Technikos Professor of Biomedical Engineering. Alison has worked in industry and academia. Her academic research interests are at the inter-disciplinary interface of artificial intelligence (computer vision) and healthcare with her group internationally recognised for its work on ultrasound AI.

She has worked with clinical partners in the UK, India, and Kenya on translational AI-based imaging science. Some of her academic work has been successfully commercialised via a spinout and is used in clinics worldwide. Alison currently leads a major programme on human-AI collaboration in healthcare imaging supported by a UKRI Turing AI World-Leading Researcher Fellowship which is, as well, looking at how federated imaging analysis can enable international science partnerships. Alison was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2017 and awarded the Royal Society Gabor Medal in 2019. She is a current Vice President and a Foreign Secretary of the Royal Society. Alison has chaired working groups for Royal Society data policy reports on "Protecting privacy in practice" (2019), "From privacy to partnership" (2023) and most recently "Science in the age of AI" (2024). She received a CBE for services to engineering and biomedical imaging in the 2023 King's Birthday Honours List.

Dr. Lili Qiu

Assistant Managing Director
Microsoft Research Asia, Shanghai
China

Speech Topic
Beyond Hospital Walls: Transforming Healthcare with In-Home Monitoring and Training

Dr. Lili Qiu is Assistant Managing Director of Microsoft Research Asia and is mainly responsible for overseeing the research, as well as the collaboration with industries, universities, and research institutes, at Microsoft Research Asia – Shanghai.

Dr. Lili Qiu obtained her MS and PhD degrees in computer science from Cornell University. Dr. Qiu is an expert in wireless communication, sensing, and machine learning. She worked at Microsoft Research Redmond as a researcher in the System & Networking Group from 2001-2004. In 2005, she joined the University of Texas at Austin as an assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science, and later, in view of her outstanding achievements, she was promoted to a tenured professor.

Dr. Qiu is an IEEE Fellow, an ACM Fellow, a National Academy of Inventor (NAI) Fellow and also serves as the ACM SIGMOBILE chair. She was named an ACM Distinguished Scientist and was a recipient of the NSF CAREER award, among many other honors.

Prof. Simon Warfield

Professor of Radiolog
Harvard Medical School, USA

Speech Topic
Advances in AI for Radiology

Dr. Simon Warfield is Professor of Radiology at Harvard Medical School and holds the N. Thorne Griscom Endowed Chair at Boston Children's Hospital. He is the Director of Radiology Research and Director of the Computational Radiology Laboratory in the Department of Radiology at Boston Children's Hospital, and is a member of the Research Faculty Senate of Boston Children's Hospital.

Dr. Warfield trained in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, before turning his focus to medical imaging. He graduated with a PhD in Computer Science and Engineering in 1997 from the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, and completed postdoctoral training in medical image computing at Brigham and Women's Hospital. He joined Boston Children's Hospital in 2004 to develop a research program in advanced pediatric imaging and image analysis.

Dr. Warfield's research interests in the field of medical image computing have focused on the development of innovative algorithms to address the requirements of clinical care and translational research in medicine. This has included the development of algorithms suitable for quantitative assessment of maturation of the brain and body, and the detection of disease and atypical development utilizing advanced machine learning and statistical pattern recognition techniques. He has been a leader in the development of advanced magnetic resonance imaging techniques, and their translation to impact in clinical care. He has written and lectured extensively in the field of medical image analysis, and is currently collaborating with colleagues to develop and apply imaging techniques to understand brain development and to tailor interventions to suit the requirements of individual patients.

Prof. Tien Yin Wong

Senior Vice-Chancellor
Founding Head and Chair Professor, Tsinghua Medicine;
Vice Provost, Tsinghua University, China
Senior Advisor, SingHealth & Singapore National Eye Center, Singapore

Speech Topic
AI in Health: An Implementation Roadmap

Prof. Wong is an academic leader, innovator, and physician-scientist. He assumed the role of Chair Professor and Founding Head of Tsinghua Medicine at Tsinghua University in 2022. Over the past two decades, Prof Wong has held multiple leadership positions, including Arthur Lim Professor and Medical Director of Singapore National Eye Center, Deputy Group CEO (Research and Education) at SingHealth, Vice-Dean of Duke-NUS Medical School, and Chair of Ophthalmology at NUS and the University of Melbourne. As a practicing retinal specialist, Prof Wong has a prolific research portfolio on retinal diseases, ocular imaging, AI, and digital technology, with over 1,500 peer-reviewed papers and more than $100 million in grant funding. His accolades include the Arnall Patz Medal, Jose Rizal Medal, Friedenwald Award, and Singapore's President's Science and Technology Award. He is an elected member of the US National Academy of Medicine and the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences.

Chair

Prof. Hui Lin

Emeritus Professor,
Department of Geography and Resource Management,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Professor Hui Lin, Fellow of UK Academy of Social Science and Academician of International Eurasian Academy of Sciences. He is Distinguished Professor and Dean at the School of Geography and Environment at Jiangxi Normal University & Emeritus Professor of Geography in the Department of Geography and Resource Management at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He is the Founding President and Honorary President of International Association for Chinese Professionals in Geographical Information Sciences (CPGIS), and Vice Chairman of China National Committee of International Society of Digital Earth.

Co-Chair

Prof. Jian-Guo Dai

Chair Professor & Head,
Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering, City University of Hong Kong

Professor Dai is a Chair Professor and Head of Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering, CityUHK. Before joining CityUHK, he was a full professor at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He also had extensive research and industry experience in Japan. Professor Dai's research theme is "Emerging Material and Structural Systems for Sustainable Concrete Infrastructures".

Professor Dai is a Fellow of the International Institution of FRP in Construction, Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, Hong Kong Concrete Institute, Asian Concrete Federation, and the International Association of Advanced Materials. Professor Dai's research work has been recognized by many academic awards such as "Chinese State Technological Invention Award 2nd Prize" (2023), "International Outstanding Collaboration Award" from Japan Society of Civil Engineers" (2022), "China Award for Science and Technology in Construction 1st Prize" (2021), the "Best Basic Research Paper Award" of Journal of Composites for Construction" from American Society of Civil Engineers (2005) etc. He has published over 260 SCI papers, attracting more than 18,000 citations, with an h-index of 75 according to Google Scholar. He is listed among Stanford's top 2% most cited scientists. He is also a startup co-founder and received a Gold Medal in the special edition of the Geneva Inventions Expo 2022.

Session Chair

Prof. Min Xie

Chair Professor, Department of Systems Engineering, City University of Hong Kong

Professor M Xie has been a Chair Professor at City University of Hong Kong since 2011. Previously, he was a professor at the National University of Singapore. Prof Xie completed both his undergraduate and postgraduate studies in Sweden and has been active in research on reliability, quality and industrial engineering for over three decades. He has authored more than 400 journal publications and 10 books, and is listed in the world's top 2% most cited scientists by Stanford University. Prof Xie has supervised over 70 PhD students who are now working in academia and industry across various continents. For his contributions to software and system reliability, he was elected a Fellow of the IEEE in 2006 and to the European Academy of Sciences and Arts in 2022. He currently serves as Vice President for Asia Region at the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers and chairs the Fellow Evaluation Committee of the IEEE Technology and Engineering Management Society.

Speech Topic

Twin Systems

Prof. Ioannis Brilakis

Laing O'Rourke Professor of Civil and Information Engineering
University of Cambridge, UK

Prof Ioannis Brilakis is the Laing O'Rourke Professor of Civil & Information Engineering and the Director of the Construction Information Technology Laboratory at the Division of Civil Engineering of the Department of Engineering at the University of Cambridge. He completed his PhD in Civil Engineering at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign in 2005.

He then worked as an Assistant Professor at the Departments of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (2005-2008) and Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta (2008-2012) before moving to Cambridge in 2012 as a Laing O'Rourke Lecturer. He was promoted to Reader in October 2017 and to Professor in 2021. He has also held visiting posts at the Department of Computer Science, Stanford University as a Visiting Associate Professor of Computer Vision (2014) at the Technical University of Munich as a Visiting Professor, Leverhulme International Fellow (2018-2019), and Hans Fischer Senior Fellow (2019-2023), and as a Visiting or Honorary Professor at Tsinghua, HKU, CityUHK, HKUST, BJUT, and many other universities in Asia (2024-2026). He is a recipient of the 2024 IAARC Tucker-Hasegawa Award, the 2022 EC3 Scherer Award, 2022 EC3 Thorpe Medal, 2019 ASCE J. James R. Croes Medal, the 2018 ASCE John O. Bickel Award, the 2013 ASCE Collingwood Prize, the 2012 Georgia Tech Outreach Award, a 2010 NSF CAREER award, and a 2009 ASCE Associate Editor Award. Dr Brilakis is an author of over 300 papers in peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings, an Associate Editor of the ASCE Computing in Civil Engineering, ASCE Construction Engineering and Management, Elsevier Automation in Construction, and Elsevier Advanced Engineering Informatics Journals, the President of the International Association for Automation and Robotics in Construction, and the lead founder of the European Council on Computing in Construction.

Speech Topic

Familiar Strangers: Understanding Urban Encounters in the Age of Social Isolation

Prof. Jonathan Corcoran

Professor of School of the Environment and Deputy Associate Dean (Research) in the Faculty of Science
University of Queensland, Australia

Jonathan is a human geographer within the School of the Environment and Deputy Associate Dean (Research) in the Faculty of Science at the University of Queensland, Australia. Jonathan is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, Australia (FASSA), and a member of the national scientific advisory committee for the Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network (AURIN).

Jonathan's interests lie at the intersection of human geography, regional science, sociology, and criminology in understanding how human mobility shapes and is shaped by our urban systems and in turn impacts social sustainability; how regional economic growth and development is governed by human capital migration; and how big data and spatial analytics can be effectively harnessed to inform smarter policy.

Jonathan's interest in geography and the socio-spatial sciences began early on in his academic career. Completing his undergraduate studies in geography and a masters degree in geographic information science, where he focused on developing a broad understanding of key statistical, modelling and spatial analytic methods. He then went on to earn a PhD in human geography and computer science, where he focused on modelling the complex relationship between mobility, land use and crime.

Speech Topic

Scientific Cognition of Modern Cities

Prof. Renzhong Guo

Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering
International Eurasian Academy of Sciences
Dean of the Institute of Smart City
Shenzhen University, China

Prof. Guo is a member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and the International Eurasian Academy of Sciences.

He is currently a professor at Shenzhen University, dean of the Institute of Smart City, director of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Joint Laboratory of Smart City of Guangdong Province, vice chairman of the China Land Society, vice president of the China Society for Urban Sciences, deputy director of the Advisory Committee on the Reform and Construction of "Digital Government" of Guangdong Province, member of the Shenzhen Municipal Planning Commission, and adjunct professor of Wuhan University. Prof. Guo received his bachelor's and master's degrees in cartography from the former Wuhan Technical University of Surveying and Mapping in 1982 and 1984, respectively, and his Ph.D. in geography from the University of Franche-Comte in France in 1990, and taught at Wuhan University of Surveying and Mapping from 1991 to 1996, before working in Shenzhen after 1996. His research interests include spatial analysis, 3D cadastre, and smart city.

Speech Topic

How to Create Resilient and Sufficient Cities in an Era of Climate Change and Ageing Society

Prof. Yoshitsugu Hayashi

Executive Committee Member of The Club of Rome
Distinguished Professor
Center for Sustainable Development and Global Smart City,
Chubu University, Japan
Professor Emeritus, Nagoya University, Japan
Distinguished Professor, Tokaigakuen University, Japan
Distinguished Invited Professor, Tsinghua University, China

Prof. Hayashi was 6th President of WCTRS (World Conference on Transport Research Society) (2013-2019), an academic organization registered under Swiss Law, which gathers more than 1,000 members from over 70 countries.

His research focuses on urbanization and motorization and the countermeasure policy to overcome their negative impacts. His rail oriented urban reform plan in 1996 became a trigger to overcome Bangkok' s hyper congestion in mid 90's resulted in reversing the budget of road vs. rail from 1:99 in 90' s to 82:14 in Transport 2020 Plan.

The current research focuses on Infrastructure impact assessment method based on individual' s Quality of Life by attributes (age, gender, income, etc.) and by living place considering accessibility to hospitals & shops, amenity, safety & security and environment. This has been applied to planning to make growing and shrinking/aging cities resilient and sustainable. He has been a game changer for transport sustainability by showing simulations results. Policy appraises include 1) Bangkok urban railway development extending 250 km network within only 25 years, 2) Japanese Maglev high speed rail (300km long under construction), 3) Indian high-speed rail (500 km long under construction), etc. Without these projects, people would use road and air to emit enormous CO_2 and pollutant emissions.

The results of such activities have been published in more than 50 books including "Intercity Transport and Climate Change" (Springer, 2014) "Disaster Resilient Cities" (Elsevier, 2016), "Balancing Nature and Civilization" (Springer, 2019), "Transportation Amid Pandemics - Lessons Learned from COVID-19" (Elsevier, 2022)" and "Quality of Life Assessment in Urban Development and Transport Policymaking" (Asian Development Bank Institute Press, 2023).

Speech Topic

Mobile Sensing, GIS, Environmental Health, Healthy Cities, Sustainability.

Prof. Mei-Po Kwan

Fellow of the U.K. Academy of Social Sciences
Choh-Ming Li Professor of Geography and Resource Management
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, China

Professor Mei-Po Kwan is Choh-Ming Li Professor of Geography and Resource Management, Head of Chung Chi College, Director of the Institute of Space and Earth Information Science, and an affiliated faculty of the JC School of Public Health and Primary Care at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Prof. Kwan is a Guggenheim Fellow and a Fellow of the U.K. Academy of Social Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the Royal Geographical Society (U.K.), the American Association of Geographers (AAG), and the Geographical Society of China.

She received many prestigious awards and honors from the AAG, including the Distinguished Scholarship Honors, the Anderson Medal of Honors in Applied Geography, the Wilbanks Prize for Transformational Research in Geography, the Stanley Brunn Award for Creativity in Geography, the Melinda Meade Award for Outstanding Contributions to Health and Medical Research, and the Edward L. Ullman Award for Outstanding Contributions to Transportation Geography. Prof. Kwan received two lifetime achievement awards (one from the International Geographical Union and the other from the International Association of Chinese Professionals in Geographic Information Sciences). According to the list of the World's Top 2% Scientists by Stanford University, she was ranked No. 5 in the world in the field of geography in 2024. In the 2023 Global Scholar Database's Lifetime Academic Impact List, Kwan ranked first nationally in the field of geography.

Prof. Kwan has published over 500 journal articles, books, and book chapters. She has received research grants of more than USD 64.5 million and has delivered over 400 keynote addresses and invited lectures in more than 20 countries. Prof. Kwan has made ground-breaking contributions to research on environmental health, human mobility, smart cities, and geographic information science (GIScience). She is a leading researcher in deploying real-time GPS tracking and mobile sensing to collect individual-level data in environmental health research and uses them in building future and sustainable cities.

Speech Topic

Navigating the Future City

Prof. Gerard Lachapelle

Professor Emeritus of Engineering
Schulich School of Engineering, Department of Geomatics Engineering
University of Calgary, Canada

Following an early career with Natural Resources Canada in the late 70s where he conducted and directed research related to geodesy, Professor Lachapelle moved to Calgary and became involved with the very first Canadian efforts related to the development and use of GNSS technologies. He was a founding member and the Executive VP of Nortech (Surveys) Canada Inc. and Norstar Instruments (later acquired by Hexagon) whose pioneering efforts in the development of GNSS technologies were a major part of Canada’s continued success and strong international presence in the development, manufacturing and utilization of GNSS products and services. He has been involved in GNSS R&D since 1980, first in industry and as professor in the Department of Geomatics Engineering at the University of Calgary from 1988 onwards. He was department head from 1995 to 2003. He held a Canada Research Chair and an iCORE Chair in wireless location for 14 years starting in 2001. He and his colleagues created the Position, Location And Navigation (PLAN) Group, which developed numerous novel algorithms, processes, software and patents that have been licensed worldwide. In the 1980s and 90s, focus was on position and navigation algorithms and software development. In the 2000s and early part of the 2010s, research focused on signal processing in weak signal environments and on natural and electronic interference mitigation. Professor Lachapelle formally retired in 2015 when he became professor emeritus. During his academic career, he has contributed to the training of hundreds of BSc students and over 130 thesis-based MSc and PhD students that are now active in the GNSS industry and academia worldwide. He is widely published and has received score of awards for his contributions which are on Google Scholar. He has served in numerous professional and learned societies during his career. He holds degrees for Laval University, the University of Oxford, the University of Helsinki and the Technical University at Graz. Professor Lachapelle received the Institute of Navigation Johannes Kepler Award in 1997 and is Fellow of IEEE, the Royal Society of Canada, the Institute of Navigation, the Royal Institute of Navigation, the International Association of Geodesy and the Canadian Academy of Engineering.

Speech Topic
Urban informatics, artificial intelligence, and 3-D modeling

Prof. Wenzhong Shi

Academician of International Eurasian Academy of Sciences
Director of Smart Cities Research Institute
Hong Kong Polytechnic University, China

Professor Shi is currently the Director of Smart Cities Research Institute, Chair Professor in Geographic Information Science and Remote Sensing, at Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He is Academician of International Eurasian Academy of Sciences and Fellow of Academy of Social Sciences (UK). He earned his doctoral degree from Germany in 1994. Professor Shi also serves as President of International Society for Urban Informatics and Editor-in-Chief of International Journal Urban Informatics.

His research covers urban informatics for smart cities, geographic information science and remote sensing, artificial-intelligence-based object recognition and change detection from satellite imagery, intelligent analytics and quality control for spatial big data, and mobile mapping and 3-D modelling based on LiDAR and remote sensing imagery. He has published over 300 research articles in journals indexed by Web of Science and 20 books. He is among the worldly top 2% (specifically, 0.34%) cited researchers. He has over 50 patents granted.

Professor Shi has won State Natural Science Award, China's highest award for fundamental research, in 2007; Distinguished Scholar Prize by CPGIS, Gold Medal in Geneva Invention Expo, and Smart 50 Awards (US) in 2021; Founder's Award by International Spatial Accuracy Research Association in 2020; Science and Technology Progress Award in Surveying and Mapping (Grand Award) in 2017; Wang Zhizhuo Award by International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing in 2012; and ESRI Award for Best Scientific Paper by American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing in 2006.

Executive Committee of the International Alliance of Academicians

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VENUE INFORMATION

Grand Hyatt Hong Kong

Address: 1 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong
Nearby Attractions:
Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre (1 minute walk),
M+ Museum (12 minutes taxi ride),
Peak Tram Terminal (8 minutes taxi ride)

Transportation

Hotel is 40 minutes from Hong Kong International Airport
Taxi or Airport Express Railway Line recommended
Exhibition Centre MTR Station is a 5-minute walk from the hotel

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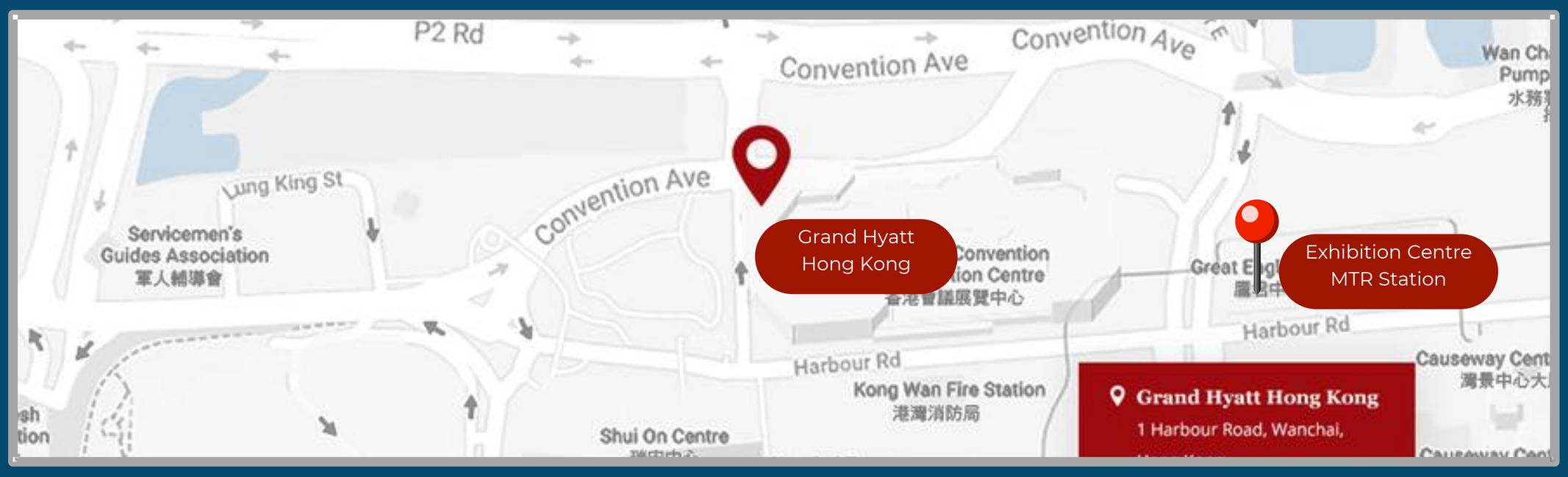
Map



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