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## HKUST Cancer Researcher Receives International Recognition

Dr Kevin A W Lee, Associate Professor of Biology at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), has become the first researcher in Hong Kong and the Chinese Mainland to receive funding support from the prestigious UK-based [Association for International Cancer Research \(AICR\)](#).

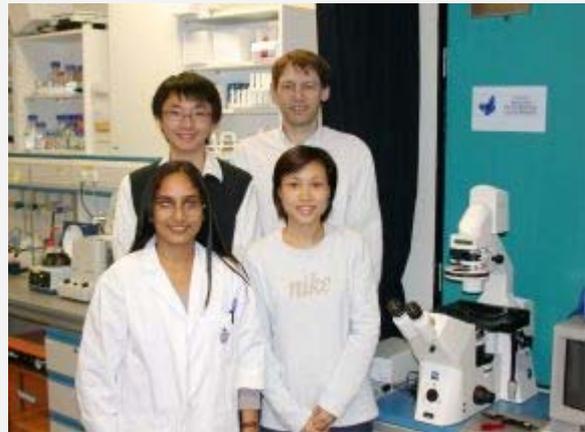
AICR will provide HKD \$1 million over two years for Dr Lee's research on an abnormal protein (EWS) that causes a group of rare and lethal cancers.

AICR is one of the most respected funding bodies for cancer research in the world, and its awards procedure is highly competitive. Each application is rigorously reviewed by leading scientists in the relevant field of expertise, followed by the AICR Scientific Advisory Committee, comprised of eminent cancer researchers, for further review and selection. Dr Lee's particular selection round included 150 applicants, of which only the top 38 rated projects received funding.

The AICR award represents recognition of the highest order and attests to the growing international reputation and potential of bioscience research at HKUST. "I am delighted and most grateful to receive funding support from the AICR. The research environment at HKUST and my laboratory team have enabled me to achieve this," said Dr Lee.

AICR's objective is to support fundamental research into the causes, mechanisms, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of cancer. While the emphasis is currently on fundamental cancer research, Dr Lee's research program is laying the foundations for potential drug discoveries in the future.

One of the immediate aims of Dr Lee's research is to identify inhibitors of EWS that could be developed as drugs. At this stage, his laboratory has already identified small parts of the abnormal EWS protein that represent potential inhibitors. "The next stage is to carry out detailed testing on the inhibition of cancer cell growth. If successful, further development to the commercial stage will hopefully become possible," said Dr Lee.



[Hi-res image](#) Dr Kevin Lee (back row, right) and his research team