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## Biotechnology Research at HKUST

The founding of the Biotechnology Research Institute (BRI) at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in 1991 was a significant step toward the development of biotechnology in Hong Kong. Three years after its establishment, some substantial research results have been achieved and plans are underway to turn these results into marketable products.

"To support research, BRI has set up facilities at HKUST focusing on different areas such as animal care, plant growth, cell culture, fermentation, and molecular structure," says Professor Tian-Yow Tsong, Director of BRI. "Research programmes that have achieved solid results include work on the development of new drug delivery systems, the identification of antioxidant ingredients in Chinese medicinal products and new method for the treatment of waste paper."

- Professor Jeffrey T.F. Wong is currently assisting a Hong Kong-based pharmaceutical company in producing improved controlled-release tablets for drugs. The tablets will be used with medicines to control irregular heart beating and rheumatoid arthritis.
- Dr Robert Ko is developing a fortified formula (sheng mai san) for the prevention of coronary heart disease. Discussions with a Vancouver-based health food manufacturer interested in bringing this product to the market are underway.
- Dr W.K. Wong, who has developed an innovative technique for the treatment of waste paper, is currently seeking a patent for this discovery.

Professor Tsong also sees great potential in other ongoing research projects, for examples the use of raman spectroscopy in biomedical applications and the genetic improvement of edible oils.

### Notes to Editor:

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