

Researcher in Spotlight

Neural Circuits: A milestone in neuroscience

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The Editorial Office of Neural Circuits introduces our prestigious Editor-in-Chief, highlighting his endeavours and achievements in the field of neuroscience, and his future plans for Neural Circuits

Dr. Wing-Ho Yung is one of the leading researchers in the neuroscience field with almost 30 years of experience. Currently, he is the President of the Hong Kong Society of Neuroscience and the Honorary Secretary of the Federation of Asian-Oceanian Neurosciences Societies. He is also the inaugural director of the Gerald Choa Neuroscience Centre established in 2016 at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK).



Prof. Yung received "Teachers of the Year Award 2016" of the Faculty of Medicine, Chinese University of Hong Kong.

"I graduated from The CUHK," says the neuroscientist, who completed his BSc in 1985, in an interview with Neural Circuits. Dr. Yung is now a Professor at the same university, which is regarded one of the prestigious universities in Asia. The QS World Ranking report ranked CUHK the 8th and the 44th in Asia and the world, respectively, in 2016.

Dr. Yung completed his MPhil degree in neurophysiology in 1987. His excellent academic achievement rewarded him the Commonwealth Scholarship to support his doctoral study at the University of Oxford, under the supervision of the esteemed British physiologist Prof. Julian Jack, FRS. Afterwards, Dr. Yung spent one more year in Oxford to pursue post-doctoral training, which was supported by the Croucher Foundation, a private foundation dedicated to promoting the standard of the natural sciences, technology and medicine in Hong Kong.

"I continued my research in neuroscience while obtained a BSc degree in Computing and Information System from University of London" added the professor. Dr. Yung returned to Hong Kong in 1991 as a lecturer in the Department of Physiology in CUHK, and rose to professorship in the School of Biomedical Sciences in 2009.

Dr. Yung's main research interest is on synaptic plasticity and neurodegenerative disorders. He has published more than 120 articles in neuroscience in journals including *Science*, *Nature Neuroscience*, *Neuron*, *Nature Communications* and *PNAS*. His current projects include the cortical mechanisms of motor learning, synaptic plastic changes underlying motor and non-motor impairments in Parkinsonism, neural mechanism of therapeutic deep brain stimulation and the origin of neurocognitive deficits in sleep apnea.

"Improving my understanding of the nervous system and realizing the translational potential of neuroscience research is my ultimate goal," says the prominent professor. He adds, "One of the most fascinating and important properties of the brain is its remarkable plasticity, which underlies experience-dependent modification of all nervous system functions including development, learning, memory, sensory perception, motor functions and others."

Dr. Yung continues: "Neuroplasticity also participates in the pathophysiology and functional adaptation in brain trauma. My own research aims

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(From left) Prof. Vincent Chun tong MOK, Assistant Dean (Clinical) and Professor, Division of Neurology, Department of Medicine and Therapeutics; Dr. Owen KO Ho, MBChB Year 3 student; Prof. Wing Ho YUNG, Professor, School of Biomedical Sciences and Prof. Justin Che-yuen WU, Associate Dean (Clinical), Faculty of Medicine at CUHK.

at understanding the nature of neuroplasticity and its involvement in both health and disease conditions”. According to the Research Excellence Award (2012-2013) winner, there are many exciting findings about the nervous system to be discovered. A major trend in neuroscience is the elucidation of neural circuits that underlie human behaviours at unprecedented fine details. This poses great need of researches to the neuroscience community in all aspects.

Dr. Yung had also designed the aim and scope for the *Neural Circuits* journal in order to synchronise with the advancement in the field of neuroscience. He urged that quality is an important matter and he advised young researchers to avoid lackadaisical approach in research in order to achieve the best possible impact. Dr. Yung targets the journal to be indexed in SCI within a few short years, and he hopes that *Neural Circuits* will act as an effective platform to publish high quality research results including those from new and young researchers. ■

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