

Engineering Awards and Recognition Ceremony 2017

The Engineering Awards and Recognition Ceremony 2017 was held by the Faculty of Engineering on 22 March 2017. The awards were presented by NUS Dean of Engineering, Prof Chua Kee Chaing to the awardees in recognition of their high achievements in NUS Engineering.

Congratulations to faculty and academia from ECE Department who have received the Engineering Awards for their outstanding work and contributions in the various categories.

Engineering Research Leadership Award

Professor Nitish Thakor



ECE Professor Nitish Thakor who is also Provost Chair Professor and the founding Director of the Singapore Institute for Neurotechnology (SiNAPSE) is an internationally recognised leader in the field of Neurotechnology where he has pioneered many technologies such as brain machine interface, neuroprosthesis, implantable neurotechnologies, and brain inspired (neuromorphic) sensors and robots. His research and many exciting projects can be viewed at www.sinapseinstitute.org.

In less than 5 years, he has established a vibrant university-level Institute with 12 affiliated principal investigators and over 100 students, research assistants and fellows from engineering.

Under Prof. Thakor's leadership and mentoring, engineering faculty have won major research grants, including two NRF Competitive Research Programme (CRP) awards (Peripheral Neuroprosthesis and Surgical Photo Acoustic Nanotechnology) as well as prestigious NRF Fellowships. He has also forged partnerships between NUS Engineering and Medicine/Surgery, and between NUS, A*STAR and Mindef/DSO. The Engineering Research Leadership Award recognizes Professor Thakor for providing exemplary leadership to the students and faculty of NUS Engineering and for launching an internationally acclaimed research Institute.



Prof. Nitish Thakor and SiNAPSE group of researchers and students

Engineering Researcher Award



Prof Hong Minghui receiving the Engineering Researcher Award from Dean of Engineering Prof Chua Kee Chaing

Professor Hong Minghui

Prof. Hong Minghui specializes in light-matter interactions at micro/nano-scale, especially optical nano-imaging and surface nano-patterning in air. His research work extends into various industrial applications, including advanced manufacturing with novel laser approaches on wafer thinning, surface modifications, super-hydrophobicity and maskless multi-beam lithography.

He has published 350 journal papers in journals that include Nature, Nature Nanotechnology and Nature Communications. His publications have attracted more than 7,000 citations. He is currently serving as the editor of Light: Science and Applications, Scientific Reports, Science China, Laser Micro/nano-engineering and Optics-Electronic Engineering. He is a fellow of the Optical Society of America (OSA), International Society for Optics and Photonics (SPIE), International Academy of Photonics & Laser Engineering (IAPLE), and Institute of Engineers, Singapore (IES).



Group photo at the Engineering Awards and Recognition Ceremony

Engineering Young Researcher Award

Dr. Thomas Yeo



Dr. Thomas Yeo is awarded “Engineering Young Researcher 2017” in recognition of his research work and contributions in neuroimaging.



Dr. Thomas Yeo is internationally recognized for his significant contributions to the field of neuroimaging. There is a deluge of data in multiple scientific disciplines. Future scientific breakthroughs will be made by new algorithms exploring these massive datasets.

Dr. Yeo’s lab develops machine learning algorithms to make scientific discoveries from large-scale brain imaging data, comprising thousands of subjects and billions of measurements per subject. His recent work in PNAS and Cerebral Cortex exploit hierarchical Bayesian modeling to provide insights into human cognition and Alzheimer’s disease heterogeneity.

Dr Yeo has been cited 4,000 times, and has written commentaries for Nature and Nature Neuroscience.

For more info on Dr. Thomas Yeo’s research : <https://sites.google.com/site/yeoyeo02/>

Dean’s Chair

Associate Professor Zhang Rui



Assoc. Prof Zhang Rui is appointed Dean’s Chair Professor from 1 Jan 2017 to 31 Dec 2019 in recognition of his outstanding achievements and contributions to cognitive radio and energy harvesting communications.

These two revolutionary and transforming technologies have the potential of resolving the spectrum and energy shortage in wireless communications, and Assoc. Prof. Zhang has made distinctive contributions in both areas and his research work has had a long-lasting impact.

<https://www.ece.nus.edu.sg/home/management/ZhangRui.html>

Innovative Teaching Award AY2015/2016



Dr. Zhang Jianwen

Dr. Zhang Jianwen, is recipient of Innovative Teaching Award AY2015/16 (Bronze).

Dr. Zhang's is a senior lecturer in the area of signals and communications, and digital design.

His research interests include error-correcting codes and noncoherent detection.

<https://www.ece.nus.edu.sg/staff/bio/zhan.html>

"Highly Cited Researcher" by Clarivate Analytics, 2016

Also recognized at the Engineering Awards and Recognition Ceremony 2017 were ECE Professors who were named among the most prominent and highly cited researchers in the world in the Highly Cited Researchers Report 2016 by Clarivate Analytics, the former Intellectual Property & Science business of Thomson Reuters.

Professor Ge Shuzhi, Sam



Prof. Ge is currently the Director of Social Robotics Lab, Institute of Interactive Digital Media (IDMI), NUS. He is leading a strong research team working on autonomous robotics (sensor fusion, path planning, decision making), intelligence control, intelligent interactive media fusion, and education software development. For more information, please visit [Social Robot Lab \(SRL\)](#)

Assoc. Prof. Yan Shuicheng



Assoc. Prof. Yan's research areas are in machine learning, computer vision and multimedia. He has authored/co-authored hundreds of technical papers over a wide range of research topics, with Google Scholar citation over 20,000 times and H-index 66. He was also ISI Highly-cited Researcher of 2014 and 2015. His research team received 7 times winner or honorable-mention prizes in PASCAL VOC and ILSVRC competitions, along with more than 10 times best (student) paper prizes. He is also a IAPR Fellow. <https://www.ece.nus.edu.sg/staff/bio/yans.html>

Assoc. Prof. Zhang Rui



Assoc. Prof. Zhang's research areas are in energy-efficient and energy-harvesting-enabled wireless communication, wireless information and power transfer, MIMO communication, cognitive radio, cooperative communication, UAV-assisted communication, wireless information surveillance, and optimization methods. He has published over 250 papers, which have been cited more than 14,000 times. He was the recipient of the 6th IEEE Communications Society Asia-Pacific Region Best Young Researcher Award in 2011, and the NUS Young Researcher Award in 2015. <https://www.ece.nus.edu.sg/stfpage/elezhang/>