

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
LKS FACULTY OF MEDICINE

RGC GRF/ECS 2026-27

List of Awarded Projects

	Funding Scheme	Department/School	Principal Investigator	Project Title	Grand Total Awarded (HK\$)
1.	GRF	Bau Institute of Medical and Health Sciences Education	Professor F.J.A. Ganotice	Innovate to collaborate: A design-based research to develop a GenAI-enabled interprofessional education programme for future healthcare professionals	589,720
2.	GRF	Department of Clinical Oncology	Professor W. Dai	Targeting Cross-Species Chromatin Interactions for Treatment in Epstein-Barr Virus-associated Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma	1,216,762
3.	GRF	Department of Clinical Oncology	Professor X. Guan	Characterization of SRSF9 as a druggable regulator of CD8 ⁺ T-cell dysfunction and resistance to PD-L1/VEGF-A dual blockade in hepatocellular carcinoma	971,417
4.	GRF	Department of Diagnostic Radiology	Professor M.Y. Ng	Multicentre International Cardiac Magnetic Resonance 4D flow, Atrial Size and Atrial Strain, Assessment of Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction (MIDAS-HFpEF)	1,287,564
5.	ECS	Department of Family Medicine and Primary Care	Professor J. Zhou	RAISE Liver Triage From Primary Care: Risk-Stratified Precise Referral for Early Liver Assessment in Adults with Diabetes	1,190,000

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6.	GRF	Department of Medicine	Dr. L. Geng	Identification and characterization of FGF21 trans-signaling mediated by soluble β -Klotho: from molecular insights to clinical implications	1,177,139
7.	GRF	Department of Medicine	Professor P.H. Li	Provocation After Nurse-Directed Assessment (PANDA): Prospective, randomized, head-to-head study comparing nurse-led direct provocation testing vs. standard of care for low-risk penicillin allergy	1,134,133
8.	GRF	Department of Medicine	Professor M.B. Ma	GLP-1 receptor agonist in patients with Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease	1,131,783
9.	GRF	Department of Medicine	Professor L.Y. Mak	Response-guided therapy with sequential PEG-IFN α among recipients of AHB-137, an unconjugated antisense oligonucleotide: An open-label phase II study for patients with chronic hepatitis B infection	1,296,152
10.	GRF	Department of Medicine	Professor G.H.H. Singh	The molecular and biologic basis responses in JAK2V617F-mutated and CALR-mutated myelofibrosis	1,016,066
11.	GRF	Department of Medicine	Professor S.C.W. Tang	Defining the gut microbiome as a potential driver of autoimmunity in IgA nephropathy	1,293,721
12.	GRF	Department of Medicine	Professor A. Xu	A novel gut-adipose tissue axis mediated by TFF2 in the regulation of energy homeostasis and glucolipid metabolism	1,287,078
13.	GRF	Department of Medicine	Professor S.S.Y. Yung	Decorin in Inflammation, Cellular Senescence and Fibrosis of Peritoneal Membrane Structure in Peritoneal Dialysis	1,134,133

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14.	GRF	Department of Microbiology	Professor H. Chu	Investigation on the differential role of glucose-regulated protein 78 in the infection of SARS-CoV-1, SARS-CoV-2, and HCoV-NL63	1,296,152
15.	GRF	Department of Microbiology	Professor S. Sridhar	Investigating rat hepatitis E virus, an emerging zoonotic pathogen, with new disease models	1,286,544
16.	GRF	Department of Microbiology	Professor M.L. Yeung	Study of age-dependent enterovirus infection responses using a human nasal organoid	1,134,133
17.	GRF	Department of Microbiology	Professor S. Yuan	Investigating the novel role of human ESCRT protein ALIX as a proviral factor of positive-strand RNA viruses by interacting with viral replication-transcription complex proteins	1,288,861
18.	GRF	Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology	Professor K.W. Cheung	Delineate the novel role of histamine in trophoblast differentiation and its association with the pathophysiology of early-onset preeclampsia	1,134,133
19.	GRF	Department of Ophthalmology	Professor K.S. LEUNG	Optimizing Ocular Hypertension Treatment with Retinal Nerve Fiber Layer Optical Texture Analysis (ROTA) – A Randomized Clinical Trial	1,296,152
20.	GRF	Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology	Dr. N. Meng	Automated Surgical Planning System for Spinal Deformity Based on Multimodal Learning	894,156
21.	GRF	Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology	Dr. Y. Zhu	Ultrasound-responsive single-atom catalytic implant surfaces enable adaptive ROS modulation for enhanced biofilm elimination and osseointegration	1,206,928

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22.	GRF	Department of Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine	Professor B.H.Y. Chung	Transforming Mental Health Therapies: The Role of Transcriptomics in Drug Development and Repurposing	1,273,686
23.	GRF	Department of Pathology	Dr. Y.M. Tsui	Identification of ACSL4 in the tumour interstitial fluid in shaping an immunosuppressive tumour microenvironment through the CEACAM1-enriched extracellular vesicles in hepatocellular carcinoma	810,095
24.	GRF	Department of Pathology	Professor C.C.L. Wong	Harnessing Methionine Dependency in HCC: Dietary Intervention for Tumor Suppression and Immune Activation	1,134,133
25.	GRF	Department of Pathology	Professor C.M. Wong	Targeting ADAT2-Mediated A-to-I tRNA Editing to Disrupt Serine/Glycine/One-Carbon Metabolism in Hepatocellular Carcinoma	1,296,152
26.	GRF	Department of Pathology	Professor J.W.P. Yam	The uncovered role of MED8 in small extracellular vesicles in the progression of hepatocellular carcinoma	1,134,133
27.	GRF	Department of Pharmacology and Pharmacy	Professor K.T.Y. Al-Jamal	Understanding the therapeutic effects of CRISPR-Cas9-mediated ATXN2/SARM1 dual knockout in reversing amyotrophic lateral sclerosis phenotypes in mice delivered via lipid nanoparticles	1,210,646
28.	GRF	Department of Pharmacology and Pharmacy	Professor R.L.C. Hoo	Syndecan 4 (Sdc4) as a Key Modulator of Blood-Brain Barrier Disruption in Ischemic Stroke: Molecular Mechanism and Therapeutic Implications	1,294,661

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29.	GRF	Department of Pharmacology and Pharmacy	Professor Q. Zhang	Pharmacodynamics-Guided Robust Reinforcement Learning for Optimal Therapy Discontinuation in Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia	599,162
30.	GRF	Department of Psychiatry	Professor K.W. Chan	Computational understanding of the cognitive mechanisms of self-referential gaze perception in patients with first-episode schizophrenia-spectrum disorders: A five-year longitudinal follow up study	881,504
31.	GRF	Department of Psychiatry	Professor W.C. Chang	Prediction of long-term clinical and functional outcomes in first-episode psychosis: 16-year follow-up of the randomized controlled trial on extended early intervention	739,203
32.	GRF	Department of Surgery	Professor T.T. Cheung	The role of CENP-A targeting in epigenetic correction and drug development in hepatocellular carcinoma – therapeutic mechanism and precision modeling	1,134,133
33.	GRF	Department of Surgery	Dr. M.Y.K. Kiang	Mitochondria transfer from astrocytes induces epigenetic modifications and confers chemoresistance in glioblastoma	1,134,133
34.	GRF	Department of Surgery	Dr. J. Liu	Role of TLR4-M cell axis in mediating intestinal mucosal immunity during invasive fungal infections after living donor liver transplantation	1,134,133
35.	GRF	Department of Surgery	Professor E.S.W. Ngan	Define signaling dynamics coordinating the enteric nervous system and gut development	1,296,152

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36.	GRF	Department of Surgery	Professor S.M. Tang	Genetic dysregulation of TGF- β activation via hepatic stellate cell crosstalk in bile duct development and biliary atresia pathogenesis	1,134,133
37.	ECS	Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit	Professor C. Hildebrand	Kant, Sympathy, and the Moral Life	354,860
38.	ECS	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor T.M. Chegancas Rito	Decoding WNT–FGF signaling in human trunk-organoids to elucidate developmental drivers of notochord specification and maturation.	1,303,227
39.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor M.C.H. Cheung	Mechanistic investigation of DLC1 isoform 1 (DLC1-i1) in motor neuron vulnerability and therapeutic potential in spinal muscular atrophy	1,296,152
40.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor M. He	Modeling Pulmonary Ciliopathy: Dissecting the role of DZIP1L in human airway development and function using multi-lineage organoids.	1,134,133
41.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor R. Hervas Millan	Age-dependent Loss of Translation-promoting Amyloids Contributes to Memory Impairment in Drosophila	1,134,133
42.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor Y. Huang	Integrative deep learning for nucleus-resolved spatial analysis of tumor clonality and plasticity	1,260,507
43.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor R. Jauch	Rejuvenation Beyond Reprogramming: Epigenetic Switches for Cellular Renewal without Yamanaka Factors	1,267,393
44.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor D. Jin	Roles of CYLD deubiquitinase in Epstein-Barr virus infection	1,296,152

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45.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor J. Kim	Impact of distal wound-induced neuronal autophagy on behavioral changes and wound healing in Drosophila	1,296,152
46.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor G.S.H. Ling	Investigate how hyperglycemia-induced neutrophil reprogramming promotes tumor progression in Type 2 diabetes	1,284,937
47.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor P. Liu	Establishment of the Next-Generation Porcine Pluripotent Stem Cells	1,220,813
48.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor Y. Liu	In situ study of “viral chromatin” architecture in the process of giant virus infection	1,134,133
49.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor S.K.Y. Ma	Deciphering the role of ROR1+ liver cancer cells in CAF activation through BSG (CD147): implications for stemness and therapy resistance	1,279,302
50.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor S.C. Ti	Dissecting molecular mechanisms by which the tubulin code and luminal enzymes shape microtubule composite mechanics	1,296,152
51.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Professor S.L. Wong	Artificial intelligence-aided design and engineering of TadA deaminase for genome editing	1,296,152
52.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Dr. Z. Ye	EV-A71 3C protease mediates ISG15 cleavage to counteract host antiviral responses	1,285,144
53.	GRF	School of Biomedical Sciences	Dr. Q. Zhang	Unveiling the Role of MDM2 in Preimplantation Development and Trophoblast Stem Cell Differentiation: Implications for Implantation Success	1,292,652

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54.	GRF	School of Chinese Medicine	Professor X. Lin	The role of tissue-resident cytotoxic CD4+ T cells in the salivary pathogenesis of Sjogren's disease	1,288,051
55.	GRF	School of Chinese Medicine	Professor J. Shen	Elucidating Ferrous Iron Triggered Neutrophil Extracellular Traps as a Novel Therapeutic Target and Exploring Echinacoside as Drug Candidate for Multiple Sclerosis	1,290,439
56.	GRF	School of Chinese Medicine	Professor N. Wang	Understanding the role of G3PP-mediated glycerol shunt in suppressing anti-tumour immunity of metabolic-associated steatophepatitis-driven hepatocellular carcinoma	1,134,133
57.	GRF	School of Nursing	Dr. C.Y. Dai	Circadian Rhythms in Human Milk: Pathways Linking Maternal Wellbeing and Infant Sleep	1,038,452
58.	ECS	School of Nursing	Professor M. Ho	Effectiveness of Instant Messages-delivered Physical Activity e-Coaching and Training (IMPACT) Intervention on Cancer-Related Cognitive Impairment in Lung Cancer Survivors: A Pragmatic Randomized Controlled Trial	1,050,070
59.	GRF	School of Nursing	Professor M.P. Wang	Post-discharge cessation support for smoking patients using a large language model (LLM)-based counselling chatbot: a randomised controlled trial	1,492,790
60.	GRF	School of Public Health	Professor S. Chen	A Prospective Cohort Study for the Development and Validation of an Interpretable, Multimodal Machine Learning System for Early Identification of Mental Health Risks in Middle-School Children	1,129,092

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61.	GRF	School of Public Health	Professor M.A. Espinoza	How much is equity worth when cost-effectiveness subgroup decisions can be implemented?: Incorporating the value of heterogeneity into distributional cost-effectiveness analysis.	984,000
62.	GRF	School of Public Health	Professor Y. Kim	Derivation and validation of models for prediction of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease risk among individuals with hypertension: integrated use of four large-scale prospective cohorts.	998,325
63.	GRF	School of Public Health	Professor W.W.T. Lam	The effect of worry postponement peer-led intervention on managing fear of cancer recurrence: A Randomized Controlled Trial	781,000
64.	GRF	School of Public Health	Professor M.F.P. Siu	Effects of exercise snacks on improving cognitive performance in older adults with mild cognitive impairment: A pragmatic randomized controlled trial	1,444,000
65.	GRF	School of Public Health	Dr. S.M.C. Wong	Post-traumatic stress disorder across the lifespan in Hong Kong: incidence, multimorbidity, service utilisation, and mortality in a 24-year population-wide electronic health records cohort	732,970
66.	GRF	School of Public Health	Professor S.S. Wong	The role of influenza neuraminidase antibodies in the transmission and spread of avian influenza viruses.	1,289,514
67.	GRF	School of Public Health	Dr. Y.T. Wong	The estimation of COVID-19 associated disease burden after accounting for mortality displacement and the implication for booster vaccination strategy	598,465

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68.	GRF	School of Public Health	Dr. W. Zhang	Investigating the impact of T cell immune memory on coronavirus mutation dynamics	1,009,614
69.	GRF	School of Public Health	Dr. S. Zhao	Ecological momentary assessment-derived mHealth lifestyle management to reduce postpartum depression symptoms in at-risk pregnant women: A randomized controlled trial	899,250
Total Number of Successful Projects:					69
Total Amount of Grants Awarded:					HK\$ 78,060,945