

Citation – Professor Rocky Tuan

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Vice-Chancellor, it is my privilege to present to you Professor Rocky Tuan, Former Vice-Chancellor and President of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, for admission to the degree of Doctor of Medicine (honoris causa).

Professor Tuan is a distinguished biomedical researcher, educator, and prominent advocate for international collaboration in research and education. His career is marked by innovation, leadership, and a deep commitment to advancing human health and knowledge. Born and raised in Hong Kong, he received his PhD in Life Sciences from Rockefeller University in New York in 1977 and began his academic career at the University of Pennsylvania. He later became Professor and Director of Orthopaedic Research at Thomas Jefferson University, where he established the first PhD program in cell and tissue engineering in the United States.

His leadership continued at the National Institutes of Health, where he was appointed chief of the newly created Cartilage Biology and Orthopaedics Branch, and later at the University of Pittsburgh, where he served as Distinguished Professor and founded the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Engineering and the Centre for Military Medicine Research. During this time, he also served as associate director of the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

Professor Tuan's work in musculoskeletal biomedicine, stem cells, biomaterials, bioprinting, tissue engineering, and regenerative medicine has influenced the development of technologies that can restore functions to diseased and damaged tissues, transforming lives affected by trauma, injuries, and aging. His work has earned him global recognition, including prestigious awards such as the Coventry Award of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the Marshall Urist Award for Excellence in Tissue Regeneration Research, the Carnegie Science Award in Life Sciences, and recently the Jensen Tissue Engineering Award of the Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine International Society.

He is a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors, American Institute for Biological and Medical Engineering, and several other international societies, has authored more than 650 research publications, and is a founding editor of the journal *Stem Cell Research & Therapy*. His research continues to shape the future of medicine.

As Vice-Chancellor and President of The Chinese University of Hong Kong from 2018 to 2025, Professor Tuan led the university through a period of bold expansion and innovation. A passionate advocate for sustainable development, he championed sustainability across the university, launching a suite of forward-thinking initiatives aligned with global development goals. These included establishing and hosting the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network Hong Kong Chapter and contributing to international efforts through his roles on the Leadership Council of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and the High-Level Advisory Council of the UN Sustainable Development Goals Academy.

During his time at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, he paved the way for the founding of new music and medical schools in its Shenzhen campus, expanded the university's foothold across mainland China, and launched major research centres in Shenzhen, Beijing, and Shanghai. His leadership extended globally through leadership roles with the Association of Pacific Rim Universities, the Worldwide Universities Network, and the Association of Commonwealth Universities.

His vision helped forge a strategic partnership between The Chinese University of Hong Kong and the University of Sydney, resulting in joint research and publications in biomedical and clinical sciences, regular staff and student exchanges and academic workshops and webinars. His long-standing collaborations with Sydney researchers have led to impactful projects in cardiovascular disease, tissue engineering and regenerative medicine.

Known affectionately in global academic circles as the 'master of metaphor', Professor Tuan is a regular speaker at higher education conferences and symposia, where he encourages his audiences to build international partnerships. His journey reminds us that collaboration and international partnerships are forces for progress, bringing together diverse perspectives, shared knowledge and collective purpose to address global challenges.

Vice-Chancellor, as we stand in this place devoted to uncovering new ways of enriching our knowledge, I present Professor Rocky Tuan for admission to the degree of Doctor of Medicine (honoris causa), and I invite you to confer the degree upon him.