

Passing the torch of inspiration

Passionate scientist and youth mentor wins Singapore Youth Award

Alumnus Dr Victor Tong Joo Chuan has added another feather to his cap for his work on computational immunology.

On 5 July 2009, Dr Tong received the Singapore Youth Award (SYA) for Science and Technology for 2009 from Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security, Professor S Jayakumar, at a ceremony held at the Istana.

The SYA is the top award given to youths in Singapore, honouring young people whose achievements serve as an inspiration to others. In Dr Tong's citation at the SYA, he is noted as a passionate scientist who has mentored 51 students from the Ministry of Education's Science Mentorship Programme, A*STAR's Young Researchers Attachment Programme and Polytechnics' Industrial Attachment Programme, and NUS' Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme in Science (UROPS) as well as Honours Year Projects.

Of the students whom Dr Tong has mentored, 12 have gone on to receive awards themselves. Dr Tong's enthusiastic dedication is also evident in his voluntary provision of guidance

SoC alumnus Dr Victor Tong is recognised for mentoring students from MOE's Science Mentorship Programme. He is known for his accomplishments in computational immunology and is the first Singaporean to clinch the TR35 award.

and training through online tutoring to more than 300 international and regional students.

A 2002 graduate from the School of Computing with a Bachelor of Computing (Hons) in Computer Science, Dr Tong went on to pursue his graduate studies with the NUS Biochemistry Department. By the time he obtained his PhD in 2007, he had already published 10 papers and clinched an outstanding examiners report.

For his outstanding achievements in computational immunology, he has also won recognition beyond the shores of Singapore. In 2008, Dr Tong became the first native Singaporean to clinch the coveted TR35 award from MIT Technology Review. We congratulate him for both his local and global accolades as he did his alma mater proud.

