First Hong Kong surgeon to receive Top Global Paediatric Surgery Award

Professor Paul Tam 譚廣亨 (MBBS 1976), Chair of Paediatric Surgery and Li Shu-Pui Professor in Surgery, was presented the Denis Browne Gold Medal at the British Association of Paediatric Surgeons (BAPS) Congress in July 2017. The award is made annually to a surgeon who has made outstanding contributions to paediatric surgery worldwide. Professor Tam is the first surgeon from Hong Kong and the fourth from Asia to be honoured with the Medal since its inception in 1968.

Professor Tam currently serves as the University’s Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor. He is particularly interested in minimally invasive surgery, genetics, and regenerative medicine for birth defects such as Hirschsprung’s disease. In addition, he also leads a number of projects that develop paediatric surgery in less affluent communities.

Professor Tam is particularly gratified to have led a number of projects in developing paediatric surgery in less affluent communities especially in China in the past two decades. He has also nurtured a generation of over 2000 paediatric surgeons in China through a training programme with far-reaching impact. He played a key role in bringing Karolinska Institutet, the academic home for the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, to establish its only footprint outside Sweden in Hong Kong.

“I accept the award both with humility and on behalf of all those associated with me. For this is not a personal recognition but rather a recognition of my family, colleagues, mentors, students, friends, peers and patients. While I cannot hope to inspire the next generation of paediatric surgeons the way those giants of the past generation inspired me, I hope my experience in one form or another can encourage my younger colleagues to enjoy and advance the specialty we all love and care about.”

Rachel Yiu 姚詩韻, a PhD student of Professor Tam, also received the Peter Paul Rickham Prize for the best basic science paper at the BAPS Congress

44
HKU marine ecologist Professor Kenneth Leung awarded the 19th Biwako Prize for Ecology

Established in 1991, the Biwako Prize aims to recognise ecologists under the age of 50 who have made academically and socially significant achievements in the field of aquatic ecology in Asia, and demonstrated great potential to become a central figure in ecology.

Research interests of Professor Leung include marine ecology, ecotoxicology, eco-shoreline engineering, marine biodiversity and conservation. He has also made contributions to the development of marine water quality objectives in Hong Kong, and is currently collaborating with the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences to refine the water quality criteria system in China.

Professor Leung is also conferred with the title of SETAC Fellow. The SETAC Fellows Award was created in 2010 to recognise members demonstrating both (i) significant long-term scientific or science policy contributions and (ii) service and leadership within SETAC.

HKU Chair Professor of Humanities appointed Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution

Professor Frank Dikötter will join a community of more than 100 outstanding scholars and leaders that seeks innovative policy solutions to modern-day challenges. Other Senior Fellows in his field include Niall Ferguson, Robert Service, and Timothy Garton Ash.

Specialising in modern China history, Professor Dikötter is the author of the internationally-acclaimed People’s Trilogy, a series of books that document the Great Leap Forward (Mao’s Great Famine, 2010), the initial years of the People’s Republic (The Tragedy of Liberation, 2013) and the Cultural Revolution (The Cultural Revolution, 2016). The first part of the trilogy, Mao’s Great Famine, won the Samuel Johnson Prize for Non-Fiction in 2011.