



To Editor

For Immediate Release

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CUHK Leads in Number of Excellent Research Projects

Three more research projects done by The Chinese University of Hong Kong have recently been rated "Excellent" by the Research Grants Council, thus making the cumulative total number of "Excellent" projects of the University to 15, the greatest among local institutions.

The Research Grants Council assessed 53 completed projects by the seven UGC-funded institutions and rated five as "Excellent". Among these five projects three are CUHK projects:

- "Molecular mechanisms in the transduction process in mammalian merkel cell mechano-receptors in the skin" by Professor Klaus Baumann and Professor Yung Wing Ho of Department of Physiology,
- "Development of an Intelligent Spatial Decision Support System" by Professor Leung Yee of Department of Geography, and
- Effect of Hyperthermia on Tumour Cells" by Professor Lee Cheuk Yu and Professor Fung Kwok Pui of Department of Biochemistry.

As at 1 December 1996, 32 out of a cumulative total of 213 projects assessed were rated "Excellent" and among these 15 were done by the Chinese University.

The "Excellent" research by Professor Baumann and Professor Yung demonstrated that during mechanical stimulation, intracellular calcium occurred in merkel cells of the skin surface, thus proved that these cells play a vital role in the transduction process from mechanical stimulus into electrical nerve signals.

Professor Leung successfully developed a powerful fuzzy-logic-based expert system shell for making rule-based spatial inference. The shell can be used to classify remotely-sensed images and climatic classification. It was also used to develop a fully integrated intelligent spatial decision support-system development tool which can be employed to build a complicated flood simulation and damage assessment decision support system.

Hyperthermia is a new treatment for cancer patients. The research project by Professor Lee and Professor Fung aimed to develop useful methods to assess the susceptibility of cancer towards hyperthermia, used alone or in combination with other treatment modalities and to enhance the efficacy.

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Media are welcome to have interview on these three research projects. For enquiries, please call Ms Cheung Man-yi of Information and Public Relations Office at 26098896.