

**From:** Notice of Vice President (Research and Innovation) [VPRI]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 13 June 2023 12:55 pm  
**To:** Distribution List  
**Subject:** Congratulations to the Awardees of Young Innovative Researcher Award (YIRA) 2023



Dear Colleagues

I am pleased to announce the results of the **PolyU Young Innovative Researcher Award (YIRA) 2023**. The award recognises and encourages young PolyU researchers under the age of 35 who have demonstrated novelty, contributed to technology advancement, and propelled transformational innovation into solutions for addressing problems in society with a vision for a positive change to the future.

Following the success of its debut in 2022, we received numerous outstanding submissions from 14 Departments covering all Faculties this year. As the Chairman of the YIRA2023 Assessment Panel, I was joined by a number of senior colleagues, including Director of Research and Innovation, Prof. Christina Wong, and various Faculty Deans. Together, we carefully evaluated the submissions, interviewed shortlisted applicants, and selected six awardees based on the originality and innovativeness of their research proposals, as well as the impact or potential benefits to society and humankind.

Please join me in congratulating the following awardees:

Awardee	Dept	Title	Research Focus
Dr Songhua CAI	AP	Assistant Professor	Towards next-generation halide perovskites: in situ STEM characterizations assisted structure engineering
Dr Ho Lam HEUNG	BRE	Research Assistant Professor	Robot-assisted recovery system for survivors with stroke
Dr Kai LENG	AP	Assistant Professor	Scalable growth of 2D hybrid perovskite film
Dr Yuan MA	ME	Assistant Professor	Flexible surface haptics technology for aiding the visually impaired population

Dr Shuowen ZHANG	EIE	Assistant Professor	Smart and reconfigurable 6G wireless networks aided by intelligent reflecting surface
Dr Pai ZHENG	ISE	Assistant Professor	Towards futuristic human-machine symbiotic manufacturing system

Each awardee will receive research funding support of HK\$500,000 and a personal cash prize of HK\$20,000. These awards have been granted to encourage continued research novelty and impact. The Award Presentation Ceremony is being arranged, and further details will be communicated by the Research and Innovation Office at a later date.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all the applicants for their submissions and congratulate the awardees for their exceptional achievements. Your research has demonstrated a remarkable dedication to advancing knowledge and making a positive impact on society. We are proud to have you as members of the PolyU community.

Once again, congratulations to all the YIRA2023 awardees!

Best Regards  
Christopher Chao  
Vice President (Research and Innovation)