

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
LKS FACULTY OF MEDICINE

RGC GRF/ECS 2025-26

List of Awarded Projects

	Funding Scheme	Department/School	Principal Investigator	Project Title	Grand Total Awarded (HK\$)
1.	ECS	Department of Diagnostic Radiology	Professor J. Huang	Artificial intelligence-enhanced molecular MRI for early detection and differentiation of mild cognitive impairment	770,817
2.	GRF	Department of Family Medicine and Primary Care	Professor P. Tanuseputro	Death of a Mother During Childhood: Population-Level Studies of Impact on Chronic Conditions and Health Care Use	1,320,000
3.	GRF	Department of Medicine	Professor L.Y. Mak	The role of HBV integration in young-onset hepatocellular carcinoma in patients with chronic hepatitis B infection	1,208,830
4.	GRF	Department of Medicine	Professor S.C.W. Tang	Exploring the TLR4 and trained immunity nexus: a pathway from AKI to CKD	1,208,830
5.	GRF	Department of Medicine	Professor K.C. Teo	TRIPLE pill After intracerebral hemorrhage for blood pressure ConTrol with the TRICH score (TRIACT)	923,443
6.	GRF	Department of Medicine	Dr. B. Wang	Adipose-derived S100A4 as a novel anorexigenic hormone to alleviate obesity and hyperglycemia: clinical implications and mechanistic investigations	1,380,847
7.	GRF	Department of Medicine	Professor A. Xu	Functional and Mechanistic Investigation of a Novel Endoplasmic Reticulum-localised Membrane Protein in	1,381,520

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				the Pathogenesis of Dyslipidemia and MASLD	
8.	GRF	Department of Medicine	Professor Y.H.D. Yap	Repurposing Oral Arsenic Trioxide For the Treatment of Lupus Nephritis	1,351,472
9.	GRF	Department of Microbiology	Professor S. Sridhar	Towards universal vaccines for hepatitis E virus	1,327,251
10.	GRF	Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology	Professor C.N. Chiu	Elucidating the mechanism and functions of oviductal sperm reservoir formation in humans	1,338,983
11.	GRF	Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology	Professor C.K.F. Lee	Mechanistic and functional study of a small molecule in modulating endometrial receptivity and embryo implantation	1,208,830
12.	GRF	Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology	Professor J.P.Y. Cheung	Understanding the progression of metallosis in skeletal muscle cells for therapeutic intervention	1,364,251
13.	GRF	Department of Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine	Professor P. Ip	Exploring the impact of upbringing from early childhood into young adulthood: a 15-year investigation of socioeconomic disparities in health and educational attainment	446,000
14.	GRF	Department of Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine	Dr. T.S. Tung	Investigating the interplay of vitamin D level and intake pattern on the growth and development from infancy to childhood	721,500
15.	GRF	Department of Pathology	Professor L. Lu	The roles of IFN- λ in the pathogenesis of Sjögren's syndrome: functional characterization and therapeutic	1,379,051

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				implication	
16.	GRF	Department of Pathology	Professor C.C.L. Wong	Exploring IL-18BP as a Critical Immune Checkpoint in Interferon-Driven Immunotherapy Resistance of Liver Cancer	1,380,657
17.	GRF	Department of Pharmacology and Pharmacy	Professor Y. Wang	Investigation on Endothelial CDK5/P25/SIRT1 Signalling for Senolytic Therapies in Diabetic Heart Disease	1,381,520
18.	GRF	Department of Pharmacology and Pharmacy	Dr. X. Wu	Chchd10 (C10) as a novel druggable target for revitalizing pancreatic beta cells: from molecular mechanism to therapeutic potential	1,375,017
19.	GRF	Department of Psychiatry	Professor C.L.M. Hui	Navigating the Longitudinal Effects of Early Treatment Strategies and Relapse on Clinical, Cognitive, and Functional Outcomes: A 20-Year Follow-up of First Episode Psychosis	928,332
20.	GRF	Department of Psychiatry	Professor S.Y.S. Lui	The important role of negative symptoms in treatment-resistant schizophrenia: An 18-month prospective study	1,378,930
21.	ECS	Department of Surgery	Professor M.H.M. Fung	Reducing post-operative hypoparathyroidism with probe-based near infrared autofluorescence (NIRAF)-assisted total thyroidectomy versus conventional total thyroidectomy, a randomized-controlled trial	992,519
22.	GRF	Department of Surgery	Dr. J. Liu	Decipher the role of PGC1 α -mediated mitochondrial reprogramming in steatotic graft injury after liver transplantation	1,208,830

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23.	GRF	Department of Surgery	Professor C.H. Lui	To elucidate the contribution of genetic predisposition to oxidative stress damages in the pathogenesis of Hirschsprung disease	1,208,830
24.	GRF	Department of Surgery	Professor K. Man	The role of aberrant lipid metabolism mediated by ELOVL1 driving regional immune microenvironment specialization in NAFLD-related hepatocellular carcinoma	1,381,520
25.	GRF	Department of Surgery	Professor E.S.W. Ngan	Define signaling dynamics and interactions underlying the formation of human enteric nervous system	1,381,520
26.	GRF	Department of Surgery	Dr. S.K. Tey	Patient-derived small-extracellular-vesicle-enriched S100A11 remodels microvascular niche and activates macrophages for pre-metastatic niche formation to enhance distant metastasis to lung in triple-negative breast cancer	1,376,340
27.	GRF	Department of Surgery	Professor C.L.T. Wong	Decoding hepatorenal syndrome: insights from renal histopathology and transcriptomics	1,377,773
28.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Dr. C.P. Chan	Characterizing dsRNA-binding protein PACT as a cGAS cofactor in potentiating interferon signaling	1,381,520
29.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor M.C.H. Cheung	Elucidating the role of FSTL1 in melanoma growth, angiogenesis and drug resistance	1,381,520
30.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor R. Hervas Millan	CPEB4 Amyloid Filaments in Autism Spectrum Disorder	1,381,175
31.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor Y. Huang	Decoding cellular differentiation and regulatory patterns from single-cell multi-omics with sequence-informed	1,381,520

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				deep learning	
32.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor M.S.Y. Huen	A Study in Regulation of ARIP4-dependent DNA Repair and Transcription	1,372,886
33.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor R. Jauch	Decoding and enhancing the pioneer factor KLF4	1,378,930
34.	ECS	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor J. Kim	Effects of dietary sugar restriction on rescuing organ dysfunction caused by chronic Jak/STAT activation in Drosophila	1,042,519
35.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor S.W.C. Lai	The role of parvalbumin interneurons in the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's disease	1,381,520
36.	ECS	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor S. Liang	Molecular and Structural Investigation into the Regulation of Non-Homologous End Joining by Mre11/Rad50/NBS1 Complex	1,042,519
37.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor G.S.H. Ling	Restoring cancer immunotherapy efficacy through bolstering the immune recruitment hub	1,369,999
38.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor P. Liu	Molecular and functional dissection of CBL0137-induced totipotency acquisition in pluripotent stem cells and somatic cells	1,381,520
39.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor Y. Liu	Regulation of histone chaperone FACT activity by post-translational modifications (PTMs)	1,350,436
40.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor T. Ni	Investigation of RNA Translocation Mechanism of Native Coronavirus Double-membrane Vesicle Pore Complex	1,384,543

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41.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor J.H.D. Shih	Bioinformatic method development: Deconvolution of bulk tumour transcriptomes to infer compartment-specific latent expression profiles	1,381,365
42.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor R.R. Sugimura	The origin of the first blood in human	1,381,520
43.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor S.C. Ti	Dissecting the molecular mechanism by which kinesin motors read tubulin codes	1,517,082
44.	ECS	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor S. Wang	Elucidating the role of DAP10 in microglia in a mouse model of amyloid-beta accumulation	1,042,296
45.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor S.L. Wong	Translating structural insights into basis for genome editor engineering without accuracy-efficiency tradeoff	1,381,520
46.	ECS	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor K. Zhou	Regulation of RNA m6A modification by the nucleosome during transcription	918,454
47.	GRF	School of Chinese Medicine	Professor H. Chen	METTL3 aggravates ferroptosis in diabetic kidney disease under diabetes via m6A methylation of ACSM3 and the therapeutic potential by targeting ACSM3: a mechanism and translational study	1,375,798
48.	GRF	School of Chinese Medicine	Professor N. Wang	Bile acid metabolite ursodeoxycholic acid modulates antitumour immunity in pancreatic adenocarcinoma	1,208,830
49.	GRF	School of Chinese Medicine	Dr. J. Zhao	Potential role of RagA-Adora2A-lncRNA TCONS_00004755 axis in depression: implication for the antidepressant mechanism of Chinese medicine isoflavone puerarin	1,375,300

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50.	GRF	School of Nursing	Professor S.L.C. Chui	External validation of machine-learning driven risk prediction model for 10-year risk of cardiovascular diseases: a multi-database study	872,085
51.	GRF	School of Nursing	Professor W.C. Li	A frailty-specific prehabilitation program for mild to moderately frail patients undergoing cardiac surgeries: A randomized sham-controlled trial	1,234,158
52.	GRF	School of Public Health	Professor S.T. Ali	Identifying the dynamical interaction among respiratory viruses including influenza and COVID-19, and prediction of their cocirculation burden in the post-pandemic period using multi-stream data	1,015,417
53.	GRF	School of Public Health	Dr. Y. Che	Deciphering the role of the skin and gut microbiomes in antimicrobial resistance and pathogen dynamics among the elderly in nursing homes	1,095,338
54.	GRF	School of Public Health	Professor V. Dhanasekaran	Estimating epidemiological parameters from viral outbreak phylogenies	1,331,776
55.	GRF	School of Public Health	Professor K.A. Grépin	Analysing financial protection policies to achieve Universal Health Coverage in the Asia-Pacific Region	627,044
56.	GRF	School of Public Health	Professor W.W.T. Lam	The effect of a stepped-care metacognition-based intervention on managing fear of cancer recurrence: Sequential, Multiple Assignment, Randomised Controlled Trial (SMARTs)	716,000
57.	GRF	School of Public Health	Dr. Y. Ni	The impact of parental leave policies on postpartum health: A quasi-natural experiment	690,540

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58.	GRF	School of Public Health	Professor L. Tian	Iron Signature of Coal Smoke-induced Lung Cancer: a Case-control Study of Mitochondrial Genome and Fe-regulatory Gene Polymorphisms	1,208,830
59.	GRF	School of Public Health	Dr. S.M.C. Wong	The impact of population events on mental health in Hong Kong: a 22-year time-series analysis	718,630
60.	GRF	School of Public Health	Professor M.P. Zanin	Host-virus interactions mediated by non-structural protein 1 underlying transmission of avian influenza viruses in mammals	1,379,478
61.	GRF	School of Public Health	Professor J. Zhao	Beyond the Snapshot and the Surface: Investigating the gender-specific link of depression trajectories to ischemic heart disease and unveiling the underlying pathways in a 20-year cohort study in Hong Kong	996,000
Total Number of Successful Projects:					61
Total Amount of Grants Awarded:					HK\$ 73,401,481