

# CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF HKU'S RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AND BEYOND

## AN INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR FAN, SHEUNG TAT

Professor Fan is Chair Professor of Surgery at The University of Hong Kong. Honoured with the highest research accolade, the Distinguished Research Achievement Award, by The University of Hong Kong for his academic achievement in 2000-2001, Professor Fan performed the first successful liver transplant in Hong Kong in 1991 and pioneered the technique of adult-to-adult living donor liver transplantation using a right liver graft, which is regarded as a major breakthrough in the history of liver transplantation. His work has been cited over 20,000 times. Elected to the Chinese Academy of Engineering (Medical and Health Engineering Division), Professor Fan is also a recipient of a Silver Bauhinia Star, which was awarded by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, for his academic leadership and contribution to liver transplant services in Hong Kong in 2006.



**PROFESSOR FAN, SHEUNG TAT**  
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1. Could you please share with us briefly about your key research areas?

My key research areas include liver transplantation and various hepatobiliary diseases, including hepatocellular carcinoma, hepatitis B, cirrhosis, intrahepatic stones, and acute biliary pancreatitis.

2. How did you become involved in this research, were there any challenges encountered along the way and what motivates you to continue in these areas of research?

The above-mentioned diseases are commonly seen in Asia and the immense demand for liver transplantation prompted me to carry out further research in the area. The major challenge is to offer patients better treatment options to help ease their pain and suffering. Seeing continuous improvements in patient outcomes motivate me to continue with my research.

3. Why do you think your research papers have been highly cited?

My research papers record vast clinical experiences and innovation of a world-class liver team at Queen Mary Hospital. The findings are valuable for the medical community in improving surgical techniques, treatment methods, and research skills.

4. Do they usually describe a new discovery, methodology, or synthesis of knowledge? Could you summarize the significance of your papers in layman's terms?

They usually describe a new methodology. The significance of my papers is on invention of new techniques in liver transplantation and hepatectomy.

5. What outcomes or impact on society do you hope to see as a result of your research? Where do you see your research heading in the future?

I hope to see an improvement of surgery standards in Hong Kong and in the world. In the future, my research direction will be towards liver cancer stem cell, which is the root of liver cancer. By eliminating cancer stem cell, we hope we can eradicate liver cancer.