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Should there ever be a pill to boost entrepreneurship, let us hope that School of Science Adjunct Professor Dr Benjamin Xiaoyi Li has invented it. The pharmaceutical arena in which he competes is notoriously hard to survive. It entails a costly and lengthy research and development period; fiendishly complex regulation; and is a field that despite technology-inspired structural change is still dominated by “Big Pharma” multinationals. Yet the intrepid Mainland-born Thai-Chinese scientist and his listed company, Lee’s Pharmaceutical Holdings Limited, have not only beaten the odds. They have gone on to lead healthy and productive lives, clearly demonstrating how to combine entrepreneurial success with social commitment.

Since founding his company in 1994, Dr Li has built up a distinctive multi-service model spanning the range of a major pharma enterprise while still an SME. He has achieved this through a genius for academic and corporate partnerships, a concentrated focus on the Mainland market, and a deep personal desire to improve patient outcomes. In creating such a therapeutic cocktail, he has been inspired by his own days as a collaborative researcher, first in undertaking his PhD in pharmacology at the University of Illinois in Chicago and later at the renowned Parke-Davis Research Division of then Warner-Lambert. He has been impelled, as a former Mainland hospital pediatrician, by witnessing parents’ grief over their children’s illness and knowing what it is like to be a doctor without the tools to cure. He was also deeply affected by watching his own mother waste away and being unable to intervene.

While Dr Li cannot afford the thousands of PhDs that a Pfizer or GlaxoSmithKline employs, he has instead harnessed collaboration with university researchers, who are likewise seeking to discover new therapeutic understanding and pathways to transfer knowledge to the community. It is a win-win-win situation for academics, business, and treatment-seekers, and many faculty members, including senior School of Science researchers such as Prof Nancy Ip and Prof Karl Tsim, have been involved over the past 15 years of association with HKUST.

In addition, Dr Li has attracted cutting-edge biotechnology SMEs from east and west to work with him

如果世上有一種藥丸能夠推動創業，但願這是由香港科技大學理學院兼任教授李小羿博士發明。製藥業素來競爭激烈，能於業界立足絕非易事，製藥牽涉昂貴而冗長的研發階段及異常繁複的條例，就算能經得起由科技帶動的結構性改革，仍然未能打破由跨國大藥廠主導的局面。然而，這位堅毅不拔、於內地出生的泰國華僑科學家與其上市公司李氏大藥廠不但突破重圍，更引領積極健康的生活模式，展現成功企業與社會承擔如何融會相長。

李氏大藥廠自1994年創立以來，即使初期仍屬中小企，已建立多元服務模式，規模可媲美大型製藥企業。李博士運籌帷幄，善用產、學、研合作的優勢，集中發展內地市場，衷心希望幫助病者改善病況。他能夠成功把握機遇，卓然有成，源於他早年擔任協作研究員的經驗—李博士於美國伊利諾伊大學芝加哥分校取得藥理學博士，繼而於Warner-Lambert藥廠旗下、著名的Parke-Davis醫藥研究部工作。他曾經是內地醫院的兒科醫生，見證無數父母心痛孩子患病，亦明白醫生感到無能為力的那份難受。他更親眼看著母親在病榻上日漸衰微，自己卻無法減輕她半分苦楚。這種經歷，驅使他走上藥物研發的道路。

李博士雖未能負擔像美國輝瑞或英國葛蘭素史克藥廠那樣聘任數以千計擁有博士資歷的員工，卻一直與大學研究員合作無間；這些科研專才致力研發嶄新治療方法，並期望透過知識轉移，造福社群。對於學術界、商界與尋求治療的人士來說，這絕對是個三贏局面。李博士與科大所建立的三贏合作關係已達十五年，當中不少教授亦有參與其中，如科大理學院的資深科研專才葉玉如教授和詹華強教授等，建樹良多。

李博士吸引來自世界各地的頂尖生物科技中小企與他攜手合作，於創新範疇發揮所長。鑑於過去內地

on innovations further down the pipeline. It has taken patience, perseverance and passion, especially given the Mainland's past reputation on intellectual property. Fortunately, Dr Li has plenty of all three and, fueled by integrity and trust, is sparking a sea change.

Lee's now partners with more than 20 international companies, marketing proprietary and licensed-in pharmaceutical products in Mainland China to assist with hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and burns and wounds healing, among others. Headquartered at Hong Kong Science Park, the company has regularly been selected as one of Forbes magazine's "Asia's 200 Best Under a Billion" enterprises. In 2015, Dr Li received the honor of EY Entrepreneur of the Year China in the pharmaceutical and life sciences category. Best of all, the company is helping save lives.

While continuing to develop Lee's, Dr Li is also fostering future discoverers and entrepreneurs at HKUST. He has provided scholarships for Life Science research postgraduates studying traditional Chinese medicine or drug development; and pledged to establish a scholarship scheme for School of Science undergraduates on the fast-track international research enrichment program. In becoming an Adjunct Professor in 2013, Dr Li has enabled students as well as researchers to access his business insight and experience.

He sees the need for more young people to have the courage to launch their own enterprise, and to do so with a social purpose in mind. It can be all too easy in operating a business to let figures become the guiding force, especially in the Mainland market where large numbers regularly swim before the eyes – over 100 million now suffer from diabetes, for example. Yet for Dr Li, these are not the only calculations that count. Believing strongly that all are equally deserving of treatment, he is also working on rare diseases.

For being in business in his view is not about personal gain, but an all-round responsibility to improve people's lives, whether building a market or putting a smile on a single patient's face. In providing such a sterling example of socially driven entrepreneurship, we are delighted to honor Dr Benjamin Li today.

在保護知識產權方面的往績，游說合作特別講求耐性、毅力與熱誠；可幸李博士具備所有條件，兼且品格高尚、誠實可靠，結果為公司帶來正面而巨大的變革。

李氏大藥廠現與二十多間國際企業合作，為專賣及領有牌照的藥品拓展內地市場，從而促進有關高血壓、心血管疾病、燙傷、及傷口癒合等治療。公司總部落戶香港科學園，李氏大藥廠屢獲《福布斯雜誌》選為「亞洲最佳中小企業（每年營業額不超過十億美元）二百強」之一。2015年，李博士獲得「安永企業家獎－中國」生命科學類別的殊榮。而最值得驕傲的是，公司時刻都在拯救生命。

李博士繼續將藥廠業務發揚光大的同時，亦不忘提攜後進，致力培育科大未來的發明家與企業家。他捐資助學，開設獎學金鼓勵研究傳統中藥或藥品開發的生命科學研究生，並承諾為理學院國際科研課程的本科生設立獎學金。2013年，李博士出任科大兼任教授，以其商業觸覺及實戰經驗啟導學生與研究員，令大家獲益良多。

李博士認為有需要鼓勵更多年青人創業，並應以服務社會為出發點。事實上，經營企業很容易會被數字支配，尤其在國內市場，龐大數字觸目皆是一以內地糖尿病患者為例，人數已超過一億。然而對於李博士來說，數字並非衡量事情的唯一標準，他一視同仁，深信所有病者同樣有接受治療的機會，亦致力研究治療罕有病患的藥物。

在他的理念中，營商非為個人利益，而是要擔起令世界更善更美的責任—不管是將創新藥物引入市場，還是為病人帶來曙光，令他們展露歡顏。李博士以關懷民生福祉為大前提興家立業，為社會樹立楷模，殊堪表揚。