University
Awards 2019

RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE
University Awards 2019

Recognising Excellence in
Education, Research and Service

Tuesday, 28 May 2019
University Cultural Centre
Over the past two decades, NUS has made rapid progress to become one of Asia’s top universities. We have established ourselves in the league of academic, research and service excellence in Singapore and globally. This achievement is testament to the longstanding spirit, culture and pursuit of excellence at our University.

Indeed, excellence is an enduring core value that underpins all our endeavours. As Singapore’s flagship university, NUS is committed to providing a solid education for our students that prepares them to be able and competent for the future. We pursue excellence in research to advance knowledge and technology frontiers; our research seeks to create new knowledge, novel applications and solutions to problems. NUS is also breaking new grounds in growing a vibrant innovation and enterprise network in Singapore and the region.

Together, we are a strong community of 40,000 students, 12,000 staff and 300,000 alumni from more than 100 countries, striving for excellence and shaping the future.

The 2019 University Awards recipients are truly outstanding individuals who have achieved peaks of excellence in their pursuits, and whose life and work have left a deep, positive impact. The NUS family celebrates and honours their distinguished accomplishments.

Professor Tan Eng Chye
President
National University of Singapore

President’s Message
Awards

OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD
Acknowledges faculty members who have excelled in engaging and inspiring students in their quest for knowledge

YOUNG RESEARCHER AWARD
Commends researchers whose works show promise in extending the frontiers of knowledge in their respective fields

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH RECOGNITION AWARD
Recognises researchers whose works have impacted and advanced the frontiers of knowledge, and positioned NUS at the forefront of their areas of expertise

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD
Honours individuals who have distinguished themselves by their sustained contributions in serving the University and society
OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD
Assoc Prof NGA Min En
Asst Prof Hans TAN

YOUNG RESEARCHER AWARD
Assoc Prof Andrew HUI
Dean’s Chair Assoc Prof Vincent TAN
Assoc Prof YAN Ning

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH RECOGNITION AWARD
Prof Markus R WENK

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD
Prof TAN Chorh Chuan
Ms YONG Ying-I
Outstanding Educator Award
CURRENT TEACHING PORTFOLIO

- Undergraduate – General pathology (cellular processes) and Systemic Pathology (pathology based on body systems); Role of pathology in clinical care
- Postgraduate – Diagnostic aspects of anatomical pathology and laboratory practice

TEACHING ACHIEVEMENTS

- Awarded grant funding from NUS Medicine for several projects:
  2012 to 2014: Led a successful pilot project to digitise more than 250 preserved specimens of organs demonstrating disease, and integrated these digitised specimens into the medical undergraduate pathology curriculum
  2016 to 2018: Further expanded digital specimen collection by 800
  2014 to 2018: Created Pathweb, an online resource which combines the Virtual Pathology Museum that holds annotated, interactive digitised specimens; and Pathology Demystified, a self-directed online learning resource. Pathweb has received more than 50,400 visitors and 410,000 views since its launch in August 2017
- Plays role of Integration Lead Educator in NUS Medicine, primarily aiming to help develop other faculties’ e-learning skills and confidence in using them, through hands-on workshops. Created a blogsite in 2016 on e-learning applications for other faculty, in partnership with the School’s education technology team
- Core faculty member in the NUHS Pathology postgraduate residency programme (since 2014)
- Fellow of the NUS Teaching Academy (NUSTA) since 2015. Lead of the NUSTA project “Teachers Who Inspire”

PUBLICATION CREDITS

- Published more than 50 peer-reviewed papers in internationally refereed journals. Many of these papers include collaborations with postgraduate and/or undergraduate students

INTERNATIONAL STANDING

- Conferred the Indian Academy of Cytologists Oration Lecture in 2017
- Examiner of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) (since 2016)
- Fellow, International Academy of Cytology (2010)
- Fellow, Royal College of Pathologists, UK (2008); and RCPA (2005)

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Educator of the Year Award, NUS Medicine (2017/18)
- Faculty Teaching Excellence Award (2017/18, 2013/14, 2012/13, 2009/10, 2006/07), NUS Medicine
- Annual Teaching Excellence Award (2013/14, 2012/13, 2009/10) and Honour Roll (2016-2020), NUS
- Becton-Dickson Research Award, Singapore Society of Pathology (2012)
- NUS Medicine Top Ten Tutors (2009)

OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD

Assoc Prof NGA Min En
MBBS (NUS)
Department of Pathology

Asst Prof Hans TAN
Master of Design (Cum Laude)
(Design Academy Eindhoven)
BA (Hons) (NUS)
Division of Industrial Design

CURRENT TEACHING PORTFOLIO

- Deputy Head of Academic, Division of Industrial Design
- Lecturer and tutor for modules including Design Fundamentals, Design Platforms and Design Thesis Project

TEACHING ACHIEVEMENTS

- Contributed to the refinement of the Division’s curriculum through developing innovative approaches to design pedagogy
- Produced seven public exhibitions since 2009 with student works that engage themes through discursive and experimental design
- Co-organiser of NUS Makerthon 2017, a university-wide, multidisciplinary collaboration challenge which attracted the participation of 19 teams comprising 57 students from 29 different programmes
- Core member of “Q” Pillar team since 2016, developed the design segment for the General Education module “Asking Questions”
- Dedicated mentor to students, with two successful candidates on the NUS Overseas Graduate Scholarship doing their Masters/PhDs – both were his final-year thesis students; and others who have garnered local and international design awards

INTERNATIONAL STANDING

- His works are in the permanent collections of prestigious international museums including the Princesehof National Museum of Ceramics, Leeuwarden, the Netherlands (2018); M+ Museum for Visual Culture, Hong Kong (2017); National Collection of Singapore, Peranakan Museum (2017); and Copper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, New York, USA (2016)
- Display of works in exhibitions such as Singletown at the Venice Biennale; Surface art/design in Dortmund and Cologne; No Boundaries at ArtStage Singapore; and Beauty at the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum in New York
- Named one of Perspective’s 40 under 40, an award that recognises design talent from the Asia-Pacific region in 2013

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Designer of the Year, President’s Design Award 2018
- Design of the Year (Pour), President’s Design Award 2015
- His Spotted Nyonya series was awarded the distinction of “Les Découvertes” (best innovative product) at the fall edition of Maison et Objet 2012 in Paris and also Design of the Year at the President’s Design Award 2018
- Annual Teaching Excellence Award (2015/16, 2014/15 and 2012/13) and Honour Roll (2018), NUS
Young Researcher Award
Assoc Prof Andrew HUI  
PhD (Princeton University)  
BA (St John’s College, Annapolis)  
Division of Humanities, Yale-NUS College

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**
- Classical traditions of European early modern culture
- Global Renaissance
- Allegory, history of ideas, philology, materiality and metaphysics of texts, aesthetics and wonder, slow reading, analogue humanities

**RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS**
- Obtained eight citations with a Hirsch index of 2
- Published book chapters “Voice, Writing, and the Ovidian Play of Signs in Titus Andronicus” in *Ovid’s Metamorphoses in English Poetry*; and “Texts, Monuments, and the Desire for Immortality” in *Moment to Monument*

**INTERNATIONAL STANDING**
- Invited speaker at international conferences and lectures at prestigious universities including Stanford, Yonsei, Princeton, Yale, Freie Universität Berlin, Oxford and Emory

**AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**
- Awarded an innovation grant by the Centre for Teaching and Learning at Yale-NUS College to produce the undergraduate publication *Dante Journal of Singapore* (2017)
- Berenson Fellowship, Villa I Tatti, Harvard University Center for Renaissance Studies, Florence (2017)
- Brian Crawford Fellowship, Warburg Institute, School of Advanced Studies, London (2015)

Dean’s Chair  
Assoc Prof Vincent TAN  
PhD (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)  
MEng, BA (University of Cambridge)  
Departments of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Mathematics

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**
- Information theory
- Statistical signal processing
- Machine learning

**RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS**
- Known internationally for his works on finite-length fundamental limits in networks which shape the design of low-latency communication systems
- Established an impossibility result for point-to-point communication systems that matches Strassen’s achievable result from the 1960s. No communication protocol can improve on this performance bound. Also derived similarly stunning results for multi-user networks together with his collaborators
- New mathematical theorems constitute by-products of these analyses and are applicable to machine learning tasks such as the estimation of graphical networks from data
- Raised research grants of $3 million from the National Research Foundation (NRF), Ministry of Education, Institute of Data Science, JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science)-NUS and Institute of Mathematical Sciences

**AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**
- Distinguished Lecturer of the IEEE Information Theory Society (2018/19)
- NRF Fellowship (Class of 2018)
- Young Researcher Award, NUS Engineering (2018)
- Commeniation List (2014/15 to 2016/17) and Honour Roll (2017/18), NUS Engineering Teaching Awards
- NUS Young Investigator Award (2014)
- MIT Jin-Au Kong EECS outstanding doctoral thesis prize (2011)
Assoc Prof YAN Ning
PhD, BSc (Peking University)
Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

RESEARCH INTERESTS
» Sustainable chemistry and engineering
» Biomass conversion and renewable carbon resource utilisation
» Advanced catalysis (metal catalyst at nano, subnano and single-atom scales)

RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS
» One of three winners who received the annual ACS (American Chemical Society) Sustainable Chemistry and Engineering Lectureship Award 2018 for pioneering the “waste shell biorefinery” concept
» First and only recipient from Asia to date to be recognised with the RSC (Royal Society of Chemistry) Environmental, Sustainability and Energy Early Career Award in 2017 for his innovative research on the valorisation of wastes through rational catalysts
» Led an international team in developing a chemical synthesis route of various amino acids from sugars, paving the way for the production of high-value proteins from agricultural wastes via chemical routes in the future
» Developed highly efficient single atom metal catalysts, addressing the high temperature stability issue of such catalysts that has long been a critical challenge in the field

PUBLICATION CREDITS
» Published more than 90 peer-reviewed papers and obtained over 3,000 total citations with a Hirsch index of 41
» A series of his research articles on biomass conversion and catalyst development was highlighted in well-respected journals

INTERNATIONAL STANDING
» Advisory board member of RSC Catalysis Science & Technology (since March 2018) and ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering (since January 2018)
» Early Career board member of ACS Catalysis (January 2017 to December 2018)
» Editorial board member and associate editor of Molecular Catalysis (Elsevier) (since September 2015 and October 2018, respectively)
» Reviewer for several leading journals in multidisciplinary subjects and his research areas. Recognised as an “Outstanding Reviewer” for RSC Catalysis Science & Technology in 2016 and 2017
» Chair/co-chair/organisation committee member of and plenary/keynote/invited speaker in several local and international conferences, symposiums and forums

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES
» Best Service Award, AIChE (American Institute of Chemical Engineers) Singapore Local Section (2016)
» NUS Young Investigator Award (2015)
» G2C2 Young Researcher Award, Global Green Chemistry Center (G2C2) (2015)
» Hitachi Research Fellowship (2013)

YOUTH RESEARCHER AWARD
University Research Recognition Award
Prof Markus R WENK
PhD, Dip (Biozentrum University of Basel)
Head, Department of Biochemistry

RESEARCH INTEREST
» Novel approaches in systems scale analysis of lipids and their interactors (“lipidomics”)

RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS
» Recognised as one of the thought-leading scholars in lipid sciences worldwide
» Distinguished contributions and achievements in lipid sciences, in particular for the outstanding development of lipidomic methods, based on mass spectrometry
» Established the Singapore Lipidomics Incubator (SLING) at NUS, an interdisciplinary programme that is dedicated to innovation, education and partnership in lipidomics

PUBLICATION CREDITS
» Published more than 260 papers in scientific publications with major impact on conceptual advancements in lipid sciences, including his most recent paper titled “MS-based lipidomics of human blood plasma: a community-initiated position paper to develop accepted guidelines” in the Journal of Lipid Research
» Achieved a Hirsch index of 66 and Scopus/SciVal of 2.44

INTERNATIONAL STANDING
» Executive editor of Progress in Lipid Research (Elsevier) and Encyclopedia of Lipidomics (Springer)
» Editorial board member of Nature Scientific Data, Journal of Lipid Research and Rapid Communications in Mass Spectrometry
» Widely sought-after speaker at major international conferences
» Scientific advisor to numerous national and international research councils, foundations, consortia and institutes
» Founder and organiser of the International Singapore Lipid Symposium

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES
» European Lipid Science Award, European Federation for the Science and Technology of Lipids (2018)
» Provost’s Chair Professorship, NUS Medicine (2016)
» National Research Foundation Investigator (2015)
» Program Grant (2015) and Fellow (1998), The Human Frontier Science Program
Outstanding Service Award
OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Prof TAN Chorh Chuan
PhD, MBBS, MMed (NUS)

What I find most fulfilling is that NUS has developed a talented community and environment which encourages and enables individuals to excel and create real impact. I am grateful for this prestigious award which recognises this very notable collective achievement.

CURRENT PORTFOLIO
- Executive Director, Ministry of Health (MOH)
- Office for Healthcare Transformation
- Chief Health Scientist, MOH
- University Professor and Senior Advisor, NUS
- Member, Board of Directors of Monetary Authority of Singapore; and Mandai Park Holdings

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENTS
- Prof Tan served as Director of Medical Services, MOH, from 2000 to 2004, where he was responsible for leading the public health response to the 2003 SARS epidemic
- As the inaugural Chief Executive of the National University Health System in 2008, he brought the NUS schools of medicine, dentistry and public health, as well as the National University Hospital under a single governance
- Prof Tan was appointed NUS President (2008-2017); NUS Provost and Senior Deputy President (2004-2008); and Dean of NUS Medicine (1997-2000)
- First Singaporean to be elected as an international member of the US National Academy of Medicine in 2015

SERVICE TO NATION AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY
- NUS’ reputation rose to new heights during Prof Tan’s tenure as President from 2008 to 2017. The pace of developments and new initiatives at the University accelerated: NUS University Town; Yale-NUS College; School of Continuing and Lifelong Education; the new Research Centres of Excellence; Smart Nation Research Cluster; expansion of NUS Overseas Colleges; and growth of the University’s entrepreneurial ecosystem, amongst others
- Prof Tan was Deputy Chairman of Singapore’s Agency for Science, Technology and Research from 2004 to 2017. He also chaired the CPF Advisory Panel that recommended enhancements to the CPF system

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES
- Meritorious Service Medal (2015)
- Asia-Pacific Leadership Award by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (2015)
- Dr John Yu Medal, George Institute for Global Health, Australia (2012)
- Honorary Doctor of Science from Duke University (2011); and Loughborough University (2009)
- National Science and Technology Medal (2008)
- Public Administration Medal (Gold) (2004)
- Public Service Star (2003)
- Fellow, Singapore National Academy of Science (2016); American College of Physicians (1999); Royal College of Physicians (London) (1998); Academy of Medicine, Singapore (1996); and Royal College of Physicians (Edinburgh) (1996)
- Albert Schweitzer Gold Medal and Elected Fellow, Polish Academy of Medicine (1999)
- Singapore Youth Award (1996)
Ms YONG Ying-I
MBA (Harvard University)
MA (University of Cambridge)

In an era of rapid technological changes and greater ambiguity, it is all the more important for us all to stay curious and learn actively, so that our knowledge and insights are regularly refreshed. I continually challenge myself to be open to fresh ideas and learn new capabilities, so as to create new value. NUS is an immensely important institution that encourages exploration of new ideas, and creates new solutions to improve people’s lives. I am grateful for the many opportunities that NUS has given me to meet some of the best minds in the world, where the stimulating discussions have so often sparked off fresh insights.

CURRENT PORTFOLIO
» Permanent Secretary (Communications and Information), Ministry of Communications and Information
» Permanent Secretary (Cybersecurity), Prime Minister’s Office
» Chairman, 5G-Innovate
» Member, Board of the Singapore Symphony Group; and Singapore China Foundation

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENTS
» An economist by training, Ms Yong joined the Administrative Service in 1985 and served in the Ministries of Finance, Trade and Industry, Home Affairs, and Communications & IT before her appointment as Principal Private Secretary to then Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in 1997
» She also served as founding Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the former Infocomm Development Authority (IDA) from 1999 to 2001 and Deputy Chairman from 2003 to 2007 and then IDA Chairman from 2007 to 2015
» Ms Yong was appointed Permanent Secretary (Manpower) in 2002; Permanent Secretary (Health) in 2005; Permanent Secretary (National Research and Development) in 2011; and Permanent Secretary (Public Service Division) in 2012. She took on her current appointments in April 2019

SERVICE TO NATION AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY
» Under Ms Yong’s leadership at the National Research Foundation (NRF), NUS grew its research capabilities significantly. The Corplab@University programme was set up to establish joint R&D laboratories by industry with our universities. This helped NUS to strengthen partnerships with key industry players through the Keppel-NUS Corporate Laboratory, NUS-Singtel Cyber Security R&D Lab, WIL@NUS Corporate Laboratory and the Imaging Biomarker Development Lab, a collaboration between Duke-NUS Medical School and ImaginAb Inc, among others
» Two research centres were also set up through NRF’s Medium-Sized Centre funding scheme to consolidate research activities across universities, one of which is the Centre for Advanced 2D Materials at NUS
» Ms Yong also played an instrumental role in the creation of AI Singapore or AI.SG, the national research and innovation programme for Artificial Intelligence launched in 2017. Led by NUS, AI.SG creates opportunities for research, innovation and talent development with schools, universities, research institutions and industry. These include AI programmes to tackle national Grand Challenges
» She was founding Chairman of the Workforce Development Agency from 2003 to 2005, and also chaired the Civil Service College from 2012 to 2019

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES
» Medal of Commendation Award, NTUC (2015)
» Inducted into the Hall of Fame, IT Leaders Award (2014)
» Public Administration Medal (Gold) (2005)
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