

Professor YUEN Kwok-yung
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Henry Fok Professor in Infectious Diseases
Chair of Infectious Diseases, Department of Microbiology
Co-Director, State Key Laboratory of Emerging Infectious Diseases
Academician, Chinese Academy of Engineering

Professor YUEN Kwok-yung, who graduated from the University of Hong Kong in 1981 and heads the Department of Microbiology from 2002 to 2011, has the rare distinction of being a microbiologist, surgeon and physician. His success in these three areas is exemplified by his numerous Fellowships at distinguished institutions, including the Hong Kong Colleges of Pathologists, Surgeons and Physicians, the Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (Lond and Edin), Surgeons (Glas) and Pathologists (UK), and also the Fellow of the American College of Physicians (USA). He was a Croucher Senior Medical Research Fellowship in 2006-2007 and was elected to the Chinese Academy of Engineering (Basic Medicine and Health) in 2007. He was awarded the Justice of Peace by the HKSAR in 2002 and the Silver Bauhinia Star Award of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China in 2004.

Widely known among specialists in infectious diseases, Professor Yuen made his mark in 2003 when the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS, gripped the globe. He played a key role in the discovery of the agent causing SARS, the SARS coronavirus, thus leading to measures that were crucial to containing the outbreak of this disease. He has also led his team in the discovery of over 50 novel disease agents, including the novel Human Coronavirus HKU1, the bat SARS coronavirus, bat coronavirus HKU2 to 24, and many other bacteria, fungi and parasites named after Hong Kong or China. The University of Hong Kong appointed to him the Henry Fok Professorship of Infectious Diseases in 2005. The Ministry of Science and Technology of China has given the honour of the State Key Laboratory of Emerging Infectious Diseases - the first State Key Laboratory outside the Mainland, to HKU in recognition of its exemplary contributions this area and Professor Yuen has been the first Co-Director of this laboratory. The HKSAR government has also honoured his contributions with the award of a Silver Bauhinia Star.

He is one of the top 1% researchers in the world, as ranked by the Essential Science Indicator (ISI web), and has published more than 850 papers in peer reviewed journals including the Lancet, New England Journal of Medicine, Journal of Virology and PNAS, with over 28,000 citations. His field of interest is novel microbes in emerging infectious diseases.