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HKIB's Director Received US Alcon Award

Professor Dominic Man-Kit Lam, Director of Hong Kong Institute of Biotechnology and Professor of Biotechnology of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, has recently received the Alcon Award for 1990 from the Alcon Research Institute, United States. This award is in recognition of Professor Lam's outstanding contributions to eye research.

Alcon Laboratories Inc., one of the largest ophthalmic pharmaceutical companies in the world with its headquarter in Fortworth, Texas, honours each year through its research institute selected award recipients for special achievements in medical research.

With a publication list of more than 180 scientific papers and abstracts, Professor Lam's research interest and publications are mainly in the areas of molecular mechanisms underlying neuronal communication in general, and in particular the processing of visual information. For the past two decades, the vertebrate retina has been his model system for such studies. His current activities in vision research focus on identification of retinal transmitters and neuropeptides, and their use as physiological probes to study the organization and development of the retina. In addition, Professor Lam is also involved in the development of novel pharmaceuticals against certain eye diseases.

Professor Lam is the first scientist in Southeast Asia to receive the Alcon Award. The award carries a cash prize of US\$50,000.

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Attachment: Photo of Professor Dominic Man-Kit Lam