

*Life Sciences Seminar Series 2023 - 2024*

## **Exploring the Common Future of Mankind and Fungi**

**Dr Alvin Tang,  
Hong Kong Baptist University**

Date: 13 May 2024 (Monday)

Time: 3:00 – 4:00pm

Venue: Science Center L2

### **Synopsis of the seminar**

Can fungi serve as a treatment for cancer and alleviate symptoms of depression?

Are mushrooms a healthier and preferable alternative to consuming meat?

Do fungi surpass chemical fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and antibiotics in effectiveness?

Do fungi have the ability to detoxify lethal substances, including nuclear radiation, heavy metals, and pesticides?

Can fungi transform into sustainable materials that align with carbon neutrality?

In this seminar, Dr. Alvin Tang, a local mycologist, will guide you through the “neglected megascience” of fungi, presenting a vision of a future enriched by fungal applications. He will discuss how these organisms can partner with us to create a sustainable future while addressing pressing global issues in food security, healthcare, waste management, and sustainability.

### **Brief biography**

Dr Alvin Tang serves as the Academic Coordinator for the Tree Management Programme at the School of Continuing Education, Hong Kong Baptist University. He has 25 years of experience in plant pathology, tree management, and fungal taxonomic research. Currently, Dr Tang is a member of a global consortium on Brown Root Rot Disease and a global consortium for the classification of Fungi. He is also a HKCAAVQ Accreditation Panel Member for "Arboriculture and Horticulture Industry". Dr. Tang's collaborative research with government departments over the past 15 years has significantly advanced the knowledge in tree pathology and the arboriculture industry. He has been interviewed by the media on 135 occasions, published 47 articles, and has served as an expert witness in notable court cases involving trees. In addition, he has authored two highly acclaimed books in popular science, titled “Fascinating Insights into the Mushroom World” (一菇一世界—菇菌趣味新知) and “Exploring the Common Future of Mankind and Fungi” (開拓人類與真菌的共同未來).