

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

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**25<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

### **TLL Scientist Receives President's Science Award 2013**

Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory (TLL) would like to congratulate Prof Yu Hao for receiving the prestigious 2013 President's Science Award. This award is in recognition of his outstanding contribution to scientific research in the field of plant functional genomics and its biotechnological applications to economically important crops.

Prof Yu Hao, Senior Principal Investigator at TLL and Professor at the Department of Biological Sciences in National University of Singapore, joined TLL to set up his independent research group in 2004 where he began his quest in uncovering the molecular genetic mechanisms of plant reproductive development using *Arabidopsis* as a model plant.

In the last decade, Prof Yu has been dedicated to his field of research and has published in several prestigious journals. Many of his recent findings provided ground-breaking understanding on plant reproductive development. His team identified a protein that acts as a regulator to control the migration of a key florigen protein which provides signal to switch the growing tip of a plant's shoot from making leaves to making flowers. This finding has been published in an international journal *PLoS Biology*. His recent breakthroughs also included the discovery of a genetic pathway that is conserved across flowering plants to regulate branching pattern and a mechanism that balances plant growth and defence by controlling two phytohormone pathways, both of which have been published in the leading international journal *Developmental Cell*.

Understanding the control of flowering time and floral patterns will eventually help create crops that will grow faster with higher yield in response to different environments. Based on the fundamental discoveries on plant reproductive development of *Arabidopsis* and the platform technologies established, novel and high-value varieties with desirable traits can be created for economically important crops such as rice, orchid and oil palm.

Prof Yu Hao is the recipient of several awards and accolades such as the Singapore National Academy of Science Young Scientist Award in 2006, Singapore Youth Award for Science and Technology in 2007, Outstanding Scientist Award and Dean's Chair Professorship in NUS Faculty of Science in 2011. He also serves as an Editorial Board member for international refereed journals that are published by reputable publishers

such as Springer, PLoS, and Oxford University Press. He was also a reviewer for more than 35 international refereed journals, including the highly regarded *Science* and *Nature Genetics* journals.

#### **About President's Science Award**

The President's Science Award is presented to research scientists and engineers in Singapore who have made outstanding contributions in basic research leading to the discovery of new knowledge or the pioneering development of scientific or engineering techniques and methods. For more information, please visit <http://www.a-star.edu.sg/Awards-Scholarship/Overview.aspx>.

#### **About Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory (TLL)**

TLL, established in 2002, is a beneficiary of Temasek Trust and is affiliated to the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University. The research institute aims to build a preeminent organization of global talent to undertake bio-molecular science research and applications to benefit people in Asia and beyond. For more information, please visit [www.tll.org.sg](http://www.tll.org.sg).

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