

Alumni Newsletter

Department of Biology

April 2022

Academic Staff, Academic Year 2021-22



New Academic Staff, Academic Year 2020-22

DR. PRADHAN, Nirakar, Assistant Professor - Joined in 2020

Dr. Nirakar Pradhan joined the Hong Kong Baptist University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology. Dr. Pradhan's research interests and experiences primarily center on the nutrient removal from wastewater, microbial fermentation, resource recovery from organic waste, and mathematical and statistical modeling for bioprocess design and optimization.



DR. ZHAO, Jun, Assistant Professor - Joined in 2021

Dr. Zhao joined the Hong Kong Baptist University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology. His main areas of research interests include Bio-mass conversion, Environmental Catalysis, Waste treatment and utilization, and Clean energy.

DR. WU, Haoxiang, Lecturer - Joined in 2020

Dr Wu's research area focuses on aeromicrobiology and indoor mycology. He has been studying the airborne survival of bacteria in response to different environmental conditions and the underlying mechanisms, as well as mechanisms regulating the responses to indoor moulds to transient moisture conditions.

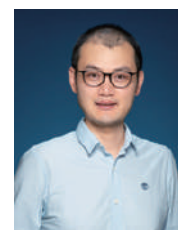


DR. CHAN, Veronica Wai Yee, Lecturer - Joined in 2021

Dr Veronica Chan's current research focuses on sanitisation of air and surface, investigation and modelling of IAQ pollutants including bioaerosols, and sustainable building assessment and development.

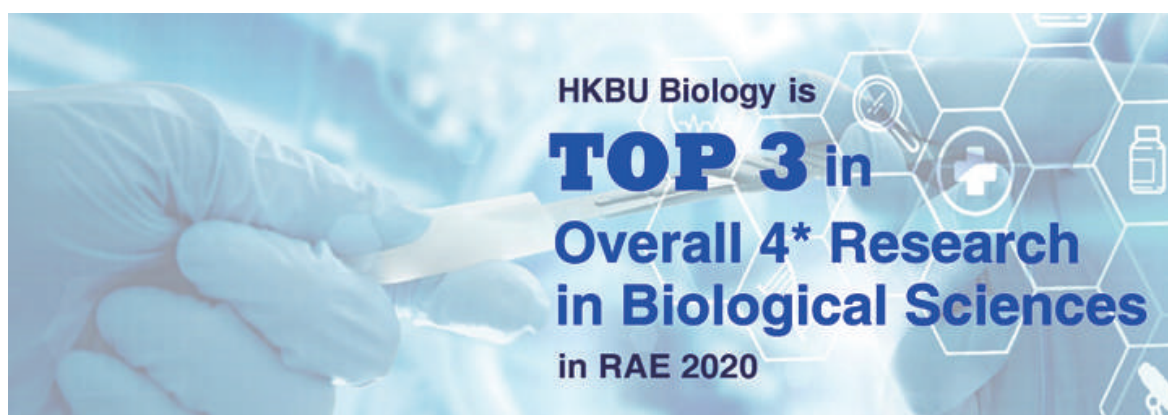
DR. IP, Chi Ho, Research Assistant Professor - Joined in 2021

Dr. Ip obtained his Ph.D. degree at the Hong Kong Baptist University. He is interested in molecular ecology, evolutionary adaptation, and symbiosis. He currently studies genetic adaptations and biodiversity of aquatic ecosystems (i.e., coral reef, shallow water, and deep-sea ecology).



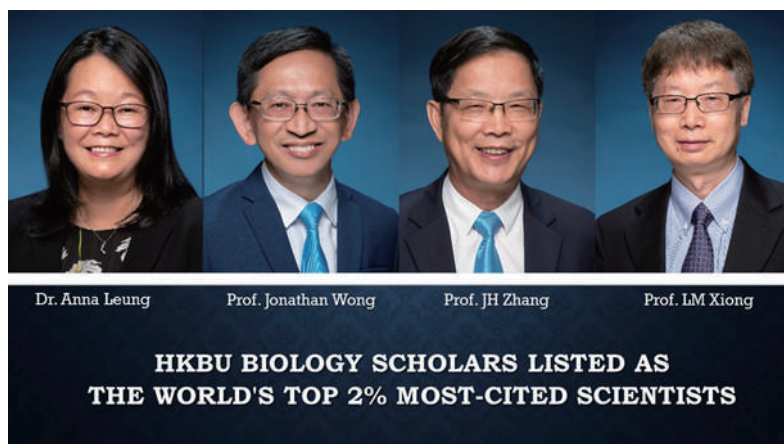
Department Achievements

UGC Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) 2020



Academic Staff Achievements

Prof. Jianhua Zhang Named Highly Cited Researcher 2021 by Clarivate Analytics ([more...](#))



Biology HKBU Scholars Prof. Jianhua Zhang, Prof. Jonathan Wong, Prof. Liming Xiong and Dr. Anna Leung Listed as the World's Top 2% Most-Cited Scientists ([more...](#))

Outstanding Performance of Academic/Teaching Staff

The University organizes an Awards Presentation Ceremony is organised by the Hong Kong Baptist University every year in recognition of the outstanding performance of academic/teaching staff. Our Department expresses heartfelt gratitude to these staff members and we extend to them our warmest congratulations.



Professor Jonathan Wong

President's Award for Outstanding Performance in Scholarly Work 2020



Dr. Jill MY Chiu and
Dr. Shan Shan Chung

Faculty Performance Award
in Team Teaching 2020



Dr. Patrick YK Yue

Faculty/School/Academy of
Visual Arts Performance
Award in Teaching 2021

Department Updates

HKIQEP Accreditation



BSc in Bioresource and Agricultural Science Programme

Newly launched in 2019, this programme is the first professional, multidisciplinary degree programme in Hong Kong that explores the key issues shaping the outlook of agricultural science and the management of bioresources from the perspective of sustainability. For academic year 2021-22, the average HKDSE score among the admitted students was 19 while the best HKDSE core was 21. A total of 17 students received scholarships including AFCD Agricultural Products/Marine Fish Scholarship Fund - Tertiary Education Awards, Alumna Esther Wong May Wai Scholarship, GreenWalls Bioengineering (HK) Limited Scholarship, The Surein Foundation Scholarship, and Former Civil Engineering Department Head Dr. Yan Sze Kwan Scholarship, etc. ([more...](#))



HKBU-University of Lincoln (UoL) Double Degree Programme in Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Applied Biology (HKBU) and Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Ecology and Conservation (UoL)

This programme is jointly offered by the Hong Kong Baptist University and the University of Lincoln, UK. In this “3+1” Double Degree programme, students studying in the Environmental Science concentration of the Applied Biology programme will study the first three years at HKBU to gain fundamental and advanced knowledge and skills in environmental science and management to address current and topical environmental and human health-related issues and problems, and study Year 4 at the University of Lincoln in its Ecology and Conservation programme. ([more...](#))



HKBU biologists discover new coral and nudibranch species



Research team led by Professor Qiu Jianwen discovered in Hong Kong waters a new species of hard coral and two new species of nudibranch, a type of marine mollusc, that have never been identified anywhere else in the world. The discoveries of new species from these commonly seen animal groups are a vivid reflection of Hong Kong's rich marine biodiversity. ([more...](#))

HKBU study finds strong association between PM2.5 and neurological disorders

Professor Ken Yung Kin-lam (right) and Dr Fu Pengfei, Postdoctoral Research Fellow of the Department of Biology of HKBU, have found a strong association between PM2.5 and a wide range of neurological disorders. Their comprehensive, systematic meta-analysis identified a significant association between exposure to PM2.5, i.e., fine particulates with equivalent diameters of less than 2.5 microns suspended in the air, and neurological disorders. ([more...](#))



List of General Research Fund (GRF) 2020-2021

2021-22	Prof YJ Xia	Understanding the roles of Arabidopsis DXO1 in mRNA capping and transcriptional pausing.
	Prof LM Xiong	Regulation of plant drought tolerance by AT-rich Interaction domain (ARID) proteins
	Prof JW Qiu	A study of the genomic basis of symbiosis in a deep-sea tubeworm
	Dr JMY Chiu	Effects of the sunscreen UV filter, benzophenone, on marine invertebrates
2020-21	Prof YJ Xia	Understanding roles of NAD-capped RNAs in regulating virulence of the plant pathogen <i>Pseudomonas syringae</i>
	Prof JH Zhang	Cloning and functional analysis of the main QTL gene qBGW1 that controls rice grain width
	Prof ZY Zhao	Characterizing the in vivo functions of cyclin L and its binding partners in pre-mRNA splicing and cell cycle control
		Molecular Mechanisms for LOT1 Regulation of Plant Drought Stress

Alumni Achievement

Distinguished Alumni Award 2021



Dr. LUI Cathy
Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer
of OPER Technology Limited

Distinguished Science Alumni Award for Lifetime Achievement 2021



Prof. POON Lit Man, Leo
Professor, School of Public Health
University of Hong Kong

Student & Alumni Sharing

Mr. Thomas Wu (Biotechnology Concentration) - A Unique and Life Changing Experiential Learning Experience

Thomas has grasped the opportunities to go on two exchanges in the U.S. and Singapore within a year, and studied subjects related to his discipline. He has earned a unique and life changing experiential learning experience through the exchanges programme. Let's check out his sharing in this [video](#)

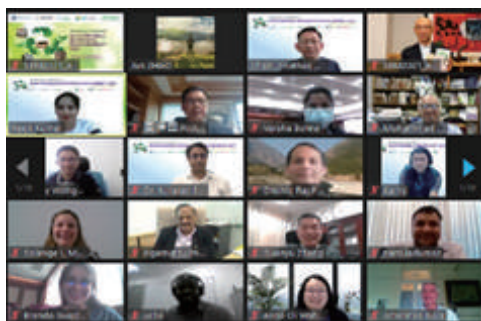


Mr. Wen Qian - Alumni of Master of Science (MSc) in Environmental and Public Health Management



Qian is currently a Physical and Chemical Testing Technician in CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) of Futian District, Shenzhen. 理化檢驗技師, 深圳市疾病預防控制中心 ([more sharing...](#))

Past Events



International Conference on Sustainable Biowaste Management - 12 – 15 April 2021

The conference created a platform to bring successful case studies and research innovations from developed and developing countries and devised strategies for the waste management industry which is expected to face a huge transition with more business opportunities. The conference attracted an overwhelming 438 participants from 39 countries and regions. Mr. Kam-sing Wong, GBS, JP, Secretary for the Environment, Hong Kong SAR Government, delivered the opening keynote at the opening ceremony.



Workshop on Composting Process, Compost Quality and Use - 15th April 2021

This workshop provided insightful and useful information about basic composting concepts, food waste composting, compost quality and its applications. Prof. Jonathan Wong, Head of Department of Biology, delivered two talks on fundamentals on composting process and operation and compost standard. Mr. Johannes Biala, Director of Centre for Recycling of Organic Waste and Nutrients, University of Queensland, introduced the compost quality and its applications.



IBA Lecture Series 2020: Advance in Bioconversion Technology

The virtual lecture series was organized by IBA and ARCPE from 28 Oct to 11 Nov 2020 in virtual format to share research on advancements in bioconversion technology. Three overseas researchers from the University of Borås, Sweden, Foshan University, China, and University of Hawaii, USA, and three more HKBU researchers were invited to give the talks. The lecture series attracted over 400 participants from local and overseas academia, industry, government, and non-governmental organizations.

Past Events

Distinguished Lecture Series - 25 May 2021

As part of the Distinguished Lecture Series to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Faculty of Science, our department invited Professor Ashok Pandey, distinguished scientist and Executive Director (Honorary) of the Centre for Energy and Environmental Sustainability, India, to deliver a lecture on "Microalgal Cultivation on Wastewaters for Energy and Environmental Sustainability".



Science Festival 2021 - 29 - 30 June 2021

The two-day virtual Science Festival was held on 29-30 June 2021. The Science Festival is the annual flagship community programme organised by the Faculty of Science to arouse public interest in the world of wonders and discovery. Our department prepared a series of talks on "Converting Food Waste to Renewable Energy" and "Bioresource Management and Sustainable Agriculture" and a workshop on "Understanding GM Food: Exploring DNA Technology in Food Safety".



Activity by Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre Certification Limited - 「全城有機日・有機三月」《香港蔬菜之除害劑殘餘研究報告2020》記者招待會

A press conference was held on 25 March 2021 to announce the results of a study on Pesticide Residues in Food, and invited lots of press and media to join. The Organic Resource Centre Certification Ltd. visited wet markets and organic stores in 18 districts in Hong Kong and collected plenty of vegetable samples. The study report has been released on the press conference.

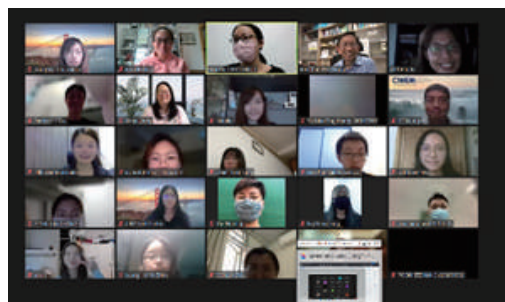


Alumni Updates



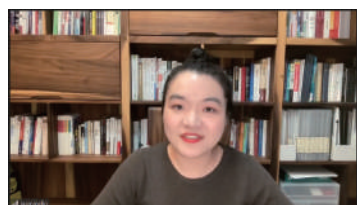
Career Talk Series 2021 - 16, 23 & 30 April 2021

Three career talks were organized in April 2021. Alumni of the Department of Biology were invited to deliver talks that covered the topics of career planning in the fields of environmental science and biotechnology. The speakers included Mr. William Wong from the Environmental Protection Department, Mr. Ryan Ho from Ecosystems Ltd., Mr. Kwok Tsz Ki from Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Dr. Tsang Ting Fung from Molecular Devices, Dr Kwok Hoi Hin, Post Doctorate Fellow and Mr. Suen Ka Chun from Po Leung Kuk Laws Foundation College. The talks attracted 120 undergraduate and postgraduate students.



Career talk Series 2022 - 25 & 29 March 2022

Due to the enthusiastic response to the Career Talk Series in 2021, another series was held this year. Alumni of the Department of Biology were invited to deliver two talks to share their working experience in the fields of environmental science and biotechnology and networking tips. The speakers included Dr. Judy Wan from Ocean Park Conservation Foundation Hong Kong, Ir CF Leung from CIWEM HK Branch, Dr. Desmond Hau from Bio-Gene Technology Ltd., Ms. Jasmine Lin from LongRun Inc. and Mr. Raymond Chu and Dr. Donna Brown from HKSTP. Around 100 undergraduate and postgraduate students joined the online talks.



Update Your Information

By signing up to our alumni network, you will receive alumni relations email communications, news and event invitations from the Department.
Stay in touch and please update your details [HERE](#)

Share Your News

Share Your Precious Moments of Life and Send Us a Class Note...

You will receive a gift by filling in an **ONLINE FORM** to update us about your stories of success, happy moments (from engagement, marriage or new baby, to a new business or career move), or recent activities.