

## Christopher Hewitt Outstanding Young Investigator Award



**Andy Tay Kah Ping, Imperial College London/National University of Singapore**

ECI is pleased to announce that Andy Tay Kah Ping is the winner of the first Christopher Hewitt Outstanding Young Investigator Award.

Andy Tay graduated in 2014 from NUS with a First-Class Honors in Biomedical Engineering. He later headed to the University of California, Los Angeles for his PhD studies and graduated in 2017 as the recipient of the Harry M Showman Commencement Award. As a PhD student, Andy also received the Helmsley Fellowship, Toshihiko Tokizane Memorial Award, Springer Thesis Prize and MRS Bulletin Postdoc Publication Prize.

Andy later received his postdoctoral training at Stanford University before heading to Imperial College London as an 1851 Royal Commission Brunel Research Fellow. For his research developing novel materials for biomedical applications, Andy is listed as a 2019 Forbes 30 Under 30 (US/Canada, Science), 2020 World Economic Forum Young Scientist, and 2020 The Straits Times '30 and Under' Young Singaporeans to Watch.

Andy is currently a Presidential Young Professor in NUS where he is leading a lab to develop technologies for immuno-engineering. There are three main thrusts in his lab including immune cell engineering, immune organ regeneration and immuno-stimulatory micro-robots for drug delivery.

Besides research, Andy is highly passionate in science mentoring and outreach. He has published in Nature, Science and The Scientist among others. For his commitment in evidence-based science communication, he has received the Highly Commended Runner-Up for the Queen's Young Leader Award, Travel Fellowship from Universcience (the largest European science museum) and a Visiting

Fellowship from the Museum of Arts and Sciences Sydney. He was also a Creativity in Research Scholar at Stanford University Design School where he created toy kits to better explain cancer immunotherapy for children going for clinical trials.

You can visit his lab webpage here: [andytaykp.com](http://andytaykp.com)

This award is in honor of Christopher Hewitt. He was a leading biological engineer, distinguished for his research using flow cytometry and cell sorting to understand the interaction of the cell with the bioreactor environment within such diverse areas as microbial fermentation, bio-remediation, bio-transformation, brewing and cell culture. He was also the co-founder of the Centre for Biological Engineering at Loughborough University, where he developed a world-leading team in regenerative medicine bioprocessing. In particular, his team made a significant contribution to the literature on the culture and recovery of fully functional human mesenchymal stem cells in stirred bioreactors based on sound biochemical engineering and fluid dynamic considerations essential to scale-up for commercialization. In recognition of his achievements, he was elected Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in 2018. Chris Hewitt was an active contributor to the ECI conference series "Advancing Manufacturing for Cell based and Gene Based Therapies". We will miss him. This is the first time this award will be presented.

The award is given to a promising young scientist whose work shows exceptional promise in the field of process development of cell based and gene based therapies. The award includes the opportunity to make a presentation at the conference.