

Appendix

Professor Siew Ng's and Professor Chen Shih-Chi's biographies

Professor Siew Ng is Croucher Professor in CUHK's Department of Medicine and Therapeutics, New Cornerstone Investigator, Assistant Dean (Development) of the Faculty of Medicine, and Director for the Microbiota I-Center (MagIC), as well as an internationally renowned clinician-scientist in gastrointestinal diseases and microbiome medicine. She is at the forefront of epidemiology, genetics, pathogenesis and treatment of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) in Asia-Pacific and globally. She was one of the youngest female academics elected to the highly prestigious International Organization for the Study of IBD (IOIBD), which is an elite group of 50 leaders globally. Her recent discoveries that it is possible to detect novel microbial signatures in stool to target neurodevelopmental and inflammatory disorders can transform the paradigm for early disease diagnostics. Professor Ng has published over 380 papers in leading international journals. She has been named a "Highly-cited Researcher" by Clarivate for four consecutive years since 2020, was given the Deloitte Technology Fast Outstanding Female Entrepreneur Award in 2023 and was made a Foreign Member of the Academia Europaea in 2024.

Professor Chen Shih-Chi is a Professor in CUHK's Department of Mechanical and Automation Engineering, and joined the University in 2011. His primary research interests include nanomanufacturing, ultrafast laser applications, biophotonics and precision engineering. He was the recipient of the 2013 and 2018 R&D 100 Awards; the 2023 Falling Walls "Science Breakthroughs of the Year" Award; a China's Top Ten Optical Breakthroughs in 2023 Award; and Gold Medals in the International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva (2022), International Invention Fair in the Middle East (IIFME) (2023) and more. He is presently a Fellow of Optica, Fellow of SPIE, Fellow of ASME, Fellow of HKIE and member of the Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences.