Professor Tommy Lam
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Professor Tommy Lam received his BSc (Bioinformatics) and PhD (Molecular Virology) from The University of Hong Kong. He underwent postdoctoral training at Pennsylvania State University and the University of Oxford. His primary research interest lies in the evolution, epidemiology and ecology of infectious diseases. Using a multi-omic approach, including genomics, he investigates the patterns, drivers and mechanisms pathogen emergence at human-animal interface. This includes studying influenza viruses, coronaviruses, bacterial pathogens and their antibiotic resistance emergence. Professor Lam's research has significantly contributed to the understanding of the origins, evolution, and transmission of newly emerging pathogens such as H7N9 influenza (Nature 2013, Nature 2015), MERS coronavirus (EID 2013, Science 2016) and COVID-19 coronavirus (Nature 2020). He also leads research on disease vectors, including mosquitoes, ticks, rodents and their associated pathogens. Professor Lam is actively involved in bioinformatics methods and leads the development of several computational tools and databases for the genomic and epidemiological analysis. Professor Lam is leading two research programmes at two Health@InnoHK and AI&Robotics @InnoHK HKU Labs to innovate biotechnology and AI methods for enhancing infectious disease surveillance, control and treatment.

In addition to his research, Professor Lam has received several prestigious awards and recognitions. These include the Novartis Vaccines Award for Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases from International Society for Infectious Diseases in 2008, the Newton Research Fellowship from the Royal Society UK in 2010, and the National Science and Technology Progress Award (Special Award, 2017) from the State Council of the People's Republic of China. He has been ranked in top 1% scholars at HKU based on Essential Science Indicators since 2016 and was recognised as a Clarivate Highly Cited Researcher in 2023. He received The National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) Excellent Young Scientists Fund (Hong Kong and Macau) in 2019 and the Zhong Nanshan Youth Science and Technology Innovation Award in 2023. He is elected as a member of The Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences in 2021.

Apart from teaching undergraduate and postgraduate courses at HKU, Professor Lam has also taught in various international workshops and online courses. He organised the Croucher Summer Course, aimed at promoting high-quality technical training and research collaboration among the local and international scientists in the field of viral evolution and epidemiology.