

## **Professor Dennis LO selected to receive the 2017 IFCC Distinguished Clinical Chemist Award**

**Milan, 28 April 2017** - The IFCC, the international leading organization in the field of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, is pleased to announce that **Prof. Yuk M. Dennis LO** (Department of Chemical Pathology, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Prince of Wales Hospital, Hong Kong), **is the winner of the 2017 IFCC Distinguished Clinical Chemist Award, sponsored by IFCC.** This award recognizes an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the science of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine or the application of Clinical Chemistry to the understanding or the solution of medical problems.

**Professor Lo is the first to report the presence of high concentrations of cell-free fetal DNA in maternal plasma** (Lo et al. Lancet 1997; 350: 485). This discovery has created a revolution in non-invasive prenatal diagnosis. He discovered a new biological phenomenon and over a period of 20 years has demonstrated innovation, stamina and vision to lead the field translating this discovery into a new platform technology for non-invasive prenatal diagnosis, which has created a paradigm shift in prenatal medicine. As a result, the number of invasive tests, with their associated risks, has been greatly reduced in many centres making prenatal testing safer and less traumatic for pregnant women and their families. In addition, the success of non-invasive prenatal testing has shown the world a glimpse of the power of plasma DNA analysis, thus directly triggering the recent global interest in liquid biopsies for cancer detection and monitoring as well as translation to areas such as organ transplantation and autoimmune diseases.

In recognition of **Professor Lo's** contribution to the area of non-invasive prenatal diagnosis, he has been given numerous prestigious awards and holds many foundational patents in non-invasive prenatal testing.

**Prof. Howard MORRIS**, IFCC President-Elect and Chair, IFCC Awards Committee, said: "We are delighted to select **Professor Dennis Lo** as the 2017 IFCC Distinguished Clinical Chemist Awardee. He has a remarkable career in the field of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine, and his outstanding contributions to prenatal testing and development have led to improved quality in clinical laboratories and better healthcare worldwide. **Professor Lo** has done more than anyone else in the world in creating a revolution in molecular diagnostics using circulating nucleic acids. He is thus a most deserving candidate for the IFCC Distinguished Clinical Chemist Award 2017."

The 2017 IFCC Awardees are a witness of the contribution that IFCC gives to advancement of excellence in laboratory medicine for better healthcare worldwide. **Professor Lo** along with seven other IFCC Distinguished Award winners will be formally announced on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at the Opening Ceremony of the 23<sup>rd</sup> IFCC International Congress in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine being held in Durban (South Africa) from 22<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

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## **ABOUT IFCC**

IFCC is the leading organization in the field of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine worldwide. Through leadership and innovation in science and education, IFCC strives to enhance the scientific level and the quality of diagnosis and therapy for patients throughout the world. IFCC builds on the professionalism of its members to provide quality services to patients. IFCC is a Federation of 90 Full Member and 12 Affiliate member Societies of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine representing more than 45.000 individual clinical chemists, laboratory scientists, and laboratory physicians and 48 Corporate Members covering the major areas of clinical laboratory developments.

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