



Creating societal and economic impact from research beyond academia has become more valued in recent years. This year, we are honoured to have invited two entrepreneurs from the top of the technology industry to share their experiences in translating research into applications with entrepreneurship establishment.

SPEAKERS



Mr. George CHEN

CEO, Ecoinno (H.K.) Limited

- An environmentally friendly solutions provider focused on breakthrough R&D of bio-degradable natural fibre-based materials
- Developed innovative biodegradable green composite materials[™] (GCM[™]) and applied into fields ranging from food packaging, medical disposables, to automotive and construction
- Closed a HKD50 million Series A1 funding round in May 2020, led by Alibaba's Hong Kong Entrepreneurs Fund and Taiwan Entrepreneurs Fund II
- Winner of JUMPSTARTER Global Pitch Competition 2020 in the Smart City category

Professor WANG Jianfang

Director, NanoSeedz Limited

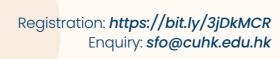
Director, Advanced Plasmon Technologies Limited Assistant Dean (Education), Faculty of Science Professor, Department of Physics

- Developed robust methods for the synthesis of high-purity colloidal plasmonic metal nanocrystals
- This patented technology has been exploited by three spin-out companies, including NanoSeedz Limited, Beijing Lantsai Technology Company Limited and Advanced Plasmon Technologies Limited
- Reached 1,000+ customers ranging from economy, R&D in medicine, diagnostics, biotechnologies, optical and optoelectronic devices in 30+ countries and regions
- Invented smart tags and developed detection methods for monitoring the quality and safety of foods, beverages, drugs and explosives, etc.
- The invention was awarded the Bronze Medal at the 47th International Exhibition of Inventions Geneva in 2019

MODERATOR

Professor NGAI To

Assistant Dean (Research) and Impact Coordinator, Faculty of Science Professor, Department of Chemistry





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ZOOM INTO SCIENCE

Mr. George CHEN

Mr. George Dah Ren Chen is CEO and Co-founder of Ecoinno (H.K.) Limited, a technology company that developed a new advanced renewable material that will replace single-use plastic. He was born and raised in Hong Kong and obtained a business degree from Schulich School of Business, Canada. Upon graduation, he returned to Hong Kong in the early 80's and started GeRoyle Fashion Group that focused on design, production and material development for global fashion houses.

After almost thirty years in the fashion industry, George's entrepreneurial instinct took him to a completely different direction. Extensive travel for business presented George a wide, big-picture perspective on the modern, industrialized world and its problems. It was time to leverage his decade-long experience as a global citizen towards solving the biggest existential crisis from environmental pollution and degradation. He focused on one of the most harmful and widespread sources – plastic pollution. After more than a decade of research and development, George and his co-founders Ms. Vivian Chang and Professor Alexander Bismarck developed a new and advanced renewable material, Green Composite Material (GCM™) to replace single-use plastic.

George believes that technology provides solutions to leverage the wellbeing of people and nature. Industries must support innovation and technology to enhance transformation. Industry and technology should have a more cohering relationship. He is a vivid supporter of Hong Kong government's re-industrialization program through advancement in technology and providing training ground for the younger engineers and technicians to uplift their skill sets and passion.

George also shares his favorite quote, which is "Nature will depend on people to look after it. People will depend on nature for their livelihood!".

(Abstract from Bhumibol Adulyadej, former King of Thailand)

Professor WANG Jianfang

Professor Wang obtained his B.Sc. in Inorganic Chemistry and Software Design in 1993 from University of Science and Technology of China, M.Sc. degree in Inorganic Chemistry in 1996 from Peking University, and Ph.D. degree in Physical Chemistry in 2002 from Harvard University. He did postdoctoral study in University of California, Santa Barbara from 2002 to 2005. He then joined Department of Physics of The Chinese University of Hong Kong as an Assistant Professor in 2005, becoming an Associate Professor in 2011 and a full Professor in 2015 there.

His current research interests include colloidal metal nanocrystals, nanoplasmonics, nanophotonics, photocatalysis and dielectric nanostructures. He received awards of Croucher Senior Research Fellowship (2020), Khwarizmi International Award (31st, First Laureate, Ministry of Science, Research and Technology of Iran, Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology, 2018), Natural Science Award of the Ministry of Education of China (first class, first awardee, 2016), Impactful Publication Award (Princeton Instruments, 2014–2017), CUHK Research Excellence Award (2017–2018, 2008–2009) and CUHK Young Researcher Award (2012–2013). He became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC) since January 2019.

Professor NGAI To

Professor Ngai is now a Professor in the Department of Chemistry, Assistant Dean (Research) of the Faculty at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), and Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC). He received his B.Sc. in Chemistry at CUHK in 1999. In 2003, he obtained the Ph.D. at the same university, where he worked on light scattering and polymer interaction in solution. He moved to BASF (Ludwigshafen, Germany) in 2003 as the postdoctoral fellow for two years, working on colloids and surface chemistry. After a short postdoctoral training in the Chemistry Department at the University of Minnesota in 2005, he joined the Chemistry Department at CUHK in 2006 as a Research Assistant Professor. He has been appointed as an Assistant Professor in 2008, and promoted to Associate Professor in 2012. In 2017, he was promoted to Professor. His current research interests centre around the colloids, surface chemistry, polymers and soft matter.