

Professor Kwok-Fai So

Professor Kwok-Fai So is Chair Professor and Head of the Department of Anatomy and Jessie Ho Professor in Neuroscience at The University of Hong Kong. He is also Honourary or Visiting Professor to a number of universities in China and the author and co-author of over 200+ heavily cited publications. In addition, So is Co-Director of the Hong Kong Spinal Cord Injury Fund.

So is one of the pioneers in the field of axonal regeneration in the visual system. He was the first to show lengthy regeneration of retinal ganglion cells in adult mammals with peripheral nerve graft. His research is also being applied to spinal cord injury (SCI) as he is currently using multiple approaches to promote axonal regeneration in the spinal cord. His team identifies neuroprotective and regenerative factors including: peptide nanofiber scaffold, trophic factors, herbal extracts, other small molecules, immune responses and environmental manipulation. Identification of these factors will help develop innovative strategies for promoting neuroprotection and neuroregeneration following SCI.

So's work demonstrates the importance of productive research collaboration; he is currently involved in no less than 40 collaborative research projects. The projects include collaborations within his department, between other departments at the University of Hong Kong, with neighbouring universities in and around Hong Kong and throughout mainland China and with a variety of research organizations and institutions around the world.

So is also developing the talent that will lead the next generation of researchers in China through his commitment to supervision of graduate students. The majority of his former students continue to engage in academic research.

Why Professor Kwok-Fai So is a Difference Maker

Professor So's steadfast commitment to and active participation in multidisciplinary and international collaborative research represents great hope for those who live with SCI. In addition, he continues to inspire the next generation, training researchers who will go on to develop the innovations of tomorrow and reminding that the best work lies in front of us.

