NTU don wins Singapore National Academy of Science Young Scientist Award 2006
– recognised for excellence in research on biomedical robotics engineering

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Assistant Professor Louis Phee has won the Singapore National Academy of Science Young Scientist Award 2006, in recognition of his research excellence on biomedical robotics engineering.

Asst Prof Phee, from NTU’s School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (MAE), is a pioneer and expert in the development of in-body locomotion devices. In the course of his research, he has two U.S. patents granted and three pending, and has developed an automated colonoscopy robotic system which resulted in a spin-off company with more than S$2 million in investments.

He was the first Singaporean to win the Best Paper Award at the prestigious Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) International Conference on Robotics & Automation 2005 in Spain, beating 1700 other papers in the process. He was also awarded the Tan Kah Kee Award in 2001.

Asst Prof Louis Phee is currently developing a revolutionary robotic system to perform surgery without making incisions on the patient to access the organ of interest. His research group has termed this groundbreaking procedure as “No Scar Robotic Surgery”. The team is in the midst of testing a prototype of the robotic system and hopes to publicize preliminary results in the first half of 2007. He is also working on developing a novel biodegradable, self-tightening suturing thread made from shape memory polymers. In addition, Asst Prof Phee is also working on using ultrasound and CT imaging, coupled with mechatronics technologies to enable liver tumors to be localized during liver resection surgery.
Says Assistant Professor Louis Phee, of NTU MAE, "I am thankful to the Singapore National Academy of Science and the Agency for Science, Technology and Research for this special honour and equally appreciative to NTU for providing me with the opportunity and environment to be at the forefront of engineering research and contribute to NTU’s vision to be a global university of excellence in science and technology."

This award is organised by the Singapore National Academy of Science and supported by the Agency for Science, Technology and Research. It is presented to young researchers, aged 35 years or below, who are actively engaged in research and development in Singapore, and who have shown great potential to be world-class researchers in their fields of expertise. Recipients receive a trophy, certificate of commendation and a prize of S$10,000.

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About Nanyang Technological University

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is a research-intensive university with globally acknowledged strengths in science and engineering. The university is located in a garden campus in western Singapore, tracing its roots back to 1955.

NTU has 4 colleges comprising 12 schools. The College of Engineering comprises six schools focused on technology and innovation. Its research output ranks among the top four in the world. The College of Science pushes the boundaries of Singapore’s life sciences initiatives. The Nanyang Business School (the College of Business) offers one of the world's top 100 MBA programmes. The College of Humanities and Arts boasts Singapore's first professional art school offering degree courses in art, design and interactive digital media, the Humanities and Social Science School, and the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, a top journalism and media school in Asia.

The 13th school, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, will be inaugurated in 2007. An important component of this autonomous school is the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, long recognised as a world authority on strategic studies and terrorism.

NTU is also home to the internationally-acclaimed National Institute of Education, Singapore’s only teacher-training institute.

NTU has in place multi-country programmes and initiatives with established institutions worldwide. Key partners include MIT, Stanford University, Cornell University, Caltech, University of Washington, Carnegie Mellon University in USA, Peking University, Shanghai Jiaotong University, Waseda University, Indian Institute of Technology in Asia, Cambridge University, Imperial College and Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Europe.

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