



新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

TO NEWS EDITOR
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CUHK Receives Equipment Grant to Enhance Biological Research and Efficiency

The Biology Department of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) has received a grant of HK\$2.9 million from the Research Grants Council (RGC) Central Allocation Vote 1995-96 for the establishment of an "Automated Molecular Genetic Analysis System" in collaboration with the Department of Biology at Baptist University and the Department of Applied Biology and Chemical Technology at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. The amount received is the highest among the four projects chosen this year. The system will enable molecular genetic analysis to be carried out in a standardised manner and enhance the efficiency of research.

According to Professor Norman Y. S. Woo, Chairman of Biology Department, CUHK, "The objective of setting up the system is to provide state-of-the-art automated instrumentation for molecular genetic analysis. Manual operations, which are tedious, variable and sometimes technically difficult, have been the major approach in the past. With the installation of an automated system, which is reliable and highly reproducible, analyses can be completed more quickly and in a standardised manner."

Research projects which will benefit from this acquisition range from studies on genes in micro-organisms to mutations underlying human leukaemia. The system will be installed on CUHK campus but available for use by staff of the sponsoring institutions for purposes of collaborative research.

The system will include four components: a nucleic acid purification system, an automatic/robotic molecular biology workstation, a genetic analyser/gene scanner, and an automated sequencer.

The RGC Central Allocation Vote is set up with fundings from the University Grants Committee to provide support to tertiary institutions in the acquisition of central facilities or equipment which will benefit the academic community of Hong Kong. CUHK has made successful applications for its Engineering and Chemistry Departments in the past.

[* A photo will be distributed through GIS today (April 26)].

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