

Distinguished Science Alumni Awards 2011

Rayson HUANG

DSc 1956

Acclaimed Scientist and Scholar

Academic Leader and Legislator

Dr Rayson Huang completed primary and secondary education in Munsang College, Hong Kong of which his father was the founding principal and continued his studies with a scholarship at the University of Hong Kong until the Japanese invasion of Hong Kong in 1941 during which he served in the British auxiliary forces as a poison gas officer. He returned to China as a refugee in 1942 and was later awarded a Rhodes Trust Scholarship to pursue postgraduate study at Oxford. After getting the D.Phil degree he pursued post-doctoral research at the University of Chicago (1947-50).

In 1951, Dr Huang started teaching chemistry at the University of Malaya in Singapore (now the National University of Singapore) and in 1959 was transferred to University of Malaya's Kuala Lumpur campus. He became a tenured professor of chemistry and later acting Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the Faculty of Science. His research centred on the chemistry of free radicals and the resulting publications have earned him three doctor of science degrees, from the Universities of Malaya (Singapore), Oxford and Hong Kong.

In 1969 Dr Huang was appointed Vice-Chancellor at Nanyang University in Singapore.

In 1972, he became the first Chinese Vice-Chancellor of The University of Hong Kong until his retirement in 1986. In addition, he served in various capacities including membership of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong from 1977 to 1983 and on the Basic Law Drafting Committee in drafting Hong Kong's post handover constitution to China in 1997.

Dr Huang established the *Grace Wei Huang Memorial Fund* in 1999 and among books he has written is his autobiography, *A Lifetime in Academia*: proceeds from which are set aside for the fund. The "Rayson Huang Foundation" in Malaysia was established in 2001 in recognition of his pioneering work in free radicals research.

"... an outstanding academic, a sensible and perceptive administrator, and a talented man endowed with a sense of humour, a certain generosity of spirit and sensitivity to the needs of others." — J. Brian Heaton, *China Quarterly*, on the first edition of *A Lifetime in Academia*

In recognition of his accomplishments and contributions, we honour Dr Rayson Huang with the 2011 Distinguished Science Alumnus Award.

Distinguished Science Alumni Awards 2011

KOE Khoon Poh

BPharm 1966

Managing Director, ICM Pharma Pte Ltd

Educated in Chinese and effectively bilingual, Mr Koe Khoon Poh graduated from the School of Pharmacy, University of Singapore in 1966.

Mr Koe is the founder in 1970 and currently Managing Director of ICM Pharma Pte Ltd and a group of companies. Over four decades, he built up a trading entity to a leading pharmaceutical products manufacturer in Singapore supplying both public and private sectors and for export market.

As President of Pharmaceutical Society of Singapore (PSS) for 4 terms, (1979 to 1981, 1991 to 1993) his active and passionate involvement with the profession dates back to 1970. For his contribution and passion, he was conferred Fellow of PSS in 1986. In 2005, he donated S\$100,000 to PSS for study on the practice of Pharmacy in Singapore among other issues.

Over the years he sat in committees such as Pharmacy Board, Pharmaceutical Quality Control Advisory Committee, Singapore Health Advisory Committee, Government Parliamentary Committee (Health) Resource Panel, Protem Accreditation Committee on Continued Pharmacy Education and many committees on trade and professional practice and member of the Singapore Pharmacy Council which he has just stepped down.

He was also the founder chairman of the Singapore Pharmaceutical Manufacturer's Council (SPMC) in 1986 and remained as chairman for the most part of its existence. SPMC is the recognized national body for Pharmaceutical Manufacturer for the secondary products in Singapore and component of ASEAN Pharmaceutical Industry Club (APC) where he was the president (1988 –1990).

Currently, he is the Vice Chairman of the Life Sciences Industry Group (LSIG, an industry group under Singapore Manufacturers' Federation) which he helped to found.

Active in NUS Alumni affairs, he served two terms as Chairman (2009/2010 and 2011/2013) of the Singapore Alumni Association Southern Branch (Medical) covering Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Alumni. He is also a member of the NUS Alumni Advisory Board since 2009.

Passionate for undergraduates' activities, he has donated \$10,000 yearly to the NUS Pharmaceutical Society. In 2010, he also chaired a committee to raise \$400,000 for the Alumni Association Endowment Fund - Chee Phui Hung Bursary for needy Medical, Dental and Pharmacy undergraduates. With government matching, the sum stands at S\$1million.

Mr Koe and his company (ICM Pharma Pte Ltd) have received 3 awards, The Entrepreneur of the Year – A Rotary-ASME Award (2008), The Enterprise 50 Awards (2009) and Singapore Prestige Brand Award (2009).

He led five missions to promote Singapore made health products to Indonesia, USA, India, Taiwan and Philippines under the sponsorship of International Enterprise (IE) Singapore.

Besides sponsor and donor of many health-related community projects he also donates medicinal products to overseas relief missions.

Apart from continuous support to the professional advancement and Alumni affairs, he is currently actively involved in expanding his own business as a major Singapore manufacturer and marketer of pharmaceutical, personal care and health supplement products in Singapore and globally.

**“Have a vision, be different and go for it! Work hard, persevere and be pragmatic.
Treat all setbacks as part of learning process”**

In recognition of his accomplishments and contributions, we honour Mr Koe Khoon Poh with the 2011 Distinguished Science Alumnus Award.

Distinguished Science Alumni Awards 2011

Liak Teng Lit

BSc Pharm 1977, MBA 1990

Chief Executive Officer, Alexandra Health System / Khoo Teck Puat Hospital

Mr Liak is the Chief Executive Officer of Alexandra Health, which provides healthcare services for some 700,000 people living in the north of Singapore. Alexandra Health manages the new Khoo Teck Puat Hospital which began full operations in 2010. Since its inception, Mr Liak has been fully involved in the planning and commissioning of the new general hospital. Prior to this, Mr Liak was also the CEO of Alexandra Hospital from October 2000 to July 2010, Changi General Hospital from January 1997 to January 2000 and Toa Payoh Hospital from February 1992 to December 1996.

A pharmacist by training, he was involved in the restructuring of major hospitals including The National University Hospital, Kangkar Kerbau Hospital and Singapore General Hospital.

Mr Liak serves on the boards of Alexandra Health, NTUC First Campus, NTUC Healthcare, Pathlight School, NorthLight School, Advisory Panel of the Singapore Human Resources Institute, Advisory Council of the Singapore Computer Society and The Advisory Panel of the School of Information Systems at the Singapore Management University. Mr Liak is the Chairman of Water Networks and Public Hygiene Council, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources. He is an active Councillor in the South West Community Development Council and Chairman of the Healthy Lifestyle Functional Committee. He also sits on the committees of the Institute of Service Excellence (ISES) Governing Council (SMU) and Community Chest.

He holds an MBA and a BSc (Pharmacy) from the National University of Singapore and MSc (Pharmaceutical Sciences) from the University of Aston, Birmingham, UK.

Mr Liak enjoys running, reading and gardening.

"Always try to make a positive difference."

In recognition of his accomplishments and contributions, we honour Mr Liak Teng Lit with the 2011 Distinguished Science Alumnus Award.

Distinguished Science Alumni Awards 2011

Ho Tat Kin

BSc (Hons) 1966

Executive Chairman, Rowsley Ltd

Dr Ho Tat Kin is Executive Chairman of the Board of Rowsley Ltd. He has been Director of Rowsley Ltd since June 2002 and Executive Chairman of the Board since 1 August 2010.

Dr Ho Tat Kin is a management consultant, specialising in the education business, digital media technology and business ventures. He brings with him more than 29 years of experience in general management and information technology.

Over the years, Dr Ho has served as director of various companies listed on the main boards of Singapore and Hong Kong. At present, he is Executive Chairman of Rowsley Ltd., a corporation listed on the main board of the Singapore Exchange. He was a Non-Executive Director of Eagle Brand Holdings Ltd, also listed on the main board of the Singapore Exchange, until his resignation with effect from 16 August 2007. He is also serving as director in several other private limited companies in Singapore.

Dr Ho has had a successful career in the public sector, having served in the Ministry of Education, Singapore Economic Development Board and finally leading the Japan-Singapore Institution of Software Technology as its Director until 1997, when he left to join the private sector. In 1989, in recognition of his contribution to the development of computer software professionals, the University of Stirling appointed Dr Ho as a Honorary Professor in the Department of Computing Science for a period of three years. He was an elected Member of Parliament from 1984 to 2001 and was concurrently a Town Council Chairman from 1988 to 1999, where he also advised on the investment of the Town Council sinking funds.

Dr Ho holds a Bachelor of Science (Honours) from the University of Singapore, a Japan International Co-operation Agency (Post-graduate) Certificate (Teacher on Computer Science) completed at Tokyo University, a Master of Science (Technological Economics) and a Doctor of Philosophy (Management Science) from the University of Stirling, Scotland, UK. He also received a Japan International Corporation Agency Fellowship for computer training at Tokyo University and Yamanashi University.

"Being able to rise every time we fall may be the greatest glory."

In recognition of his accomplishments and contributions, we honour Dr Ho Tat Kin with the 2011 Distinguished Science Alumnus Award.

Outstanding Science Alumni Award 2011

Syn Kiu-Choong Christopher

BSc (Hons) 1996, PhD 2001

Director, DNA Profiling Laboratory, Health Sciences Authority

Dr Christopher Syn Kiu-Choong graduated from the Department of Biological Sciences with a BSc Hons in Cell & Molecular Biology in 1996 and subsequently a PhD in 2001. A molecular biologist by training, he embarked on his forensic science career in 2001, and has since conducted over 6,000 examinations for the Singapore Police Force, Central Narcotics Bureau, Singapore Armed Forces, hospitals, and other agencies. He has also served as a forensic consultant to the Brunei Darussalam Attorney General's Chambers, Royal Brunei Police Force, the Embassy of the United States of America, as well as conducted forensic DNA and quality assurance systems training for scientists from Taiwan, Vietnam, and Thailand.

Dr Syn was appointed Director of the DNA Profiling Laboratory at HSA in 2010. In that position, he has doubled his team to over 50 scientists and technical officers, and established a new off-site laboratory to cater to growing demands for the application of biological sciences in the criminal justice system.

Outside of HSA, Dr Syn holds the position of Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Department of Biological Sciences, NUS, and was Honorary Associate with the Macquarie University, Australia (2006-9). He is a Chartered Biologist and serves as an editorial reviewer for the Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine. He is also a certified DNA Laboratory Auditor by FBI and the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors Laboratory Accreditation Board.

"Stay as close to the edge of science as you can without going over – it's only at the edge that you can see things you can't see from the centre."

In recognition of his accomplishments and contributions, we honour Dr Christopher Syn Kiu-Choong with the 2011 Outstanding Science Alumnus Award.

Outstanding Science Alumni Award 2011

LEE Fook Kay

BSc (Hons) 1984, PhD 1990

Chief Science and Technology Officer, Ministry of Home Affairs Singapore

Dr Lee Fook Kay is the Chief Science and Technology Officer (CSTO) in the Ministry of Home Affairs Singapore (MHA). He now leads the technology development efforts of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Home Team in counter terrorism and law enforcement. He has more than twenty years of experience in the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Explosive (CBRE) domain and is instrumental in the strategic building and development of CBRE capabilities in Singapore.

He started his career in 1989 as Research Scientist at DSO National Laboratories, an affiliated organization under the Ministry of Defence. From 1993 to Oct 2003, Dr Lee headed the Centre for Chemical Defence in DSO. Subsequently he was appointed the Deputy Director of Defence Medical and Environmental Institute at DSO to manage defence research and development in the areas of environmental protection, biomedical sciences and human performance. He was concurrently the Director of the Chemical, Biological and Radiological Programme at DSO National Laboratories before leaving to join the Ministry of Home Affairs. Today, he remains a key advisor in the National Authority (CWC) Advisory Board.

Dr Lee is well regarded in both the local and international scientific communities. These range from technology institutes in chemical and biological defence to international bodies like the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Expert Group for the Biological Weapons Convention and the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC).

Dr Lee's pioneering efforts in building Singapore's CBRE defence research have won him several awards, including the Defence Technology Prize and the Public Administration Medal (Silver). He has also been conferred the credentials of Chartered Chemist by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

"I strongly believe that Science can secure our lives."

In recognition of his accomplishments and contributions, we honour Dr Lee Fook Kay with the 2011 Outstanding Science Alumnus Award.

Outstanding Science Alumni Award 2011

ONG Toon Hui

BSc (Hons) 1989

Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports

Ms Ong Toon Hui is the Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports. She oversees policies on social safety nets, family development, successful ageing, disability, social sector development, rehabilitation and residential services gambling safeguards.

Ms Ong graduated from the National University of Singapore with a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Chemistry in 1989 and obtained her PhD (Chemistry) from the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom in 1993.

Ms Ong has been with the Civil Service for about 18 years. Her previous postings included Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Public Service Division (Prime Minister's Office). In PSD, she oversaw leadership development and human resource policies in the Singapore Civil Service.

Ms Ong also serves on the National Council of Social Service, Housing and Development Board, Singapore Sports Council, Board of National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre, Casino Regulatory Authority Board, and the School Advisory Board in Pierce Secondary School.

"Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies."

In recognition of her accomplishments and contributions, we honour Ms Ong Toon Hui with the 2011 Outstanding Science Alumnus Award.

Outstanding Science Alumni Award 2011

TUNG Soo Hua

BSc (Hons) 1997, M.Soc.Sci. 2007

Presenter/Senior Producer, Chinese News, MediaCorp Pte Ltd

Ms Tung Soo Hua is an award-winning television news and current affairs presenter with MediaCorp, Singapore's leading media company. Currently, she co-hosts "Evening News at 10pm" on the most watched Mandarin channel in Singapore, Channel 8, and fronts "Money Week", a weekly financial programme on Channel U. She started her journalism career in MediaCorp as a Chinese-language news producer in 1997.

In her 14-year career as journalist, Ms Tung has covered major events including APEC, ASEAN summits, World Bank/IMF meetings and Singapore's General Elections between 2001 and 2011. Most recently, she hosted "Singapore General Election 2011", a six-hour mega 'live' show telecast on Channel 8.

Among her regular assignments are interviews with more than 70 Chief Executives and captains of industries, such as Mr Sim Wong Hoo of Creative Technology and Ms Olivia Lum of Hyflux. They are among the slate of high profile personalities that "Money Week" carries weekly as Singapore's most established Chinese-language financial television programme.

Ms Tung extended her role of a business news presenter by hosting the annual Budget Forums between 2002 and 2011. The programme is a much-watched event which follows right after the Finance Minister's Budget Statement in Parliament. Among the key interviewees on the panel have been Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Minister for the Prime Minister's Office, Lim Swee Say.

Ms Tung was named the "Best News/Current Affairs Presenter" for six times between 2004 and 2011 in "Stars Awards", which is MediaCorp's gala event recognising its talents for their excellence. She graduated with a Masters degree in Social Sciences (International Studies) from the National University of Singapore, after obtaining her first Honours Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics.

"The world is a place where change is the only constant. I have experienced some of the changes when I joined the media industry as a young Science graduate. Now, I live the change daily as a journalist."

In recognition of her accomplishments and contributions, we honour Ms Tung Soo Hua with the 2011 Outstanding Science Alumnus Award.

Outstanding Science Alumni Award 2011

Marissa TEO Su Sien

BSc Pharm (Hons) 1999

Researcher, National Cancer Centre of Singapore Pte Ltd

Dr Marissa Teo Su Sien graduated from NUS department of Pharmacy and continued her further studies at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. She completed her Masters and Doctorate studies there in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Much of her work was involved in tumor biology and it was there that she developed an initial interest in cancer research.

Dr Teo returned to Singapore after completing her studies and joined Dr Toh Han Chong's lab, whose focus is very much on translational research. She has been involved in research in nasopharyngeal cancer (which is one of the top 10 cancers in Singapore) and the lab has just completed a phase 2 T-cell therapy trial. Since joining the lab, she has been awarded the Singapore Millenium Foundation scholarship, UNESCO--L'oreal International Fellowship for Women in Science and the Her World Award for Young Women in Science.

"Research is a combination of luck, hard work and perseverance. While waiting for that 'light bulb' moment, one needs to be persistent and continue to push forward."

In recognition of her accomplishments and contributions, we honour Dr Marissa Teo Su Sien with the 2011 Outstanding Science Alumnus Award.

Outstanding Science Alumni Award 2011

Mano SABNANI

BSc 1974

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Rafflesia Holdings Pte Ltd

Mr Mano Sabnani is founder and chairman of Rafflesia Holdings.

He founded the company in 2008 to offer his extensive knowledge and experience in journalism, publishing and finance, given his background as a former financial journalist, newspaper editor, investment analyst and banker based in Singapore.

A lieutenant in the Singapore Armed Forces and a Bachelor of Science (Physics) graduate from the University of Singapore, Mr Sabnani had been interested in finance and investments from an early age.

He began his career in 1977 as Companies Editor of *Business Times*, Singapore's leading financial daily, and rose to become News Editor and, eventually, Editor. Subsequently, he became Managing Editor / Head, Editorial Support Unit of Singapore Press Holdings (SPH), The Straits Times.

All in, Mr Sabnani worked 18 years at SPH, Singapore's biggest print media company that publishes all but one of the country's newspapers -- including The Straits Times and Business Times -- along with some 200 magazine titles.

This was followed by a short stint, from 1996 to 2000, at DBS Bank, Singapore's largest banking group which is also the largest bank in Southeast Asia (ranked by assets) and one of the larger banks in Asia.

Joining as Director of Research at DBS Securities, Mr Sabnani rose to become, at DBS Bank, Managing Director for Investments (Individual Banking) and Managing Director for Equity Capital Markets.

Upon leaving DBS, Mr Sabnani joined Corporate Brokers International, a consultancy firm dedicated to helping small and medium enterprises. There, he took on an assignment as Editorial Consultant to *TODAY*, the only English-language newspaper in Singapore that is not published by the SPH Group.

This led to Mr Sabnani being appointed Chief Executive Officer / Editor-in-Chief of *TODAY*, a role that he served for three and a half years, from April 2003 to November 2006.

Since then, Mr Sabnani has served on the board and taken on executive roles in various public-listed companies, including Novena Holdings and Multistar Holdings.

"Run for your life. Prioritise, think and act today! Enjoy"

In recognition of his accomplishments and contributions, we honour Mr Mano Sabnani with the 2011 Outstanding Science Alumnus Award