

城大附屬公司奪香港工商業獎 科技成就大獎

CityU company receives Grand Award in Hong Kong Awards for Industries

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香港城市大學（城大）附屬公司港龍生物科技有限公司，憑子宮頸癌早期檢測技術，獲頒2006年度香港工商業獎科技成就大獎，是迄今唯一獲得此大獎的高等院校附屬機構，亦是首家獲得此大獎的生物科技公司。

由港龍生物科技有限公司執行董事、城大生物及化學系楊夢甦教授領導的研究隊伍，利用生物晶片(biochip)和基因技術研發了SNIPERTM-HPV子宮頸癌DNA檢測系列產品。該產品能在細胞未發生癌變前，檢測出已感染致癌的「人類乳頭瘤病毒(HPV)」的基因，有助於及早治療子宮頸癌。

楊教授指出，香港目前普遍採用的子宮頸癌檢查方法，是利用柏氏抹片檢查是否有癌變細胞存在，準確率只有60%至70%，而他們研製的產品則是利用基因檢測方法，進行早期篩選，在細胞開始癌變之前，識別出人體內的HPV病毒是否屬於可致癌的高危類型，經臨床試驗證明，準確率可達99%。

該產品已向國家食品藥品監督管理局申請註冊，特別獲批進入快速審批通道，於去年五月取得批准開始臨床應用。產品已申請及獲取5項美國和中國專利，亦即將獲歐盟認可。

楊教授自1994年加入城大以來，一直致力從事生物晶片和疾病的基因測試技術。他的教學和研究信念，跟

城大提供專業教育、從事應用研究的宗旨不謀而合。他認為「一個好老師，也必須是個好的研究員」，這樣便可把最新的知識教給學生。

對於這次獲獎，楊教授認為城大的支持和研究隊伍的努力功不可沒。他說：「我很感謝城大一直大力支持教員進行應用研究，鼓勵我們把科研成果回饋社會。我也感謝跟我一同打拼的同事、學生和我們的家人，因為為了科研，我們都放棄了不少休假和私人時間，但我們從中也得到不少滿足感。」

楊教授的研究屢獲香港政府研究資助局和創新及科技基金撥款資助，而今次研製的產品於去年11月開始，已在香港瑪麗醫院和威爾斯親王醫院進行臨床測試。楊教授表示，他們正與本地私家診所合作，共同推廣一項婦女健康和子宮頸癌預防計劃，鼓勵婦女做子宮頸癌DNA測試。

較早前，楊教授亦獲深圳市政府撥款人民幣220萬元，在當地組建重點實驗室，以及進行其他抗腫瘤藥物研發項目。「我們正研究一種能同時測試多種疾病的生物感測器技術，預計年內能進入臨床測試，」他說。

香港工商業獎2006頒獎典禮於2月5日晚上假香港會議展覽中心舉行，由香港特別行政區財政司司長唐英年先生頒獎。

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Genetel Pharmaceuticals Ltd, a subsidiary company of City University of Hong Kong (CityU), has been awarded the "Technological Achievement Grand Award" for its cervical cancer diagnostic technology in the 2006 Hong Kong Awards for Industries. CityU is the first tertiary institution which has its subsidiary company to receive the Grand Award.

A research team led by Professor Michael Yang Mengsu, Executive Director of the company and a professor in the Department of Biology and Chemistry at CityU, has developed a DNA diagnostic technology for the early detection of cervical cancer. The product "SNIPERTM-HPV" can detect the human papillomavirus (HPV), a virus which causes virtually all cases of cervical cancer, thus facilitating early treatment.

According to Professor Yang, Pap smear testing, the commonly used diagnosis for cervical cancer in Hong Kong, detects only cancerous lesions and has a relatively low accuracy of 60 to 70%. But this award-winning diagnostic technology helps identify different types of high-risk HPV that are associated with cervical cancer development. Clinical trials suggest the accuracy rate reaches over 99%. What's more, the cost of testing is one-fourth of similar products developed in the US.

SNIPERTM-HPV was approved by China's State Food and Drug Administration in May 2006, and it is covered by 5 US and China patents, and is seeking approval from the European Union.

Since joining CityU in 1994, Professor Yang has been conducting research in biochip and DNA diagnostic technology. In line with CityU's mission to provide professional education and conduct applied research, he believes that "a good teacher should also be a good researcher" who can deliver the most updated knowledge to students.

Other media coverage :

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"I would like to thank CityU for supporting academic staff to conduct applied research, and transfer the outcomes to society," Professor Yang said. "I would also like to thank my colleagues, students and family because we sacrificed our holidays and private time for the research. But we all have a deep sense of satisfaction with what we have achieved," he said.

Professor Yang's research has received several rounds of funding from the Research Grants Council and Innovation and Technology Fund from the Hong Kong Government. The award-winning product has been under clinical tests at the Queen Mary Hospital and Prince of Wales Hospital since November 2006. It will be promoted in local private clinics through a women's health campaign which will encourage women to take the DNA testing of cervical cancer.

Earlier this year, Professor Yang received two grants totaling RMB 2.2 million yuan from the Shenzhen Municipal Government to establish a key laboratory, as well as to conduct a project on developing new anticancer drugs. "We are now developing a bio-sensor which can test a few types of diseases at the same time and we plan to launch it into clinical testing in a year," Professor Yang said.

The awards presentation ceremony of the 2006 Hong Kong Awards for Industries, officiated by the Hon Henry Tang Ying-yen, Financial Secretary of the HKSAR Government, was held on 5 February at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.