

WINNER OF *CARL SAGAN PRIZE FOR SCIENCE POPULARIZATION* ANNOUNCED

SAN FRANCISCO — Wonderfest, the 25-year-old Bay Area Beacon of Science, announced today that physician Dr. Peter Chin-Hong has won the 2022 *Carl Sagan Prize for Science Popularization*.

Wonderfest's Sagan Prize is presented specifically to recognize and encourage researchers who "have contributed mightily to the public understanding and appreciation of science." Past Sagan Prize winners include UC Berkeley gene editor Jennifer Doudna, SETI Institute astronomer Jill Tarter, and Stanford Nobel Laureate Paul Berg. The prize includes a \$5000 cash award.

"Wonderfest was born in 1997, just a few months after the death of researcher and popularizer Carl Sagan," notes the organization's founding executive director, Tucker Hiatt. "Wonderfest's work has been dedicated to Sagan's memory ever since. Sagan would be proud to know that Peter Chin-Hong, renowned for both his research and his outreach, has received Wonderfest's Sagan Prize for 2022."

Wonderfest is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to informal science education and popularization, particularly among adults in the San Francisco Bay Area. When pandemic constraints allow, Wonderfest produces in-person science events — and their online videos — in an effort to "enlarge the concept of scientific community." Wonderfest also produces "Science Envoy" workshops to develop the science communication skills of Bay Area PhD students.

Peter Chin-Hong is Professor of Medicine at UC San Francisco. His culturally diverse upbringing benefitted from parental Chinese influence within the surrounding African-and-Indo-Caribbean community of Trinidad and Tobago. Chin-Hong earned his bachelor's and MD degrees at Brown University, and he did his medical residency and infectious diseases fellowship at UCSF.

Chin-Hong's research focuses on donor-derived infections and molecular diagnostics in transplant recipients, and on infectious diseases in patients with suppressed immune systems. He has published more than 100 articles in peer-reviewed journals and books, and is the editor of two medical school textbooks.

Chin-Hong is a dedicated science communicator and teacher. At UCSF, he was the inaugural holder of the Academy of Medical Educators Endowed Chair for Innovation in Teaching. His other educator awards include the Henry J. Kaiser Award for Excellence in Teaching and five teaching awards from different UCSF graduating classes. Chin-Hong has been a leader of institutional and community education regarding COVID-19 and monkeypox, particularly among minority populations. Over the past two years, he has contributed to more than 4000 newspaper articles, podcasts, and radio & TV segments, including those of the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, NPR, CNN, and the BBC.

Additional information: <http://wonderfest.org/sagan-prize>

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