

NTU provost honoured for contributions

By AMELIA TENG

NANYANG Technological University (NTU) provost Freddy Boey is joining the ranks of top scientists in Britain.

He was awarded the prestigious Faculty of Medicine Fellowship by Imperial College London on Tuesday for his contributions to medicine.

Professor Boey, 56, has 25 global patents to his name and is passionate about research and education.

"I'm a scientist first," the Singaporean says, "and scientists are excited about ideas."

Over the last three years, he has won more than \$36 million in research grants.

This includes \$10 million from the National Research Foundation's Competitive Research Programme to develop fully biodegradable cardiovascular implants for hole-in-the-heart conditions.

He has invented breakthrough biomedical devices such as the world's smallest piezoelectric heart pump, which was unveiled in 2003, a disposable surgical tissue retractor that keeps wounds open during surgery and several types of stents that release different drugs for heart patients.

Among his most recent creations is a hernia mesh, a new surgical mesh that repairs tears in abdominal walls and makes them stronger. It is the first of its kind to be approved for sale by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

He joins a list of fellows such as Britain's first female professor of surgery, Professor Averil Mansfield, and Professor Dame Sally Davies, the chief medical officer of England.

Imperial College's Faculty of Medicine fellows are elected annually and the title is awarded to those who have shown outstanding achievements in their fields.

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Professor Boey has been given a prestigious award by Imperial College London.