

Prof. Joseph Tin Yum WONG

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Professional Training

1989-92 Postdoctoral Training Fellow

ICRF Cell Cycle Control Group, University of Oxford, UK

(Cell-cycle control and fission yeast)

On part-time training secondment from the Marine Biological Association of U.K.

1988-89 Postdoctoral fellow

Natural Environment Research Council Institute of Virology, Oxford, UK

(Baculovirus-insect cell expression system)

Appointments, independent positions held

- 2010- Professor, Division of Life Science, HKUST
 (2018, recovered after Hepatitis A)
 Professor, Department of Marine Biology and Medicinal Chemistry, HKUST
- 2009-2010 Professor, Department of Biology, HKUST
- 2001-2008 Associate Professor, Department of Biology, HKUST
- 1994-2001 Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, HKUST
- 1990-1994 Senior Scientific Officer (Principal Investigator)
 Marine Biological Association of UK, Plymouth, U.K.
 (90-92 on part-time training secondment to Oxford University)

Supervision of students and postdoctoral associates

4 MSc, 11 MPhils, 11 PhDs, 5 Postdoctoral Fellows; >40 final year research project students

Research Grant Administration

over 17 internal and external grants in the last 20 years

as principal investigator (50K -1.2M ea.); as co-investigator (up to 27M ea.)

A Personal Note on Research Interests and Philosophy

Gliding surreally through turbulences; chromosomes birefringent through largest genomes; luminescence through limited borders; Not forgotten through fossils; Rx through CH-, ladder through rings, alkaloid through ether, cigua- through saxi-

Castling through oligo- trophic; waters seaweed ashore through compost

Is this snow, is this sand, sun or benthos – let me through the marine snow

A sugar a grain, awashed a sunbeam

Asking the right questions for the unknown, which requires creativity and empirical thinking, based on previous giants

Started with aquarium, fishing and diving, then summers job in counting red-tide planktons and measuring water quality - nature an interest, it is not a job

Dinoflagellates solve life problems with a difference, whether it is with their anisotropic liquid crystalline organization of chromatins (LCCs), their internal nanofabricated cellulosic thecal plates (CTPs), or their completely closed nuclear division. With a little digging, one will appreciate the pyrophytes were saying I TOLD YOU SO! Self-assembly

Small and simplicity, but not necessarily reductionistic, are very often sought qualities. Ω-3

The purity of academic interests in Bangor ignited my empirical elements

Appreciation of the immense power of yeast genetics, and eyes opening to creativity in questioning, punt me to an academic journey tackling the now-I-know most stubborn cells for transformation; nonetheless, their CTPs and LCCs have captivated my fascination, as well as their switch to division modes (multiple fission) in response to nutrient shift. as if *S.pombe* was first picked from its East African beer; almost everything had to be started from scratch. The freedom at Citadel Hill I flew

I have always wondered what made a coelenterate attractive, apart from their intense beauty. Flip and flop, sea anemones, corals and jellyfishes, cellulose synthase rosette. To surrogate insect-cell baculoviral system is one thing, to keep a continuous coral cell line is another; impossibility and challenge a fine line. A tail-flicker from recently thawed *Symbiodinium*, plastid red fluorescence weakening.

Mastigote, swarmer, coccoid, hypno-: fate zening karma – la vie, sa?

Determination find a way

reallity to abstract

One felt squeezed into the middle; mesokaryotes, thecal plates, pellicling sulcus

The heroic task of running one-metre Maxim and Gilbert hot gel in a cold room, the sequencing results of which being scooped 3 months later (no BIORIX in the last century).

Fording I cannot afford,

Internal deposition remains of the day

Integrity through major cell cycle stations

leaving blank to focus, as in a painting

Reality: funding, politics; teaching, politics

apolar reviewing processes, politics; tenure, politics; contract renewal, politics

Earth and Reef saving should not be politics. It is not too late to do something helpful

Flow, AFM, G-mics, SIMs, P-mics, nano-indented a second

But one cannot be more dishearten, when treasured *Symbiodinium, digitatum* (K.) and mutants were lost due to an incubator failure.

– perhaps I should really look back a little more in my worldview ahead.

A friend (I think it was John) gave me a philosophy dictionary on my PhD graduation. Given another chance, I would have made the same choice. Persistence and passions drive one forward