

Dr Franco King-Chi Leung
Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Biology and Chemical Technology
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Biography

Dr Franco King-Chi LEUNG studied his BSc in Chemical Technology (2011) at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), where he also carried out his Masters research (2013) in catalysis and chemical biology under the supervision of Dr Man-Kin Wong. He expanded his research scope in his PhD to supramolecular chemistry and material science under the guidance of Prof. Takanori Fukushima at the Tokyo Institute of Technology (Japan). In April 2017, he joined Prof. Ben L. Feringa's group (2016 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry) at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands, as a postdoc fellow and later he was awarded the Croucher Postdoctoral Fellowship, where he is developing photoresponsive soft materials of molecular motors and switches. Since June 2019, he is serving as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Applied Biology and Chemical Technology, PolyU. His main research interests are dynamic supramolecular polymers, functional molecular assembly, and biocompatible functional materials.



Since starting at PolyU, Dr Leung's research programmes are designed and orientated to exploit the full intrinsic potential of synthetic organic chemistry to build new supramolecular structures, functions and hierarchical systems. Inspired by nature's structural beauty and sophisticated functional processes, the major goal of his research is to design novel supramolecular functional systems, across length-scale, into stimuli-responsive functional soft materials with a focus on the following two major areas: (I) ***Life-like Supramolecular Soft Actuators*** - This research programme aims to develop highly dynamic, reversible, and biocompatible supramolecular soft actuators, which are complementary to existing polymeric soft actuators; (II) ***Controlled Supramolecular Transformations of Hierarchical Systems*** - This research programme is designed to control reversible transformations of supramolecular assembly and organizations at different hierarchical levels, in supramolecular soft materials and self-assembled two-dimensional structures on various substrate surfaces.

Award and Honours

2021	Croucher Innovation Award, Croucher Foundation
2017	Croucher Postdoctoral Fellowship, Croucher Foundation
2014	International Program Associate, RIKEN, Japan