Dear Members of the Harvard Chan School Community:

Please join me in warmly congratulating Quan Lu on his promotion to Professor of Environmental Genetics and Physiology in the Department of Environmental Health at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Dr. Lu’s research integrates genetic, physiological, and biochemical approaches to elucidate molecular mechanisms of environmental diseases, especially asthma and diseases related to environmental metal toxicity. Dr. Lu has pursued research in three different areas including asthma, metal toxicity, and, most notably, the formation of microvesicles and their biological effects. Dr. Lu has been leading research on metal exposure, in which Dr. Lu’s lab has identified a number of genes that are required for cellular toxicity induced by metals, such as lead and arsenic, and has identified how these can serve as a mechanistic basis for effects on diabetes, impaired neurodevelopment, and neurodegeneration. Dr. Lu’s current research surrounds his most recent discovery of a novel intrinsic mechanism known as ARRDC1-Mediated Microvesicles (ARMMs). These vesicles have been shown to play a key role in intercellular signaling and inter-tissue communication. Dr. Lu is further researching how ARMMs can be used as a versatile platform for therapeutic delivery into diseased cells ([see today’s announcement in *The Harvard Gazette*](https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2020/07/harvard-technology-to-be-commercialized-by-vesigen-therapeutics/)).

Dr. Lu is a founding member of the American Society for Exosomes and Microvesicles, whose mission is to advance the field of extracellular vesicles through education, communication, and collaboration. He received the Armen H. Tashjian Jr. Award for Excellence in Endocrine Research in 2013, which recognizes junior faculty at Harvard University who are pursuing innovative ideas in endocrinology and related basic biomedical research. He also received a highly competitive Scholar Award in 2015 from the American Asthma Foundation.

Dr. Lu received his BS (in 1991) and MS (in 1994) degrees from Fudan University, China, and went on to earn a PhD (in 1999) from Iowa State University in molecular biology. In 2000, he pursued postdoctoral training in molecular genetics at Stanford University, where he was promoted to a research associate in 2004. In 2007, he joined the Harvard Chan School as an assistant professor of lung biology in the Department of Environmental Health. Shortly after, he obtained a secondary appointment in the Department of Genetics and Complex Diseases. In 2009, he became a Mark and Catherine Winkler Assistant Professor of Lung Biology in the Department of Environmental Health, and in 2013, was promoted to an associate professor of environmental genetics and pathophysiology.

On behalf of the School and the faculty, I congratulate Dr. Lu on his promotion and wish him continued success in his career at the Harvard Chan School.

Best wishes,

**Jane J. Kim, PhD**

Dean for Academic Affairs

Professor of Health Decision Science

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health