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An “Endowed Professorship” is one of the most significant awards bestowed upon eminent academics within the University. The generous donation will become a perpetual endowment in a designated discipline, as the Endowed Professor upholds a proud tradition of excellence.

The eight new Endowed Professorships that are being established represent a milestone in the history of the University of Hong Kong. They mark an extraordinary moment when so many members of the community stepped forward to acknowledge the world-class research that is being conducted at the University – and in doing so, helped contribute to the World of Knowledge and to Mankind.
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A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS

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Opposite: Chinese calligraphy courtesy of Professor Sin Chow-yiu.
“There is no higher duty that a society can perform for future generations than to ensure a heritage of achievement in the pursuit of knowledge. It is fitting that those who excel in that pursuit are honoured for their contributions.”

The Honourable Donald Tsang Yam-kuen 曾蔭權
Acting Chancellor

“Endowed Professorships are a celebration of the purest expression of academic philanthropy, because they come from eminent and successful individuals who wish to perpetuate the legacy of excellence that world-class research provides.”

Dr Victor Fung 馮國經
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“The Town-Gown Partnership is vital for the sustainability of any advanced economy such as Hong Kong. No world economy can succeed without a vibrant tertiary sector. Increasingly public-private partnerships in tertiary education are what lend that vibrancy and sustainability. The Endowed Professorships at HKU are an important manifestation of this concept.”

Dr Raymond K F Ch’ien 錢果豐
Chairman, Advisory Committee to the Vice-Chancellor on Endowed Professorships

“Through the Endowed Professorships scheme, the spirit of giving comes together with the will to excel, creating a permanent contribution to a university’s, and a society’s, pursuit of academic excellence.”

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William M W Mong Professor in Cardiology
蒙民偉基金教授 (心臟學)
Lau Chu-pak 劉柱柏

The Faculty of Medicine's Cardiology Division has gained worldwide recognition for its groundbreaking research into implantable pacing devices and therapies for irregular heart rhythm and heart failure.

"We've pioneered the use of the patient's own bone marrow cells to create blood vessels and the use of rate-adaptive pacing, that's a pacemaker capable of changing the heart rate. We also create biological pacemakers, using a biological system," said Professor Lau Chu-pak (MBBS, 1981; MD 1989).

Professor Lau is a graduate of HKU and a leading international expert on the treatment of cardiac arrhythmias. He is also a visiting professor at five major universities in China.

"I'm thrilled to receive this endowment. It's a great recognition of the work of myself and my team in cardiology," said Professor Lau.

The funding will enable Professor Lau to attract the highest calibre staff so that the team's successful research will continue.

Hon-Yin and Suet-Fong Chan Professor in Chinese
陳漢賢伉儷基金教授 (中文)
Sin Chow-yiu 單周堯

"The setting up of endowed professorships will enhance local medical research and development, benefiting mankind."

William M W Mong 蒙民偉

"It's a great honour and I will receive additional funding from the university to support my current and future researches," said Professor Sin Chow-yiu (BA 1971; MPhil 1976; PhD 1985).

Chinese Studies is closely tied to the history of the University of Hong Kong. "My department is unique as a conglomerate in the study of Chinese language, literature, history, philosophy, culture and translation," said Professor Sin.

An expert on Chinese philology, Professor Sin is a prolific author who has written more than 20 books and a hundred articles and book chapters. The scope of his work is diverse, covering subjects such as Confucianism, Chinese paleography, etymology, lexicography, phonology, and dialectology.

A graduate of this University himself, Sin's current research focuses on the recently excavated bamboo scripts from the Warring States period. The texts contain previously unknown Confucian writings and are written in characters that are undecipherable except to experts.

"This endowment in fact consists of donations from eighty-nine people. They are our friends as well as our alumni," said Professor Karen Lam Siu-ling (MBBS 1976; MD 1990).

Karen Lam graduated from HKU's medical faculty in 1976, working in Britain, the US and Australia before founding the Diabetes Centre at Queen Mary's Hospital in 1994. This centre was the first in Hong Kong to provide comprehensive diabetes care and patient education.

"I am very grateful to my former students, colleagues and friends who have shown their staunch support for research and education at the University of Hong Kong by contributing generously to the Professorship in Endocrinology and Metabolism in the Department of Medicine."

Rosie T T Young Professor in Endocrinology and Metabolism
楊紫芝基金教授 (內分泌及代謝學)
Karen Lam Siu-ling 林小玲

"After the US blackout, the US Electric Power Research Institute has commissioned us to do a study of future power control centres, to be able to prevent future blackouts," said Professor Wu.

He is also contributing to the technical aspects of the Chinese government's plan to connect all the regional power grids into one national grid.

"This endowment will help us to expand our exchange programme. We are inviting researchers and engineers from the mainland and western countries so that we can collaborate further."

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Rosie T T Young 楊紫芝 (MBBS 1953; MD 1959)

HKU has a long tradition of Electrical Engineering and Professor Felix Wu has brought international recognition to the department. A professor at University of California, Berkeley before joining HKU, Professor Wu is an adviser to research institutes and power companies around the world.

"We've found a new hormone which can lower the blood glucose level and also we've found several new drugs for the treatment of diabetes," Professor Lam explained.

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Karen Lam graduated from HKU's medical faculty in 1976 and in 1975 she was the top student in her year. Throughout her career her mentor has been Professor Rosie Young. An endocrinologist of the highest standing both at home and abroad, Professor Lam worked in Britain, the US and Australia before founding the Diabetes Centre at Queen Mary's Hospital in 1994. This centre was the first in Hong Kong to provide comprehensive diabetes care and patient education.

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Felix F Wu
Professor Lam Shiu-kum (MBBS 1967; MD 1975) is one of the world's leading gastroenterologists. A graduate of the Faculty of Medicine and its Dean since 2001, Professor Lam has devoted a lifetime of research on peptic ulcers and gastric cancer.

"We're very excited about one piece of work that we have done in China. Our ten-year study in Fujian shows that, if we can kill off a certain germ in the stomach of people, we can prevent stomach cancer," said Professor Lam.

Professor Lam is guest professor at five universities on the mainland. He has been awarded the prestigious Bockus Medal from the World Congress of Gastroenterology and was made an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his achievements in the field.

"It is a great excitement and I think we are deeply honoured by this most generous donation from the S H Ho Foundation," said Professor Raymond Liang Hin-suen (MBBS 1979; MD 1990).

Professor Liang has actively led research into blood diseases and problems that affect a large number of people, and that are particularly prevalent in this part of the world. Resulting in more accurate diagnoses and more effective treatments of serious blood diseases, this research is now saving lives.

"We are experts in doing bone marrow transplants for blood cancer patients who are also chronic hepatitis B carriers," said Professor Liang.

A graduate of the Medical School, one of Professor Liang's greatest contributions has been to set up the first all-Chinese Unrelated Marrow Donor Registry in the world.

Under his leadership, the Haematology division is now a leading centre in molecular genetics, the study of the genes which cause cancers and those which suppress them.

"Receiving the endowment is certainly a great honour for me," said Professor Lo Chung-mau (MBBS 1985; MS 1998). Professor Lo is a leading international expert on hepatobiliary surgery. He is best known for pioneering the use of life donors for liver transplantation.

"Living donor transplant was done in the past for children only. The department of surgery at HKU was the first in the world to extend this operation to adult patients by taking the right side of the liver which is 2/3 of the total liver volume for transplantation purpose. Since we did this in 1996, other centres around the world have started to do this and have copied us."

The survival rate of patients undergoing operations by the Team is significantly above the international average-in fact it is the best in the world.

The money from the endowment will enable Lo and his team to look at how to improve patients' quality of life after surgery.

"My endowment is made in recognition and deep appreciation of the professionalism and dedication of all members of the Hong Kong University Medical Faculty. Apart from their contributions to research and development in medical science, they also educate our future doctors not only to cure but also to heal."

Chin Lan-hong

Professor Yuen Kwok-yuen (MBBS 1981; MD 1998) played a leading role in helping Hong Kong through some of its darkest days. He led the team at the University of Hong Kong that first discovered the agent causing SARS, the SARS Coronavirus, thus leading to measures that were crucial to containing the outbreak of the disease.

He has also led his team in the discovery of other diseases agents, including the novel coronavirus HKU1, Laribacter hongkongensis, and other bacteria.

"The honour belongs to the team, not just to me. Without all of them, nothing can be done," added Professor Yuen.

With his department now internationally known for research into the avian flu and the H5N1 virus, Yuen's contribution to the control of emerging infectious diseases has been recognised with the bestowal of the Silver Bauhinia Award.
Simon K Y Lee Professor in Gastroenterology
李國賢基金教授 (腸胃學)

Lam Shiu-kum 林兆鑫

"Whereas the discipline of Medicine is a quest for the betterment of Mankind, I am honoured to be able to support this quest whose legacy lives on in every one of us."

Simon K Y Lee 李國賢

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Chin Lan-hong 泰蘭鳳

S H Ho Professor in Haematology and Oncology
何善衡基金教授 (血液及腫瘤學)

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Henry Fok Professor in Infectious Diseases
霍英東基金教授 (傳染病學)

Yuen Kwok-yung 袁國勇

"For as surely as the rewards of medical research are the reaffirmation and celebration of life itself, the pursuit and advancement of scholarship in this realm must be supported at the highest levels."

Henry Fok 霍英東

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泰蘭鳳基金教授 (肝膽胰外科)

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(From the Community, For the Community)
The founding of the University of Hong Kong itself in 1911 was made possible through the generous donations of many individuals and corporations. Not long afterward, in 1919, the Tai Kok Professorship of Engineering was established, the first endowed chair at the University. This initiated a legacy of excellence through the establishment of other professorships over the years.

Tai Kok Professorship of Engineering
Francis Chin Yuk-lun
Professor Chin is a leading expert in computer science and the founding Head of the Department of Computer Science. He is Managing Editor of the International Journal of Foundations of Computer Science and has served on many government policy and advisory committees.

Sir Robert Ho Tung Chair of Mechanical Engineering
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Professor Chwang is Director of the Centre of Nonlinear Mechanics and has published research on a vast array of areas in mechanical engineering. He was elected to the Chinese Academy of Sciences and his expertise has extended to the revolutionary field of nanomechanics.

Sir Y K Pao Chair in Public Law
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Professor Ghai, a native of Kenya, is an internationally recognised expert on human rights and constitutional law and served as Chair of the Constitution of Kenya Review Commission and Kenya National Constitutional Conference. His expertise on the drafting of constitutions has been solicited by numerous countries, including Afghanistan, Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Redmond Chair of Civil Engineering
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Professor Lee, who serves as Pro-Vice-Chancellor, is an internationally renowned expert on the relation between environmental engineering and hydraulics, the science of water flows. He led the team of experts who helped unravel the mystery of how the SARS virus had spread through the Amoy Gardens estate in 2003.

Hui Wai Haan Chair of Chemistry
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Professor Che, a member of the Chinese Academy of Science, is acclaimed for his research in synthetic chemistry, and has developed important applications in the pharmaceutical, medical and material sciences.

Lim Por Yen Chair of Chinese Cultural Studies
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Professor Jao is revered as a Great Master of Chinese culture, and has been described as a "living encyclopedia in ancient Chinese culture." He has published more than 60 academic books, 500 articles, and more than 20 collections of poetry and essays.

Other Named Professorships

William Mong Chair of Otorhinolaryngology
William I Wei
Professor Wei is credited with the development of an innovative technique to expose the nasopharynx, the maxillary swing approach, which has revolutionized the surgical salvage of nasopharyngeal cancer. He is also recognised for many other contributions in the management of head and neck cancers in optimising treatment outcomes.

Sun Hung Kai Properties Professor in Business
Michael J Enright
Professor Enright is one of the world’s leading experts on competitiveness and international business strategy. He has led studies of national and regional economies in more than 20 nations, published widely in academic and practitioner literatures, and is regularly consulted by governments, multinational companies, and multilateral organisations.

Sir David Todd Professor in Medicine
Kwong Yok-lam
Professor Kwong is an internationally recognised expert in the treatment of blood diseases and cancers, an authority on natural killer cell lymphomas, and the pioneer of oral arsenic trioxide for cancer treatment. His research focuses on the molecular pathology of haematological malignancies, novel therapeutic modalities, and bone marrow transplantation.

Sun Chieh Yeh Chair of Hepatobiliary Surgery
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Professor Fan plays a pivotal role in establishing the University of Hong Kong as a centre of excellence in liver transplantation. He performed the first liver transplant here in 1991, and innovated the right lobe live donor liver transplant, a major breakthrough in liver transplantation in 1996.

# Contributors to the Rosie T T Young Professorship in Endocrinology and Metabolism

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Fan Sheung-tat
Professor Fan plays a pivotal role in establishing the University of Hong Kong as a centre of excellence in liver transplantation. He performed the first liver transplant here in 1991, and innovated the right lobe live donor liver transplant, a major breakthrough in liver transplantation in 1996.

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