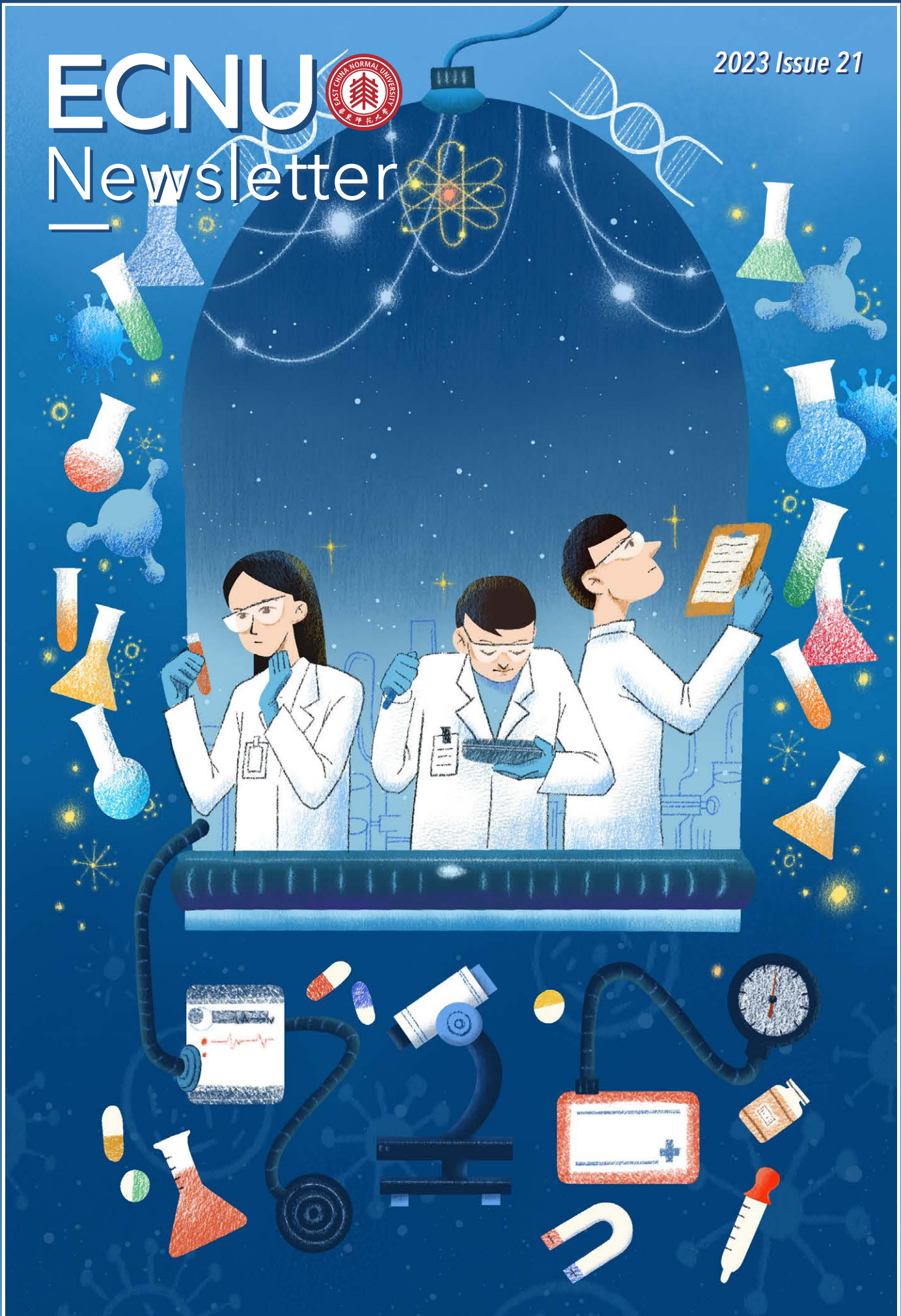


ECNU Newsletter



2023 Issue 21



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EAST CHINA NORMAL UNIVERSITY



Headlines

Chinese physical education goes out into the world

November 1, the World Physical Education Alliance (WPEA) International Conference was held at East China Normal University (ECNU).

Physical education experts, researchers, and teachers from over 10 countries including Australia, China (including Hong Kong, China), Cuba, Egypt, India, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Singapore, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States (in alphabetical order) gathered at ECNU with the theme of "Inspiring Change, Empowering Future". They engaged in in-depth exchanges and discussions on the innovation and future development of physical education, shared experiences and achievements, and established cooperation and connections, with nearly 20,000 people participating online.

In April 2023, the WPEA was officially established by ECNU, building up a network of the alliance members spanning five continents and 25 countries/regions. Professor Ji Liu and Professor Wang Xiaozan of the College of Physical Education and Health of ECNU were elected, respectively, as the first President and Secretary-General of the WPEA, which has attracted widespread attention from various sectors of society. Over the past six months, the Board has not only amended, reviewed, and approved the Alliance's Bylaws but also developed planning and discussions on its future. This conference marks the Alliance's inaugural global offline event and formal establishment as an organization.

The conference started with a series of traditional Chinese national art performances by ECNU's Aerobic Team. Yang Guiren, Executive Deputy Director of the Committee for Caring for the Next Generation, Ministry of Education, Former Director of the Department of Physical Education, Health and Arts, Ministry of Education, Chairman of the Sports and Health Branch, Chinese Education Society, attended the opening ceremony along with Qian Xuhong, President of ECNU. Also attending were Sun Zhenrong, Deputy Director, Shanghai Municipal Education Commission, Lan Jingli, Secretary of the Communist Party of China of Harbin Sport University, Ji Liu, the first President of the WPEA, the Dean of the College of Physical Education and Health, and Professor Guan Hongwei from Ithaca College in the United States, who previously served as the President of the International Chinese Society for Physical Activities and Health. Additionally, nearly 40 representatives from the WPEA Council, representing over 10 countries and regions, as well as representatives and special representatives from the Sub-Alliance of National School Physical Education Alliance (Physical Education) attended the opening ceremony. The ceremony was hosted by Gu Hongliang, Vice President of ECNU.

Qian Xuhong delivered the welcome speech. He expressed his warm welcome to all the experts and scholars who came from afar. He said that the discipline of physical education of ECNU has developed into a flagship of physical education in Chinese colleges and universities, making important contributions to the reform and development of physical education and sports in Shanghai and the country. As a leader in Chinese physical education, Qian emphasized the responsibility and mission of utilizing unique advantages to make greater contributions to global physical education and health.



01

Yang Guiren stated that physical education is an education of body and mind, an education of a globalized form, and an education for future. The establishment of the WPEA will provide an international platform for cooperation and dialogue for physical education professionals worldwide, promoting extensive, diverse, multilevel, and high-level cooperation and communication between countries globally, and initiating a new era of international physical education cooperation and exchange.



02

Sun Zhenrong expressed expectations for the future development of the WPEA. He hoped that the WPEA, focusing on the healthy development of global children and adolescents, would continue to pay attention to their physical and mental well-being, stimulate innovation and creativity, gather global wisdom to establish new models of physical education, strengthen the global perspective, incorporate sustainable development, and construct a sound global physical education ecosystem. He also committed to continue supporting the development of ECNU and contribute to ECNU's new era of physical education, which is characterized by ECNU's traits, Shanghai's qualities, Chinese characteristics, and a global vision.



03

During the opening ceremony, Professor Dionisio Silva, Vice President of the University of Havana in Cuba, Professor Dale Ulrich, the University of Michigan in the United States, Associate Professor Lee Wharton, the Queensland University of Technology in Australia, along with Executive Deputy Director Yang Guiren, President Qian Xuhong, and Deputy Director Sun Zhenrong, unveiled the plaque for the WPEA, marking its official establishment.



04

At the conference, Professor Ji Liu, gave a speech titled "Reform and Development of Physical Education and Health Curriculum in Primary and Secondary Schools in China Oriented by Competencies". Based on the latest release of The Curriculum Standards for Physical Education and Health in Compulsory Education (2022 Edition) and The General High School Curriculum Standards in Physical Education and Health (2017 Edition), he introduced the overall framework and development trends of China's primary and secondary school physical education and health curriculum in the new era.

He emphasized in particular that the English version of *The General High School Curriculum Standards in Physical Education and Health* (2017 Edition) has been published and distributed to every participant. The publication of the English version of *The General High School Curriculum Standards in Physical Education and Health* (2017 Edition) will strongly promote Chinese physical education to the world, highlight the characteristics of Chinese physical education, and help promote global exchanges on physical education and health education, improving the physical and mental health levels of children and adolescents worldwide.



05

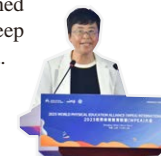
The opening ceremony ended with a performance of traditional Chinese martial arts.

According to Wang Xiaozan, the conference included not only keynote speeches, invited speeches, oral and poster presentations, covering research fields such as Physical Education and Sport Pedagogy, Motor Development and Learning, Physical Activity and Health Promotion, Sports and Exercise Psychology, as well as Exercise Physiology and Health-Related Fitness, which brought participants the latest information in physical education, but also workshops and social sessions, which showcased China's unique concepts and practices in physical education through on-site displays and exchanges.



08

Professor Wang Xiaozan launched The Shanghai Initiative for "Keep Daily Life" Action to the world.



06



The WPEA representatives from 10 countries and regions including Australia, China, Egypt, Singapore, New Zealand, North Macedonia, and the UK (in alphabetical order) jointly pressed the "Keep Daily Life" action button, witnessing the WPEA "set sail" once again. This initiative calls upon countries and regions around the world to join hands together, establish and practice the action vision of Prosperity-oriented, Integration-oriented, Community-oriented, Lifestyle-oriented, and Intelligence-oriented physical education, jointly promote the high-quality development of world physical education, and enable children and adolescents to "exercise every day, live a happy life forever". The initiative emphasizes strengthening the connection between physical education and the development of the nation, to promote the spirit of sports, create a vibrant and active campus, value the positive role of families and communities in promoting the healthy growth of children and adolescents, advocate physical activities as an essential component of daily life, and construct a global and regional digital and intelligent service platform for promoting the physical education and health of children and adolescents.

07



Chinese, Russian experts and diplomats discuss emerging world order

The Valdai Discussion Club and the Center for Russian Studies at East China Normal University hosted a conference titled "Crisis and Global Transformation: China and Russia Facing the Challenges of a Changing World Order" in Shanghai from Nov 16 to 17.

The event brought together more than 60 experts and scholars from leading think tanks and diplomats from the two countries who had in-depth exchanges aimed at promoting comprehensive strategic cooperation between China and Russia in the new era.

The conference was divided into four sessions.

- 01 the political dialogue between Russia and China in the new conditions.
- 02 multilateral cooperation in Greater Eurasia and the Asia-Pacific region.
- 03 information and communication problems between the two countries.
- 04 the problems of globalization and regionalization.

The Sino-Russian conference of the Valdai Discussion Club is a multi-level, multi-faceted and multi-functional international exchange mechanism.

The Center for Russian Studies of East China Normal University has held the conference eight times since 2010.

The President of East China Normal University Qian Xuhong noted that the world is now at a crossroad, and this has created an occasion to discuss the organization of the emerging world order.

Andrey Bystritskiy, Chairman of the Board of the Foundation for Development and Support of the Valdai Discussion Club, emphasized the importance of creative thinking in paving the way forward for the world.

"The creative feature of such meetings is very important in bringing about a world where it will be easier for people to live," he said.

Chen Hao, advisor to the Department of Europe and Central Asia at the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, noted that Russia and China have strengthened their mutual trust and supported each other's interests over the years. He pointed out that the high-quality interaction and economic cooperation between Moscow and Beijing have resulted in a trade turnover of \$190 billion in 2022, a 29 percent year-on-year increase. Moreover, national currencies are used in about 90 percent of cross-border payments.

According to Chen, conflicts in the world now occur not because of contradictions between liberal and authoritarian regimes, but due to attempts to retain the elusive leadership of a weakening world hegemon. Russia and China, in turn, support a world order based on the supremacy of international law and adhere to multipolarity and multilateralism. The diplomat added that Russia and China will strengthen international cooperation and support justice.



ECNU hosts the 2nd International Mega-Delta Meeting to Advance Delta Sustainability

November 6 saw the grand opening of the 2nd International Mega-Delta Meeting hosted by ECNU in Shanghai. Under the theme "Delta Sustainability – Seeking Solutions for Sustainable Development", the conference brought together over 200 experts and scholars from 17 countries, including China, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Egypt, Tanzania, the Netherlands, Norway, Croatia, Russia, the United States, Chile, Brazil, and Uruguay. The participants engaged in in-depth discussions on research findings from over 20 river delta regions worldwide, offering valuable insights and recommendations for the future development of deltaic areas.

During the opening ceremony, the latest academic achievement of the "Mega-Delta Programme": *Delta Sustainability: A Report to the Mega-Delta Programme of the UN Ocean Decade*, was officially released. "Seventy-four researchers from 13 countries contributed to this report, which took two years to compile. The editorial team overcame multiple adverse challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and is delighted to present the report to the public today," explained Prof. Weiguo Zhang, the lead editor of the Report and professor of the State Key Laboratory of Estuarine and Coastal Research, ECNU.

The *Report* focuses on 16 representative large river delta regions worldwide, encompassing deltas in different climate zones ranging from tropical to polar, with varying levels of economic development and diverse geomorphic features. The report provides a detailed analysis of five aspects of each delta, including the natural environment, socio-economic characteristics, challenges faced, management



measures, and outlook. Based on this analysis, the report distills the overarching sustainable development issues and management challenges confronting deltas globally.

The two-day conference featured four sub-forums focusing on Coastal Flooding and Hydrodynamics, Coastal Erosion, Sedimentation, Geomorphic Dynamics, Coastal Zone System Biogeochemistry and Wetland and Coastal Zone Management. Scientists from 17 countries across Asia, Africa, Europe, and North and South America exchanged ideas and insights on the latest achievements in the fields of hydrodynamic sedimentation processes, biogeochemical cycling in deltaic regions, disaster prevention and mitigation strategies, wetland conservation and restoration, as well as sustainable resource utilization, management, and regulation in delta areas. The conference also delved into the implementation of the "Mega-Delta Programme" endorsed by the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, aiming to address the challenges faced by deltas through multilateral and bilateral cooperation, thereby making valuable contributions to achieving global sustainable development goals for the oceans.

NYU renews cooperation with ECNU

East China Normal University and New York University signed a memorandum of understanding for a new cooperation cycle on September 9 in Shanghai during a NYU delegation visit led by the university's new president Linda Mills.

ECNU and NYU have been cooperating closely in the fields of talent training and joint scientific research since 2012 when the two jointly established NYU Shanghai.

NYU Shanghai, the third degree-granting campus of the NYU Global Network, is the first Sino-US research university in China and

regarded as a pilot program in China-US educational cooperation.

According to the memorandum jointly signed by ECNU President Qian Xuhong and NYU President Mills on ECNU's campus in downtown Shanghai, the two parties will continue to support the current talent training and joint scientific research projects of the two universities and actively explore emerging win-win and mutually beneficial projects.

Qian said ECNU has been adhering to the development concepts of innovation, coordination, green, openness and sharing to achieve excellence in intelligent education, digital humanities, social computing, health management, big data governance and other fields.

He hopes that in the new cooperation cycle, the two universities will continue to adopt an innovative, open, inclusive and pragmatic attitude; work together to

face global issues; and set an example for active participation in global governance in the field of education.

President Mills said that ECNU, driven by an international education strategy, is a natural partner for NYU, which is committed to building a university featuring a global education system.

She said this has given the two schools valuable opportunities to stand at the forefront of scientific and technological development, break down traditional subject boundaries, enable cross-border mobility of teachers and students, and promote global education.

Mills added that she firmly believes this consensus will provide continuous impetus for future cooperation between the two universities and she hopes that the level and radiation effect of cooperation between the two universities can be further expanded in the future.



East China Normal University - St. Petersburg National University of Economics China Research Center established

October 27, the "East China Normal University-St. Petersburg National University of Economics China Research Center" was unveiled at St. Petersburg National University of Economics in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

Qian Xuhong, President of ECNU, delivered a congratulatory message via video. President Qian pointed out that the establishment of the "East China Normal University - St. Petersburg National University of Economics China Research Center" is a new step taken by the two universities in the process of deepening cooperation. The center will serve as a think tank for promoting scientific research, a window for cultural display, and a base for talent cultivation.

Dmitry Vasilenko, Vice President of St. Petersburg National University of Economics, pointed out in his speech

that China and Russia are comprehensive strategic cooperation partners. The establishment of the China Research Center at St. Petersburg National University of Economics will help strengthen cooperation between the two universities and promote exchanges between the Chinese and Russian people. The establishment of the center is of great significance.

Liu Jun, Executive Director of the Russian Research Center at ECNU, and Dmitry Vasilenko jointly unveiled the "China Research Center at East China Normal University St. Petersburg State University of Economics".



ECNU establishes overseas office in Lyon, France

November 30, the unveiling ceremony of the ECNU Lyon Office was held in France. The ECNU Lyon Office is situated on the former site of the Institut Franco-Chinois, the century-old witness of Sino-French exchanges, in the Fourvière.

Mei Bing, Chair of the University Council, and Thierry de la Tour d'Artaise, President of the Nouvel Institut Franco-Chinois, Lyon-China Relations Promotion Center, and Chairman of Groupe SEB, jointly unveiled the overseas office. Lu Shaye, Chinese Ambassador to France, Lu Qingjiang, Consul General of China in Lyon, Helene Dromain, Vice President of Metropolitan Lyon who is in charge of international relations, and Mireille Bossy, Vice President of the University of Lyon who is in charge of foreign affairs, attended and witnessed the ceremony.

In his speech, Thierry de la Tour d'Artaise expressed his gratitude to ECNU for the continued strong support to the New Sino-French Institute of Lyon since its establishment. The renewal of the agreement between the two parties and the establishment of the ECNU Lyon Office will further promote exchanges and cooperation between China and France. He mentioned that they would take the 60th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between China and France as an opportunity to devise a series of celebration activities with ECNU.

The ECNU Lyon Office will serve as an office and academic activity venue for teachers and students who come to Lyon for exchanges and will also serve the recruitment, employment, high-end training, and corporate visits of international students from the Asia Europe Business School of ECNU. Moreover, ECNU will also send staff to the Lyon Office to assist in the advancement of international cooperation programs in Lyon to enhance the connections between ECNU and related universities, institutions, and enterprises in Lyon and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, laying the foundation for more forms of exchanges and cooperation in the future.

Currently, ECNU has signed cooperation agreements with 28 universities and institutions in France, encompassing a variety of types of French higher education, such as comprehensive universities, École normale supérieure, grand école business schools, and advanced research institutions.

"The establishment of the ECNU Lyon Office on the former site of the Institut Franco-Chinois, created a century ago, represents a practical action for us to commemorate and inherit the spirit of Sino-French friendship, and demonstrates the great importance that Chinese universities attach to Sino-French cooperation and openness to the outside world."



Mei Bing said that ECNU would contribute to building a more mature and stable Sino-France relationship and play a positive role in building a community with a shared future for mankind.

ECNU scholars make the groundbreaking discovery of topologically chiral molecules with high spin filtering selectivity

Topological chirality refers to the property of molecules that cannot be continuously deformed into their mirror images in three-dimensional space. It is a research field involving multiple disciplines, including mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, and materials science. This field has become the forefront of international research. Compared to the extensively studied classical Euclidean chirality, the exploration of properties and applications of topologically chiral molecules is still in its early stage.

Prof. Hai-Bo Yang and his team from the School of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering of ECNU have made significant progress in the interdisciplinary fields of topological chirality and spintronics, in collaboration with Prof. Chun-Gang Duan's team from the School of Physics and Electronic Science of ECNU; Researcher Yutao Sang from Fudan University; Prof. Ron Naaman from the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel; and Prof. Jonas Fransson from Uppsala University in Sweden. For the first time, they have discovered topologically chiral molecular trefoil knots exhibiting both high spinfiltering capability and high conductivity. These research findings entitled "Highly conductive topologically chiral molecular knots as efficient spin filters" have been published in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, a prestigious international chemistry journal. The paper was also selected as the cover article.

Through their findings, scholars from ECNU have applied topological chirality to the study of spin-selective electron transport for the first time.



The international research team discovered that topologically chiral molecular trefoil knots exhibit high spinfiltering efficiency, high conductivity, and high thermal stability. These findings have provided a crucial direction for the development of efficient and stable organic spinfiltering materials and the construction of room-temperature spintronics devices.

The paper's first author is Danyang Zhang, a doctoral student from the School of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering, ECNU, and the first corresponding institute is ECNU.

How to stack coins? ECNU research team reveals the stack structure transformation mechanism of disk-like particles

Xia Chengjie, a researcher from the School of Physics and Electronic Sciences of ECNU, along with Hu Bingwen's team of Shanghai Key Laboratory of Magnetic Resonance, have made a new discovery about the anomalous structural ordering transition in the stacking of disk-like particles. By using magnetic-resonance imaging techniques, the results from their research findings reveal the essential differences and profound connections between the macroscopic disk-like particle systems and the microscopic disk-like liquid crystal molecular systems.

The stacking of disk-like particles is a universal problem in many scientific and industrial fields, such as disk-like liquid crystal molecules, clay particles, graphite layers in batteries, and even some industrial raw materials or flat gravel debris. Thus, it is valuable to understand and control the stacking structure of these systems, which are crucial for comprehending and manipulating their macroscopic mechanical and transport properties.

For particle systems in thermal equilibrium, there are relatively mature theoretical models for analyzing the statistical regularities of their stacking structures, while for more common macroscopic particle systems in non-thermal equilibrium, the basic geometric features of their packing structures are not yet known. For example, how coins are arranged after being thrown randomly into a piggy bank still remains a mystery to researchers in the field.

The applications of magnetic-resonance imaging and image processing techniques allow researchers to reconstruct the stacking structures of coin-shaped disk-like particles. For example, they found that the macroscopic orientation order of the disks has decreased as the stacking system became denser. If there appears to be more order among the structure of the particles, then the closer they can be arranged. In this explanation, the anomalous phenomenon is opposite to the phase transition observed in rod-like or disk-like hard particles in thermal equilibrium, making it challenging to understand through classical Onsager's theory of entropy-driven phase transitions.

Through more in-depth structural analyses and the construction of statistical mechanical models, researchers believe that the packing structures of disk-like particles were initially formed at a small scale, and that these stack-

Relevant research was published in *Physical Review Letters* on September 1st under the title "Structural Transformation between a Nematic Loose Packing and a Randomly Stacked Close Packing of Granular Disks", selected as "Editor's Suggestion", and featured in a Focus article on the homepage of the American Physical Society's Physics website (<https://physics.aps.org/articles/v16/150>). The first author of the paper is Ding Yunhao, a master's student of ECNU. The research involved the participation of Prof. Hu Bingwen and Prof. Li Jianqi.



ing structures mutually "block" each other. Due to this process, it is creating a blocked state that cannot further relax into a more ordered structure, which in turn reduces the orientation order of the system at a larger scale.

This structural transition mechanism also reflects the profound connection between the particle stacking systems and the glassy systems. Research on typical non-thermal equilibrium systems can also help understand the complex metastable phenomena of disk-like microparticle systems in non-thermal equilibrium states, establishing a more universal statistical mechanical model.

In recent years, the research team has continuously explored the application of magnetic resonance imaging in particle physics and soft matter physics. This process has achieved a series of innovative results, which have caused new findings from the latest field research. For instance, some representative achievements include the cubic symmetry phase transition of cylindrical particle stacking and the properties of the blocked states of hydrogel soft particles.

Those recent studies have fully leveraged the advanced magnetic-resonance imaging technology to successfully reconstruct the stacking structure of disk-like particles, which was previously a challenging idea. In the future, the research team will continue to explore new modes of interdisciplinary research between magnetic-resonance imaging and soft condensed matter physics.

Mikael Rørdam appointed as Honorary Professor of ECNU

August 1, the Appointment Ceremony and the Academic Lecture of Honorary Professor Mikael Rørdam was held on Putuo Campus, ECNU. Yang Changli, Vice Secretary of ECNU CPC Committee, attended the ceremony on behalf of the university and presented the Honorary Professor Certificate and the university emblem to Prof. Mikael Rørdam in recognition of Prof. Rørdam's outstanding contributions and academic achievements in the field of mathematics. The Appointment Ceremony was presided over by Lyu Changhong, Dean of School of Mathematical Sciences.

Yang Changli, stated that Prof. Mikael Rørdam, as an outstanding representative in the field of mathematics, exemplifies remarkable academic achievements and profound scholarly accomplishments. He has made substantial research contributions in such areas as operator algebras and functional analysis, enjoying a high reputation in the international academic community. Since his initial visit to ECNU in 1997, Prof. Mikael Rørdam has visited and lectured at our university numerous times over the past 25 years, maintaining a strong academic collaboration and exchange relationship with the Research Center for Operator Algebras (RCOA), ECNU. ECNU sincerely appreciates his unwavering support for the academic development of our university. His affiliation will no doubt provide academic resources and intellectual support for ECNU's academic exchange, cooperation, and disciplinary development, enriching opportunities and possibilities for academic exchange and international collaboration.



Prof. Rørdam, in his acknowledgment speech, expressed his commitment to maintaining close ties with our university, and promoting academic exchanges and collaboration, thus making his due contribution to the development of the discipline.



Mikael Rørdam
华东师范大学荣誉教授
受聘仪式



After the ceremony, Prof. Rørdam delivered an academic lecture: Inclusions of C^* -algebras to the faculty and students on site.

Prof. Mikael Rørdam

Prof. Mikael Rørdam, serving as Fellow of the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and a professor of the University of Copenhagen, is a leading figure in the international field of operator algebras research. He has long devoted himself to research in areas such as operator algebras, dynamical systems, geometric group theory, and K-theory. His research findings have been published in top ranking mathematical journals including *Annals of Mathematics* and *Acta Mathematica*, and his papers have been cited over 2,800 times in total. Due to his outstanding contributions to the structure and classification theory of C^* -algebras, Prof. Rørdam was invited to deliver a plenary lecture at the 25th International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) held in Madrid in 2006.

ECNUers Ge Manqi and Lin Yuwei win gold at 19th Asian Games



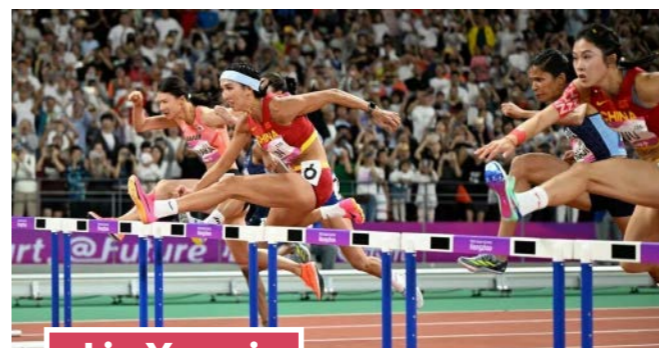
Ge Manqi

"There's still a gap with our peak performance, I believe we can further improve."

Later, on October 3, in the Women's 4x100m event, Ge Manqi, together with Liang Xiaojing, Wei Yongli, Yuan Qiqi clocked a winning time of 43.39 seconds for China. This was also Ge Manqi's second gold medal at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou.



September 30, Chinese sprinter Ge Manqi, a graduate student majoring in Physical Education and Training at ECNU, claimed the Women's 100m title at the Hangzhou Asian Games. Ge clocked a winning time of 11.23 seconds. Veronica Shanti Pereira of Singapore claimed silver with 0.04 seconds behind Ge, while Hajar Saad Saeed Saad Alkhaldi of Bahrain took the bronze in 11.35.



Lin Yuwei

On the evening of October 1, host hurdler Lin Yuwei, an undergraduate student majoring in Physical Education of the Class of 2019 at ECNU, triumphed with a personal best 12.74 seconds, which also met the entry standard of the Paris Olympics.



Congratulations to Ge and Lin!



Campus

Mrs. Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor visits ECNU and delivers speech

October 19, Mrs. Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, former Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, visited ECNU and delivered a fascinating lecture. Mei Bing, Chair of the University Council, Qian Xuhong, President of ECNU, and Gu Hongliang, Vice President of ECNU met with Mrs. Carrie Lam Yuet-ngor and her delegation.

Before the lecture, Mei Bing and Qian Xuhong held a warm discussion with Mrs. Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor at Boqun Hall near Liwa River. They extended a sincere welcome to her and introduced the university's history, academic

distinctiveness, and collaboration with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on educational initiatives. They emphasized the university's initiatives in promoting excellence in education, academic research and services, and accelerating the construction of a world-class university with Chinese characteristics that leads innovation in education.

Around 9:00 a.m., the lecture by Mrs. Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor officially began. Chaired by Gu Hongliang, the lecture attracted several hundred teachers and students.

Mrs. Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor expounded on the historical background, origin, and development of the "One Country, Two Systems" policy. She also conducted a comprehensive analysis of the challenges faced during its implementation. Confronted with adversity, the Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has consistently adhered to and improved the practice of "One Country, Two Systems." By establishing and upholding a series of legal systems, policies, and measures, the government has fully and faithfully implemented the policy of "One Country, Two Systems". This has marked the beginning of a new journey for Hong Kong, transitioning from governance to prosperity, shaping the future of Hong Kong.

Mrs. Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor highlighted the opportunities and challenges of education in Hong Kong and introduced

Qian Xuhong delivered a welcome speech in which he expressed his deep appreciation for Mrs. Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor's contributions to the stable development of Hong Kong. He said that Hong Kong, as the first pilot for the "One Country, Two Systems" policy, has achieved significant results.



various talent programs initiated by the Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. She welcomed students to come to Hong Kong for study, internships, and career development. In closing, she quoted from Li Lanqing's Education For 1.3 Billion, saying, "Education is fundamental to a country and its people, holding paramount significance, requiring long-term efforts, and facing substantial challenges." She encouraged all faculty and students and expressed her wish that ECNU would cultivate more outstanding talents dedicated to the country and the society.

A New Landmark! Grand Neobay Cultural Arts Center inaugurated

October 16, the anniversary day of the founding of ECNU, an impressive silver complex—the Grand Neobay Culture Arts Center, covering a total floor area of 27,456m², made a stunning debut in the northeastern part of Minhang Campus, ECNU.

With the construction standards of "a national key laboratory in the field of culture and art", the Grand Neobay Cultural Arts Center is one of the newest and most professionally equipped art theaters in Shanghai. It is also the only cultural and art complex in the southern part of Minhang District, dedicated to creating an excellent experimental base for artistic education and a source of cultural innovation.

Its main theatre covers an area of more than 7,000m², with a main stage that is 20 meters wide, 22 meters deep, and 33.05 meters high. The underground stage is about 420m² with the deepest basement 14m below ground. There is also an orchestra elevator outside the opening. The main stage highlights a continuously variable elevator stage that can rise and fall within 4.5m above and below the usual stage surface, accompanied with flexible lighting and setting forms, all of which are intelligently controlled.

In addition to performance spaces, the Center also has a multi-function hall, exhibition halls, a rehearsal hall, an orchestra rehearsal hall, a chorus rehearsal hall, a piano room and other supporting rooms. Among them, the multi-function hall is available for hosting special meetings, lectures and cultural activities; the exhibition halls are of various dimensions and equipped with standard exhibition facilities to accommodate a wide range of cultural



exhibitions. They can be also used as venues for academic meetings and daily teaching activities. The rehearsal halls can be flexibly configured with various teaching and rehearsal equipment to meet the demands of different teaching and performance setups.

On the night of October 16, the opening ceremony was held at the Grand Neobay Culture Arts Center, with more than one thousand staff, students and citizen representatives in attendance.

Qian Xuhong, President of ECNU, stated that as a new platform for excellence in education and a new landmark for cultural construction of ECNU, the Grand Neobay Cultural Arts Center would provide staff and students of the university, cultural groups and citizens in the community with a well-equipped space for cultural exhibition and performances, art education, and cultural innovation and transformation.

Greeting 2024: ECNU New Year's Concert held

丽娃河之夜·2024新年音乐会

The "Night by the Liwa River" concert took place in Grand Neobay Cultural Arts Center at ECNU Minhang campus on December 23.

As ECNU's annual flagship New Year's celebration, the concert was held for university staff, students, alumni and partners to celebrate a night of musical inspiration and magic.

The night began with a speech delivered by Qian Xuhong, President of ECNU, who sent New Year's greetings to the university's alumni and friends all over the world. He expressed his gratitude towards all staff and alumni for their continuous support to the university's development over the past year.

The concert was conducted by the renowned conductor Professor Chang Lin and pianist Zhang Xujia.

The "Night by the Liwa River" New Year's Concert was launched in 2014 as a means to express ECNU's gratitude for all alumni and friends throughout the globe for their energetic support in the past year and the best wishes to them in the coming new year.

Jointly hosted by the ECNU Alumni Association, Education Development Foundation and School of Music, the concert has become a special tradition for the university to ring out the old year and ring in the new year.



ECNU artists and other well-known singers performed at the concert.



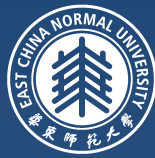
Embracing the world at ECNU 17th International Cultural Festival

November 4, the lawn in front of the Wen Shi building was full of color, vibrancy, and rhythm. ECNU celebrated the Mini Expo and Gala Show, which are the classic events of the International Cultural Festival.

There were booths representing 70 countries and regions at this year's Mini Expo. According to the Global Education Center, the number of participating students, participating countries, and performing programs have all achieved the highest numbers in history!

In the evening, the Chinese and foreign students performed together on the stage to highlight their range of talents. Participants experienced a day filled with exciting performances, mouthwatering cuisines, and captivating displays of art and traditions.

Starting in 2007, ECNU International Cultural Festival has been held for 17 consecutive years. This festival is not just about food, it's about bringing communities together, showcasing different cultures, and celebrating the diversity of our community's languages, traditions, arts, and values.



Creativity
Character
Community

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