

Award Presentation Ceremony for
**Excellence in
 Teaching, Research &
 Knowledge Exchange
 2012**

Outstanding Young Researcher Award

Exceptional academic staff under the age of 40 and ranked Associate Professor or below are honoured with this award. Winners receive \$150,000 annually for two years to further their research as well as a research postgraduate studentship.



Dr Cheng Chung-kong

Department of Computer Science

Some see the forest, others see the trees. Dr Cheng falls somewhere in the middle. He likes to take the 'trees' – in his case, uncertain and probabilistic database systems that can handle imprecise data – and develop them into a bigger technological form.

"Doing research is like exploring a forest," he said. "The different leaves of the forest are like data. And in the forest there are roads that can lead to answers. Sometimes I may get lost, but I think this is the fun of research."

The technology he has developed is prevalent in mobile services, Radio Frequency Identification systems, sensor networks and biological applications, and he has published extensively in high-impact journals and elsewhere.

Dr Cheng also collaborates with and encourages his students to work on problems that have both academic and practical value. PhD student Mo Luyi said: "He works hard to apply new technology to the real world and he inspires us to believe that our academic research can really make a contribution to society."

Dr John Wang Junwen

Department of Biochemistry

As an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Centre for Genomic Sciences, Dr Wang works in the emerging area of bioinformatics, which uses skills from biomedical science, statistics and computer science to promote scientific discovery.

He enjoys working in this interdisciplinary area, partly because it enables him to take full advantage of his diverse background, which encompasses food engineering, biology and computer engineering, and partly because he can collaborate with scientists from different fields, including recently from geography.

"Bioinformatics uses expertise from different fields such as computer science, statistics and of course a biological/biomedical background, so I'm particularly suitable for this kind of research. I can integrate those areas together and focus my energies to make an impact."

Dr Wang also credits his success to the hard work of his research team members and to the inspired help of his collaborators. Through their combined expertise, he said: "We can design drugs to treat diseases and can benefit humankind."

