

PRESS RELEASE

Date: 16 November 2021

The Council of the Hong Kong Laureate Forum's “Masterminds, Masterclasses” Commences

The second chapter of the “Prelude to the Inaugural Forum”, **Masterminds, Masterclasses**, of the Council of the Hong Kong Laureate Forum (the HKLF) officially kicked off today.

Presented in a hybrid format of online and offline engagement, the three-day programme features over 10 leading prominent scientists including Shaw Laureates, recipients of Breakthrough Prize, CNRS Gold Medal, Fields Medal and Royal Medal as guest speakers for three disciplines of science, namely Life Science and Medicine, Astronomy and Mathematical Sciences.

Professor Timothy W TONG, BBS, JP, Chairman of the HKLF, expressed his excitement in having world-renowned scientists to participate in this thought-provoking event. “The concept behind “Masterminds, Masterclasses” is for renowned scientists to share their work, their research journey and their personal take on how to handle the highs-and-lows of the road less travelled. Their sharing aims to help aspiring young scientists to map out their own research journey and plan their science pursuit ahead.” said Professor Tong in his opening remarks.

Three presentations were delivered to kick off the event. Professor Dennis LO, Awardee of the 2021 Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences and 2021 Royal Medal in Biological Sciences, imparted his insights on translating scientific discoveries into clinical impact, whereas Professor Ivan HUNG, Board & Founding Member of the World Association for Infectious Diseases and Immunological Disorders, delivered an in-depth overview of the treatment of respiratory virus infections including COVID-19 and influenza with participants. Professor Goncalo CASTELO-BRANCO, Professor of Neurobiology of Karolinska Institutet, from Sweden, shared with us his key findings on oligodendrocytes in neural development and in disease.

Following the three presentations was the panel discussion hosted by Professor TSUI Lap-

chee, Founding President of The Hong Kong Academy of Sciences and a Board Member of the HKLF. They spoke on how to enthuse young people through teaching of basic knowledge of science and technology and potentially awaken their interest in a research career.

Another highlight of the programme is the dialogue session with young scientists, which is an invaluable opportunity for rising stars from the scientific community to converse directly with top scientists among the globe. Professor Dennis LO was present to offer a unique and unparalleled opportunity for young generations to quench their thirst for knowledge and explore their intellectual strengths and abilities on Life Sciences and Medicine.

For the coming two days, spotlight will be put on the other two disciplines, Astronomy and Mathematical Sciences. More information about the contents and speaker line-up of the event is available at: <https://hklaureateforum.org/en/masterminds-masterclasses>

For high resolution photos, please click [here](#).



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About the Hong Kong Laureate Forum

The Hong Kong Laureate Forum (the Forum) is a world-class scientific exchange and networking event to be organised by the HKLF to aspire and connect the current and next generations of leaders in scientific pursuit. The Forum also aims to promote understanding and interests of the young generation in Hong Kong and around the world in various disciplines in science and technology, in particular Astronomy, Life Science and Medicine, and Mathematical Sciences. The inaugural Forum will be held on 7-12 November 2022 at the Hong Kong Science Park.

The HKLF was established in May 2019 and is fully sponsored by the Lee Shau Kee Foundation. The Shaw Prize Foundation - which organises annually the renowned international award, The Shaw Prize, is the major partner of the HKLF. Since its launch, the HKLF has been putting every effort to promote science in the community and around the world as well as in preparation of the inaugural Forum.

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