

# A Message

FROM THE PRESIDENT

18 October 2019

Dear alumnus,

I would like to share some wonderful news about our researchers who have been accorded Singapore's highest research and innovation accolades at the President's Science and Technology Awards (PSTA) 2019.

## **PRESIDENT'S SCIENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS**

The prestigious President's Science Award (PSA) was given to only two recipients this year:

1. **Professor Toh Kim Chuan** from the Department of Mathematics and Institute of Operations Research and Analytics; and
2. A team from the Singapore Eye Research Institute (SERI) comprising **Associate Professor Audrey Chia, Professor Saw Seang Mei, Professor Roger Beuerman** and **Adjunct Professor Donald Tan** from Duke-NUS Medical School. Seang Mei also holds an appointment at the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health.

A leading global expert in algorithms for conic and semi-definite programming, Kim Chuan, who is Leo Tan Professor in Science, was conferred the PSA for his groundbreaking work in the field of computational optimisation. He is a world-leading figure in algorithms for semi-definite programming and has been internationally recognised for his fundamental contributions to the theory, practice and application of this key area of research. Kim Chuan's work has enabled important advances in applications in areas such as sensor network localisation, machine-learning and data science, as well as in the prediction of consumer behaviours for businesses.

The SERI team of Duke-NUS researchers was recognised for their pioneering work in the field of myopia research, which has contributed to a decrease in the prevalence and severity of myopia in children over the last three decades. The team, widely recognised as an international leader in myopia research, was the first to identify low-dose atropine eye drops as a viable treatment option that is both safe and effective for long-term use in children, which led to many other interventional trials globally. Together, these researchers have impacted education, clinical care, optometry guidelines, clinical interventions and preventive measures.

## YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD RECIPIENTS

In addition to the PSA awards, two young NUS scientists were also honoured with the Young Scientist Award (YSA) at the same event. The YSA, organised by the Singapore National Academy of Science and supported by A\*STAR, recognises the accomplishments of researchers under the age of 35.

The only two recipients of this award for 2019 are:

1. **Assistant Professor Charles Lim** from NUS Electrical and Computer Engineering and the NUS Centre for Quantum Technologies; and
2. **Assistant Professor Shao Huilin** from NUS Biomedical Engineering and Institute for Health Innovation & Technology.

Charles was recognised for his work in quantum communications and cryptography resulting in quantum secure communication methods, while Huilin received the award for her research in developing transformative technologies for non-invasive disease detection and treatment monitoring.

Please join me in congratulating our colleagues on their wonderful achievements.

You can read more about the PSTA Awards at [NUS News](#).

With best wishes,

Professor Tan Eng Chye (Science '85)  
NUS President