Two COMP academics named IEEE Fellows

With effect from 1 January 2018, Dr Ajay Kumar Pathak, Associate Professor of COMP and Prof. Lei Zhang, Chair Professor & Associate Head of COMP were elevated to Fellow of Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) for their outstanding achievements and significant contributions in the following respective fields.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Staff</th>
<th>Citation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Ajay Kumar Pathak</td>
<td>For contributions to non-contact hand-based biometrics recognition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof. Lei Zhang</td>
<td>For contributions to sparsity-based image modeling and perceptual image quality assessment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dr Pathak** has joined COMP since 2009, and his research interests include Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition, Biometric Authentication and Recognition, Defect Detection in Textured Materials, and Multimodal Intelligent Interfaces. Dr Pathak’s significant achievement in the development and promotion of biometrics based human identification, particularly the advancement of 2D, 3D and multispectral hand biometrics matching algorithms has also earned him the Fellowship of International Association of Pattern Recognition (IAPR) in 2016.

**Prof. Zhang** joined COMP in 2006. His research interests include Image Restoration, 3D Reconstruction, Image Classification and Face Recognition, Object Detection, Image Quality Assessment and Visual Tracking.

Prof. Zhang has published more than 200 papers in those areas, and he has been selected as a “Clarivate Analytics Highly Cited Researcher” for three consecutive years since 2015. In July 2017, he was promoted to Chair Professor of Computer Vision and Image Analysis, in recognition of his leadership and contribution.

The IEEE Grade of Fellow is conferred by the IEEE Board of Directors upon a person with an outstanding record of accomplishments in any of the IEEE fields of interest. The total number selected in any one year cannot exceed one-tenth of one-percent of the total voting membership. IEEE Fellow is the highest grade of membership and is recognised by the technical community as a prestigious honour and an important career achievement.

Congratulations to Dr Pathak and Prof. Zhang on receiving this honour!
We are pleased to announce that Prof. David Zhang, Chair Professor of Intelligent Computing, was conferred as Emeritus Professor (Intelligent Computing) by the University Senate with effect from 31 March 2018 upon his retirement. He has been contributing significantly to PolyU for about 19 years and has achieved notable international reputation and status. Prof. Zhang is a world leading expert and a pioneer in the field of Biometrics, particularly in the areas of Palmprint Identification and Computerised Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). Throughout his career, he has contributed to advancing the frontiers of the areas. He has received international recognition for his brilliant accomplishments and significant contributions to the Chinese computing profession and CCF at the 2017 China National Computer Congress (CNCC) Awards Ceremony in Fuzhou, China.

Prof. Zhang has secured a number of external grants with a total of over HKD24M from government, industry and other funding agencies, demonstrating impacts and academic merit in research work. He is a widely cited author in biometrics and pattern recognition community with citations of over 45,000 and h-index of 96 in Google Scholar. He has been selected as a Highly Cited Researchers in Engineering for four consecutive years since 2014 by Clarivate Analytics (formerly known as Thomson Reuters). He has authored/co-authored a large number of publications, including 30 books, 59 book chapters, over 400 journal papers and over 200 conference papers. He has been editor-in-chief, guest editor, associate editor and member of editorial board of the world’s top class journals as well as book series editor of International Book Series on Biometrics (since 2002), and keynote speaker of a number of international conferences.

Congratulations to Prof. Zhang on being recognised by the University for his achievement and contribution.

On 27 October 2017, Prof. Jiannong Cao, Chair Professor of Distributed and Mobile Computing and Director of University Research Facility in Big Data Analytics (UBDA), received the Overseas Outstanding Contributions Award from China Computer Federation (CCF) in recognition of his outstanding achievements in the field of computer science and significant contributions to the Chinese computing profession and CCF at the 2017 China National Computer Congress (CNCC) Awards Ceremony in Fuzhou, China.

This annual award was established in 2005 and is given to overseas Chinese scholars/organisations, who have made significant impact on the computing field and outstanding contributions to the development of computing technology in China. Congratulations to Prof. Cao on attaining this honour.

Prof. Wen Gao, President of CCF (left) and Prof. Jiannong Cao (right), Chair Professor of Distributed and Mobile Computing and Director of UBDA

Conferment of Prof. Zhang as Emeritus Professor (Intelligent Computing)

Staff Awards and Achievements

Overseas Outstanding Contributions Award of China Computer Federation
Congratulations! Prof. Jiannong Cao, Chair Professor of Distributed and Mobile Computing and Director of University Research Facility in Big Data Analytics (UBDA), was selected as an ACM Distinguished Member by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) for his outstanding achievements and significant contributions in computer science discipline.

ACM brings together computing educators, researchers, and professionals to inspire dialogue, share resources, and address the field’s challenges. As the world’s largest computing society, ACM strengthens the profession’s collective voice through strong leadership, promotion of the highest standards, and recognition of technical excellence.

The Distinguished Member programme recognises those ACM members with at least 15 years of professional experience and 5 years of continuous Professional Membership who have achieved significant accomplishments or have made a significant impact on the computing field.

PolyU Long Service Award scheme has been introduced since 1990 to foster a sense of belonging among PolyU staff members. In 2017, two COMP staff members were awarded in appreciation of their loyal service to the University over the years.

On 31 January 2018, Prof. Jiannong Cao, Chair Professor of Distributed and Mobile Computing and Director of University Research Facility in Big Data Analytics (UBDA), and Dr Grace Ngai, Associate Professor of COMP and Associate Head of Office of Service-Learning, received the long service awards from Prof. Timothy Tong, President of PolyU, at the Long Service Award 2017 presentation ceremony. The ceremony provided a warm gathering for the long-serving staff and an opportunity for the University to publicly acknowledge their years of dedicated service.
COMP Research Grant Achievement

COMP academic staff members receive research grants for their research projects from time to time; we look forward to more good news ahead.

September 2017 to January 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project / Research Topic</th>
<th>Project Leader</th>
<th>Funds Awarded</th>
<th>Funding Scheme / Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research and Development of An Advanced IPS System for Aftermarket Telematics</td>
<td>Dr Daniel Luo</td>
<td>HKD1,899,340</td>
<td>Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>HKD486,726</td>
<td>An industry sponsorship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identification, Tracking and Behaviour Mining in Checkout-free Store Powered by COTS RFIDs</td>
<td>Dr Lei Yang</td>
<td>USD120,000</td>
<td>Alibaba Innovation Research Program (AP) 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>針對大規模倉儲場景的高精度室內定位技術研究</td>
<td>Prof. Jiannong Cao</td>
<td>HKD776,250</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research on Application of Block Chain Technology in Supply Chain Tracking</td>
<td>Prof. Jiannong Cao</td>
<td>HKD776,250</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>基於多源異構資料融合的統一化室內位置服務技術研究</td>
<td>Dr Bin Xiao</td>
<td>RMB630,000</td>
<td>NSFC grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blockchain-Based Food and Drug Counterfeit Detection and Regulatory System</td>
<td>Dr Allen Au</td>
<td>HKD3,018,750</td>
<td>Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>HKD3,018,750</td>
<td>UBI BlockChain Internet Limited</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student’s Awards and Achievements

Global Game Jam 2018 (Hong Kong)

We are glad to announce that the PolyU team consisted of students from COMP and School of Design (SD) was awarded the “Future Game Developer” with their VR game “Love in the Game Jam” in the Global Game Jam Hong Kong site (GGJ HK) 2018 on 26 – 28 January.

GGJ is the world’s largest game jam event taking place around the globe at physical locations, which allows jammers to get together in their respective regions, form teams and develop games in the time span of 48 hours under a global theme announced on-site. This year, over 42 thousand jammers from 804 jam sites located in 109 countries joined the event. The GGJ HK was organised by Cyberport and SD of PolyU, attracting 339 jammers to create 59 games.

“Love in the Game Jam” is a VR game for which players have to match couples with Cupid’s arrows within limited time. Our students demonstrated strong team spirit and programming skills during the game development cycle from ideation, testing to implementation.

Awardees of “Future Game Developer”

COMP: Mr Kiu Lun Lee, Isaac; Mr Sing Kam Chan; Mr Tsz Fung Li; Mr Shek Hin Leung
SD: Mr Kwok Shing Lee, Victor; Miss Yuan Tian, Finnik; Mr Nick Heng Wong, Nicholas
MSc Welcoming Session 2017

COMP MSc Welcoming Session was smoothly organised at PolyU on 2 September 2017. More than 110 new students joined the activity this year.

Prof. Qin Lu, Professor and Interim Head of COMP, welcomed our students by introducing the latest development of the Department. Dr Henry Chan, Associate Head of COMP, further explained the teaching and learning activities in COMP. To enable new students to understand more about our MSc programmes, Dr Simon Shiu, Assistant Professor of COMP and MSc Scheme Leader and other academic staff members introduced the programme curriculum, teaching facilities and various learning opportunities to students.

Welcome all newcomers again!

The 2017 ACM-ICPC Asia Hong Kong Regional Contest

The 2017 ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC) Asia Hong Kong Regional Contest was successfully organised at PolyU on 18 – 19 November. 132 contestants from universities in the Mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau joined the contest; they formed into 44 teams to compete in this 2-day contest to advance to the 2017 ACM ICPC World Finals.

Prof. Qin Lu, Professor and Interim Head of COMP, officiated the opening ceremony and gave a warm welcome to all participants. Dr Yonghui Wu from Fudan University and Mr Ilia Sedoshkin, Chief Executive Officer from one of the sponsors, AIM Tech, joined as invited guests at the award presentation ceremony.

During the contest, there were 11 programming problems, the team who correctly solved the most problems within the shortest time would be the winner.
Workshops on Intelligent Chatbot and Scenario Based IoT Solutions Development

In mid-January 2018, two thematic workshops were held for COMP Year 2 to Year 4 students, providing them with an overview of application development in enterprise environment and hands-on experience in developing IoT applications with Microsoft Azure Platform.

On 11 January, COMP hosted an “Intelligent Chatbot Workshop” in which students could acquire practical knowledge of AI, IoT and big data driven solutions. They also had a chance to develop an intelligent chatbot empowered by AgilePoint.

Another workshop “Scenario Based IoT Solutions Development” was organised on 13 January. Topics related to IoT infrastructure in the market, IoT applications, as well as the design and deployment of predictive maintenance apps were included.

Many industry experts from Microsoft, Quantr, Buzz IT and AgilePoint were invited to be the trainers and speakers of the two workshops.

Programming Contest for Junior Students

To provide COMP junior students with more hands-on experiences in programming and enhance their skills and competitiveness, we organised a programming contest for Year 1 and Year 2 students on 27 January 2018 at PolyU. Students had to solve as many programming problems as possible within the 3-hour contest.

The top three winners were:
#1 Mingrui Cheng; #2 Zhengyun Liao; #3 Feijie Wu

Visit to Cyberport Smart-Space FinTech

Beyond classroom teaching, we offered students a taste of “FinTech” by hosting an out-of-the-classroom activity on 31 January 2018. Led by Dr Henry Chan and Dr Dorothy Chau, a group of COMP students visited Cyberport Smart-Space FinTech.

Mr Charles Lam, Manager, Partners Team of Cyberport welcomed the group by giving a guided tour to the Smart-Space facilities. Representatives from FinTech start-ups were invited to share their experiences with the students. Mr William Lau, Manager of Business Development, Entrepreneurs Team of Cyberport, also met the group and introduced their support to entrepreneurship through the Cyberport Incubation Programme. We sincerely thank Cyberport for organising the visit for COMP.

Cyberport Smart-Space is one of the largest innovation and technology co-working spaces in Hong Kong which provides flexible work spaces for local start-ups and overseas companies who are looking to scale their business in mainland China and other parts of Asia. Currently, it houses hundreds of companies with diverse business natures, including e-Commerce, IT consultancy, digital marketing and FinTech.
The 23rd Congregation of PolyU

On 6 November 2017, the 23rd Congregation of PolyU - Department of Computing session was smoothly held at the Jockey Club Auditorium. Miss Shi Wang, a graduate with a double degree in BSc (Hons) in Computing and BBA (Hons) in Management, gave a valedictory speech on behalf of the COMP graduates. Families and friends of hundreds of COMP graduates gathered to share the significant and memorable moments in this happy occasion.

COMP takes this opportunity to congratulate all our graduates and wishes everyone a promising future.

The 4th Computer App Programming (CAP) Competition

Computer App Programming Competition (CAP Day) is an annual competition for secondary school students. It aims at encouraging students to solve problems by using computational thinking and programming with App Inventor. The theme for CAP Day 2017 was “Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education”. Organised by COMP and the Hong Kong Association for Computer Education (HKACE), and supported by IEEE Hong Kong Section Computer Society Chapter, the fourth CAP Day was concluded successfully at PolyU on 25 November. More than a hundred students from 40 secondary schools joined the competition and strived for the championship.

Dr David Chung, JP, Under Secretary of the Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB), joined the award presentation ceremony as Guest of Honour and shared his inspirational study experience of computer science in university. He presented gold, silver and bronze caps, together with trophies and prizes to the winners of “Student Projects Competition” and “Problem-solving Competition”.

Congregation ceremony

Miss Shi Wang, a graduate representative of COMP (left), gave a valedictory speech

COMP academic staff took photos with our graduates and their family members

2017 COMP graduates

Participants of CAP Day 2017

Winners of the competition
Event and Activity Highlights

PolyU Education Info Day 2017

The PolyU Education Info Day held at PolyU campus on 30 September was a great success. Over 60 staff members and students of COMP participated in this annual event to promote our academic programmes to the visitors.

COMP organised a series of activities including booth exhibition and consultation, info seminar sessions and guided lab tours with live demonstration, attracting thousands of visitors.

The event provided an excellent platform for secondary school students, parents and the public to obtain first-hand information about the characteristics, structure and entrance requirements of our undergraduate programmes. Some of the visitors received consultations from our teaching and academic staff.

Overall, the visitors found the event useful, and they had a better understanding about the career prospects of our graduates.
We are pleased to announce that COMP entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Monash University and Collinstar Capital to collaborate for the development of blockchain and cryptocurrency research by establishing Monash-HKPU-Collinstar Joint Laboratory.

A MoU signing ceremony was held on 3 October 2017 at Monash University’s Clayton campus in Australia, which officially marked the start of the collaboration. Prof. Qin Lu, Professor and Interim Head of COMP, signed the MoU with Prof. Marc Parlange, Provost and Senior Vice-President of Monash University and Mr Jacob Cheng, Managing Director of Collinstar Capital at the ceremony.

The new lab will build practical blockchain-based solutions with rigorous security. Any research advancement made in the lab will be first applied to the Hcash project. Hcash is the first public blockchain established in Australia, also known as HyperCash. It is a digital currency that offers superior capabilities by combining both blockchain and block-less based Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG) systems.

PolyU student project, “Sense+”, was invited to showcase at InnoCarnival 2017 organised by the Innovation and Technology Commission from 21 – 29 October at Hong Kong Science Park.

“Sense+” stands for “See, Explore, Notice and Search with Ears”. It is a mobile app designed by two COMP students, Mr Mingyu Ma and Miss Shi Wang, and a student from Department of Electronic and Information Engineering of PolyU, Mr Shuhao Chang. Built on Microsoft’s artificial intelligence tools, this app turns the camera lens of mobile phones into the “eyes” of the visually impaired, helping them to explore the environment, identify money notes, friends and locate belongings. The team defeated 35 projects from 8 local universities and won the Championship and the Most Innovative Award at Microsoft Imagine Cup 2017 - Hong Kong Final.
To keep our academic staff members and students up-to-date with the cutting-edge technical knowledge in computing-related disciplines, as well as assist them in gaining exposure to a broad range of research topics, COMP regularly invites renowned speakers from global institutions to share with us their latest research findings.

### September 2017 to January 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seminar Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Optimising Job Performance within and across Datacenters</td>
<td>Prof. Baochun Li</td>
<td>Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering University Of Toronto Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Privacy Protection for Mobile Cloud to Prevent Data Over-collection</td>
<td>Dr Meikang Qiu</td>
<td>Department of Computer Science Pace University USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Look at Basics of Distributed Computing</td>
<td>Prof. Michel Raynal</td>
<td>IRISA-IFSIC Université de Rennes France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Department of Computing The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Hong Kong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atomic RMI 2: Highly Parallel Pessimistic Distributed Transactional Memory</td>
<td>Dr Pawel T. Wojciechowski</td>
<td>Faculty of Computing Poznan University of Technology Poland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vertex Colouring with Communication and Local Memory Constraints in Synchronous Broadcast Networks</td>
<td>Prof. Michel Raynal</td>
<td>IRISA-IFSIC Université de Rennes France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Department of Computing The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Hong Kong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sensing: Extracting Knowledge from SNSs</td>
<td>Prof. Takahiro Hara</td>
<td>Department of Multimedia Engineering Osaka University Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leveraging Human Computations to Improve Schematicisation of Spatial Relations from Imagery</td>
<td>Dr Wai-Tat Fu</td>
<td>Department of Computer Science University of Illinois at Urbana – Champaign USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lightweight and Scalable Two-Factor Authentication for IoT Devices Using Historical Data</td>
<td>Prof. Jianying Zhou</td>
<td>Singapore University of Technology and Design Singapore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applications of Benford’s Law for Multimedia Security and Forensics</td>
<td>Prof. Anthony T.S. Ho</td>
<td>Department of Computer Science University of Surrey UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisioning and Resource Management for The Internet of Things</td>
<td>Prof. Albert Y. Zomaya</td>
<td>Centre for Distributed &amp; High Performance Computing School of Information Technologies University of Sydney Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDISON Data Science Framework (EDSF) for Data Science Curriculum Design and Competences Management</td>
<td>Dr Yuri Demchenko</td>
<td>System and Network Engineering University of Amsterdam Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple Drone Vision for Cinematography</td>
<td>Prof. Ioannis Pitas</td>
<td>Department of Informatics Aristotle University of Thessaloniki Greece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Memory Computing for Big Data Processing</td>
<td>Prof. Hai Jin</td>
<td>School of Computer Science and Technology Huazhong University of Science and Technology China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-compromise Security</td>
<td>Dr Jiangshan Yu</td>
<td>University of Luxembourg Luxembourg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sharing Corner

Student Exchange Programme

Student exchange can be a life-changing experience. To develop students' global outlook and broaden their perspectives, COMP regularly secures exchange programmes for students. In recent years, we have offered exchange opportunities in a range of countries, including the USA, Canada, Germany, France, the UK, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Norway, the Netherlands, Czech Republic, Belgium, Australia, Singapore, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and China.

Last summer, many of our students spent several months at overseas universities to experience new cultures, expand vision, make new friends from around the world and develop social skills that are beneficial to their future career success.

The University of Maryland at College Park, USA
Mr Mingyu Ma
“UMD has a very strong computer science department in the USA, their courses for students are well prepared. The study experience in UMD inspired me to do further research on data science and encouraged me to increase my ability on programming. I also had a deeper understanding about the culture of the USA.”

University of Central Florida, USA
Mr Cheung Leong Tung
“The international exchange experience helped me confirm my passion for computer science research. I met a lot of friendly students and teaching staff during the exchange period; they broadened my horizons about career and future plan. The USA is a country with very diverse population. People of different races are living together happily.”

Tampere University of Technology, Finland
Miss Cheuk Yan Kwee
“After finishing my exchange study in Finland, I think it is a must-try activity in our 4-year university life. I gained a lot of new and valuable experiences. Stepping out of comfort zone and taking on a new challenge is an important mission in the university life. Breaking own mold can make us stronger and more confident to reach higher levels in our professional and personal life.”
University of New Brunswick, Canada
Miss Pin Huey Chiang
“In UNB, I met people from many different countries. We exchanged our own culture and travelled together to experience Canadian culture. I also participated in a lot of winter activities that I would never experience in my home town like snow shoeing and ice skating on frozen river.”

Technical University of Denmark, Denmark
Mr Jinshan Gu
“The exchange experience in Denmark has inspired me a lot in many aspects. I realised that it is important to be open-minded and respect others’ customs. During the exchange period, I collaborated with people from different countries. The experience benefits my career because nowadays many projects and research works require international cooperation.”

University of Cincinnati, USA
Mr Shek Hin Leung
“Students in UC were enthusiastic and friendly. We studied and had fun together, and supported each other. During spring break, we even went to Chicago for a short yet exciting trip.”

McGill University, Canada
Miss Lok Man Siu
“I joined the welcoming event held by the international student department and met a lot of new friends there. New comers can attend sharing sessions and learn from senior year students about their tips and learning experience in McGill.”

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
Mr Yi Zhou
“In NTU, I worked in the Smart Mobility Experience Lab during my free time. The goal of the project was to provide an efficient system for managing bus stations. I contributed to their device monitoring system with my knowledge in website development. It was a memorable experience. I am grateful for the chances they gave me and their cordial welcome.”
Programme Highlights

Taught Postgraduate Programmes

New Academic Staff

We are welcome to the following academic staff joining COMP!

Prof. Johan Hoorn, Professor

Prof. Hoorn holds two Ph.D. degrees from the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, one in General and Comparative Literature and the other one in Computer Science. Prior to joining PolyU, he worked in five different schools including Humanities, Psychology, Computer Science, Life Science, and Social Science at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. From 2007 to 2012, he was the Managing Director of the research institute, Center of Advanced Media Research Amsterdam (CAMeRA). He was the co-founder of THNK, a top international school for creative leadership and the founding father of the Social Robotics Pop-up Lab for co-designing social robots with academia, industry, arts, and societal partners.

Central themes in Prof. Hoorn’s work are the study of creativity and virtuality to design emotionally intelligent agents, conversational AI, and social robots. Prof. Hoorn will bridge between computing and design in pursuit of more interdisciplinary collaboration.
Retirement of Prof. David Zhang

Prof. David Zhang has retired from his post after years of long and dedicated service at COMP. His last day of service was on 18 December 2017, and he would be on pre-retirement leave from 19 December 2017 to 30 March 2018.

Prof. Zhang has been with COMP since September 1998. Over the past 19 years, he has made great effort and significant contribution to COMP and PolyU in teaching, research and services. He was the Head of Department in 2008-2010 and Associate Head in 2002-2008, contributing to enhancing the department’s image and exposure. He was also the DRC Chair in 1999-2002 to help boost the research of the Department and enhance the department’s research portfolio. He is the Founding Director of Biometrics Research Centre in COMP supported by the Hong Kong SAR Government in 1998.

In recognition of his achievements and contributions, he received two President’s Awards in PolyU for Excellent Performance/Achievement in Research & Scholarly Activities, one for individual award (2000/2001) and another for team award as the team leader (2011/2012).

Dedicated to biometrics research over decades, Prof. Zhang has gained international reputation and status to be a world leading expert and a pioneer in the field of Biometrics, particularly in the areas of Palmprint Identification and Computerised Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). He was elected as an IAPR Fellow in 2006 and IEEE Fellow in 2008, both with the citation “for contribution to biometrics identification and systems”. He has also been selected as a Highly Cited Researchers in Engineering for four consecutive years since 2014 by Clarivate Analytics (formerly known as Thomson Reuters). His research has been recognised internationally and received a number of awards/recognitions, including Pengcheng Scholar (2009-2010), K.C. Wong Education Foundation Award (1997 & 2010), Who’s Who in the World (1999), the Silver Medal at the Seoul International Invention Fair (2002), the Special Gold Award and the Gold Medal at the National Invention Exhibition (2003), the Hong Kong Industry Awards (2003 & 2009), the Silver Medal at the 34th Geneva International Exhibition of Inventions (2006) and the 1st Prize, 2011 Nature Science Award (Heilongjiang Province) (2011).

Prof. Zhang has been a valuable asset and dear colleague to us, and he will be greatly missed. His commendable work and enthusiastic participation in the Department is highly appreciated. We wish him great happiness in retirement and all the best in a new chapter of his life.

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