



**蕭錦榮博士**  
**Professor K.W. Michael Siu**

## 不懈探索 永不放棄 盡享科研樂趣的化學家蕭錦榮博士

「我沒有太多其他愛好，最享受的就是科學探索，無盡的求知欲，讓我不斷去追求大自然的奧秘。」平白而樸實的道白，這是蕭錦榮博士自我的勾勒，一個享受浩瀚大自然探索的科學家形象，恰是這位加國頂尖化學家的最佳寫照。

移民先鋒 豐碩科研成就

科學家，宇宙大自然的揭秘者，常人總對他們有種古板枯燥的印象，那每天沉浸在化學分子之中的科學家又會如何？

踏進約克大學質譜學研究中心，你可以見到一個遊走在大型電子儀器間生龍活虎的蕭錦榮，面對著科研內容，他可以神采飛揚般的健談，似乎所有的化學分子都會為之而飛舞，他如同在奏響一曲分子交響曲。

約克大學化學系教授蕭錦榮博士從事的是質譜學研究，致力於透過質譜儀鑑別癌症蛋白質標籤(Cancer Biomarkers)，通俗解釋其科研應用即是，以分析化學的手段及儀器，盡快提高子宮癌、口腔癌等癌症的確診率，對醫學診斷及治療有莫大的貢

獻，他是目前這一領域的全球專家。

神秘而單調的科學研究，總與大眾社會隔著層帷幕，即使蕭錦榮博士長期以來在分析化學領域建樹卓越，但真正為加國公眾社會認識及關注，尤其是華人社會驚喜的是，他在2007年的3月，由於他在科學領域的傑出成就及貢獻，獲得了科技領域移民新先鋒獎(New Pioneers Award)，他的貢獻得到了加國全社會的認可及讚揚，並視為加國新移民的典範人物，包括「多倫多星報」等主流傳媒及中文傳媒都報導了成功事蹟。

展開蕭錦榮博士的獲獎名單，就可初略瞭解他的科研成就及地位。至今他出版了逾230份科學論文，7部科學論著專章，共同編輯2部科學專著。蕭錦榮博士於1991年因所著論文的傑出科學貢獻獲得Maccoll獎，1994年因環境科學成就獲滑鐵盧大學及安省環境及能源廳頒發的F. W. Karasek獎，1996年獲得加拿大化學學會的McBryde Medal，2004年獲加拿大應用科學及光譜學學會的Gerhard Herzberg成就獎，2005年獲加拿大質譜學會的F. P. Lossing傑出成就獎。最令蕭錦榮感到榮耀的是，在2006年他獲得了加拿大化學協會頒發的分析化學最高榮譽的Maxxam Award。2009年他獲選為加拿大皇家學會(Royal Society of Canada)會員。

對於這些榮譽，蕭錦榮很謙遜的說，全球還有很多科學家在質譜學方面辛勤努力，他從不會將自己視為一個頂尖的研究專家，只是不斷探索新的課題。

### 人生另一半的五彩繽紛

整日整年的面對著儀器、化學分子，好像描繪著蕭錦榮的單調色彩，但殊不知，這位化學家的另一半卻是非常的色彩燦爛，那就是他的畫家妻子蘇佩玲，執手30多年，創造出一番相錯和諧的生活。

香港出生的蕭錦榮，原來早在中學之時就與蘇佩玲相知相愛，這是蕭錦榮人生的一個「得意之作」。蕭錦榮在香港大學獲得化學學位後，1976年赴英國伯明罕大學留學，並馬上與蘇佩玲在英國結婚，翌年家境貧寒的蕭錦榮，因獎學金之故帶著妻子來加拿大哈利法克斯的Dalhousie大學攻讀博士學位。畢業後，蕭錦榮由國家研究委員會(National Research Council)研究員，到就任國家研究委員會高級研究員，1998年起任教約克大學化學系教授，2007年獲約克大學Distinguished Research Professorship。

蕭錦榮從學子到專家，科學追索一路走來，一直有恩愛之妻相伴於旁，給予他莫大的鼓勵及力量。他笑稱，妻子從未「怨」過他做科研枯燥乏味。他們間中出外旅行，妻子寫生作畫，今年夏天他們還剛剛去「黑海」旅遊，留下很多美景。

蕭錦榮每年都要前往全球各地進行學術演講，至今已舉行了逾430場學術演講，凡到有美景之處，蕭錦榮都會用相機留影，以備妻子作畫之用，在他iPad平板電腦中，也儲存著妻子各種精美畫作，由洛基山脈到北大校園，花卉至田園等等，可見蕭錦榮對妻子的珍愛之至。

#### 帶領學子勇闖科學前沿

蕭錦榮教授作為博士生導師，目前還帶著10個博士和博士生，另外還作為NSERC / AB SCIEX公司講座教授，從事質譜學應用科技的發展。他教育學子的理念就是，永遠要有求知欲、好奇心，而且需要恆心，永不放棄。科學探索需要耐心及時間，真正享受的就是其中的過程，不斷去揭開大自然的奧秘，不斷去發現新的東西。

當問起59歲的蕭錦榮未來有何打算，他想了想稱，總有退休的一天，雖然他空閒時也喜歡享受美食，聽聽古典音樂，現在唯一的女兒也進大學了，但他還是覺得科學研究最有樂趣，不斷的嘗試，不斷的學習，將來他還會繼續走下去。

在蕭錦榮博士眼中，變幻的質譜和分子結構圖可能是世上最美麗的圖畫，就是這份執著，使他走到了科學的前沿，成為了著名質譜學專家及加拿大社會的成功人士，他永不放棄走上科學的「不歸路」，創造出人間更美好的景色。



12歲時與父母合影  
Michael, about 12, with  
parents and nephew, Rephael,  
and niece, Barbra.



2010年2月科研團隊合影  
Research group, circa February 2010



1981年於哈利法克斯Dalhousie  
大學畢業典禮  
Michael, Convocation Day,  
Dalhousie University,  
Halifax, N.S., 1981.



2003年6月質譜儀鑑別癌症標籤研究團隊合影  
Endometrial cancer biomarker research team,  
circa June 2003



2012年妻子蘇佩玲參與女兒Adrienne畢業典禮  
Michael's wife Peggy and daughter Adrienne,  
taken in June 2012, on her convocation



1975年與香港大學同學合影  
Michael and classmates, University of  
Hong Kong, circa 1975.



1982年在渥太華滑雪  
Michael on cross-country skis,  
Ottawa, ON, 1982.



1985年與妻子蘇佩玲在渥太華住家  
Michael and Peggy outside of their  
Ottawa home, 1985.



與研究團隊成員合影  
Research group circa early 2000s.



1977年6月4日與妻子蘇佩玲在英國  
伯明罕St. Michael教堂合影  
Michael and Peggy, June 4, 1977, outside of St.  
Michael's Church, Birmingham, U.K.



1990年與學生Yves合影  
Michael and Yves, former  
graduate student, London, ON,  
1990.



1990年5月與初生女兒Adrienne合影  
Michael and daughter, Adrienne, May 1990.

## Professor K.W. Michael Siu

### Distinguished Research Professor and Scientific Explorer

**‘Scientific research requires a burning desire for knowledge, as well as patience and perseverance...’**

*‘I don’t have too many hobbies – what I enjoy doing the most is scientific research. Trying to solve the mystery of nature allows me to engage in a never-ending pursuit of knowledge.’ This simple and honest view is how Professor K.W. Michael Siu sees himself, a scientist who enjoys exploring the mystery of our universe. It is indeed an apt description of one of Canada’s top scientists in chemistry.*

Many people think of scientists as being boring or inflexible. What about this scientist who is immersed in chemical research every day?

When one steps into the Centre for Research in Mass Spectrometry at York University, one can see the very opposite of this stereotypic image of a scientist. A lively Professor Siu walks around the large and rather intimidating-looking mass spectrometers and talks animatedly about his research work, as if he were conducting a symphony with molecules dancing in front of him.

Professor Siu carries out research in the fundamentals of mass spectrometry, next-generation mass spectrometry instrumentation,

and application of mass spectrometry to the discovery and quantification of cancer biomarkers. His goals are to develop more efficient and effective tests in the diagnosis and prognosis of cancers, including endometrial and oral cancers. He has made significant contributions and is a leading authority in this field.

Shrouded in specialized practice and jargon, scientific research tends to be isolated from the layman’s world. Although Professor Siu has had many outstanding achievements in analytical chemistry, he is generally unknown to the larger, mainstream community. An exception occurred in March 2007, when Professor Siu received the New Pioneers Award in Science and Technology from Skills for Change for his contributions as an immigrant. This was a noted recognition by the mainstream society, and Professor Siu was lauded as a model immigrant. His success, as heralded by Skills for Change, was reported in the Toronto Star and Chinese media.

One can begin to have an appreciation of Professor Siu’s achievements and high standing in the scientific world, when one delves into the list of awards that he has garnered over the years. He has published over 230 scientific papers, seven peer-reviewed book chapters, and co-edited two books. In 1991, Professor Siu was awarded the Maccoll prize for ‘most outstanding contribution to science’ as published in the journal of Organic Mass Spectrometry. In 1994, he received the F.W. Karasek award for his achievements

in environmental science from the University of Waterloo and the Ministry of Environment and Energy. In 1996 he was awarded the W.A.E. McBryde Medal from the Canadian Society for Chemistry for his achievements in pure and applied analytical chemistry. In 2004, he received the Gerhard Herzberg Award from the Canadian Society for Analytical Sciences and Spectroscopy. In 2005, he received the F.P. Lossing award for significant achievement in mass spectrometry from the Canadian Society for Mass Spectrometry. An honour which Professor Siu is most proud of is the 2006 Maxxam Award, the highest award in analytical chemistry given by the Canadian Society of Chemistry. In 2009, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Professor Siu humbly says that there are many scientists all working diligently and making many significant contributions in mass spectrometry, and he does not regard himself as being on top, merely someone who continues to pursue new interests and new areas of investigation.

To a layman, life of a scientist might be perceived to be rather monotonous, especially one who deals with scientific instruments and their output day in and day out, but Professor Siu actually leads a colourful life. This is in part due to his wife, Peggy, who is an artist and a painter. They have been married for over thirty years, and together they share a harmonious and happy family life.

Born in Hong Kong, Professor Siu met his future wife when he was in high school and they soon fell in love. After obtaining his bachelor degree in chemistry from the University of Hong Kong, Siu moved to pursue his Masters degree at the University of Birmingham (in the United Kingdom) in 1976. There, he married his high school sweetheart. The following year, they settled in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where Siu pursued his PhD studies at Dalhousie University. After graduation in 1981, he joined the National Research Council (NRC) in Ottawa as Research Associate, moved up the ranks, and was Senior Research Officer by the time he left NRC. In 1998, Professor Siu joined the Department of Chemistry, York University, where he is today Distinguished Research Professor and NSERC / AB SCIEX Chair.

From a scholar to an expert on this long road of scientific pursuit, Professor Siu always has his loving wife by his side, supporting and encouraging him. He smiles and claims that his wife never complains about his research work being too dull or boring. They enjoy traveling and have just returned from a Black Sea cruise. Every year, Professor Siu travels internationally to give lectures. To date, he has given 430 presentations, the majority of them invited. Whenever he comes across a scenic spot during his trips, he would take photographs as material from which Peggy may base her future paintings on. He proudly shows off some of his wife's paintings on his iPad, from the Rockies to Beijing, from blooming flowers to

open fields. This exemplifies Professor Siu's admiration and love for his wife Peggy.

At York University, Professor Siu supervises a group of ten postdoctoral fellows and PhD students, as a part of his work as professor and NSERC / AB SCIEX Chair. Professor Siu believes that researchers should have a burning desire for knowledge and curiosity, coupled with patience and perseverance. After all, scientific research demands a lot of time and patience, and one needs to enjoy the meandering process of continual exploration of the unknown that would lead to future discoveries.

When the 59-year old Siu is asked what his plans are for the future, he replies thoughtfully that the day of retirement will come one day, but not in the foreseeable future. Although he enjoys gourmet food and classical music, now that their only daughter is in university, he feels that his interest still lies primarily in scientific research. The never-ending exploration and lifelong learning process will continue to keep him occupied in his endeavours.

In Professor Michael Siu's eyes, the fascinating and varying mass spectra and the complexity of molecular structure might be the most beautiful and colourful pictures in the whole world. This determination launches him to the forefront of science and helps him become a leading figure in mass spectrometry. He has no wish

to ever give up science and will continue to strive for the best and explore the unknown.