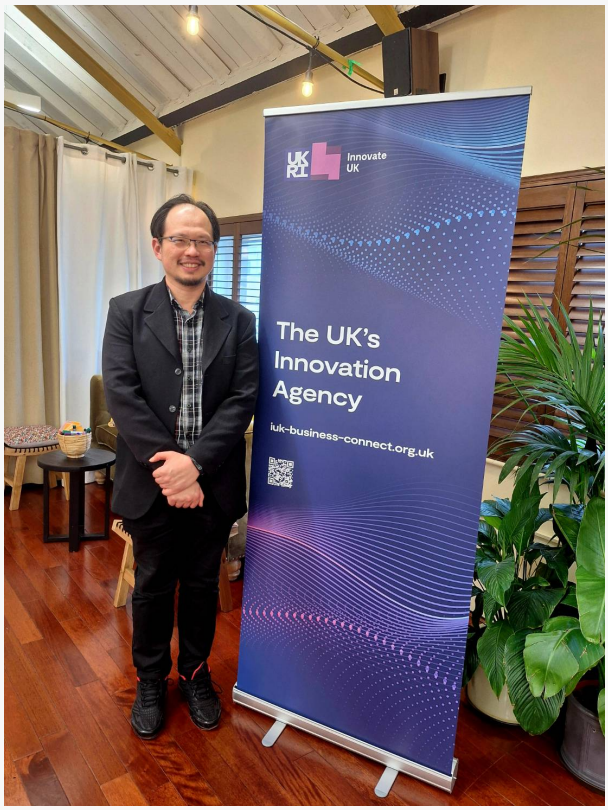
Professor Victor Chang Recognized by Three Independent Bodies as a Defining Voice in Responsible AI Leadership

3 different firms: each reached the same conclusion: Prof Chang is a unquestionable AI Leader



Prof Chang with IUK Business Connect

BIRMINGHAM, UNITED KINGDOM, May 4, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Professor Victor Chang of Aston Business School, Aston University, has received three independent recognitions in the opening months of 2026, each issued by a separate editorial team and each reaching the same conclusion. Enterprise World named him the Most Transformational Professor Advancing AI and Data Science Education 2026. Computing magazine placed him on its inaugural AI Leadership Index 2026, where he stands as the only academic among 25 senior executives and practitioners drawn from across the technology industry. CIO Look published a full cover profile under the designation Pioneering AI Leader for Public Good 2026. The three bodies approached Chang's career from different angles — research output, operational AI leadership, and public impact — and all three landed on the same principle: systems built without genuine accountability do not last, and Chang has spent more than two decades proving the alternative is possible.

What Three Independent Assessments Found in Common

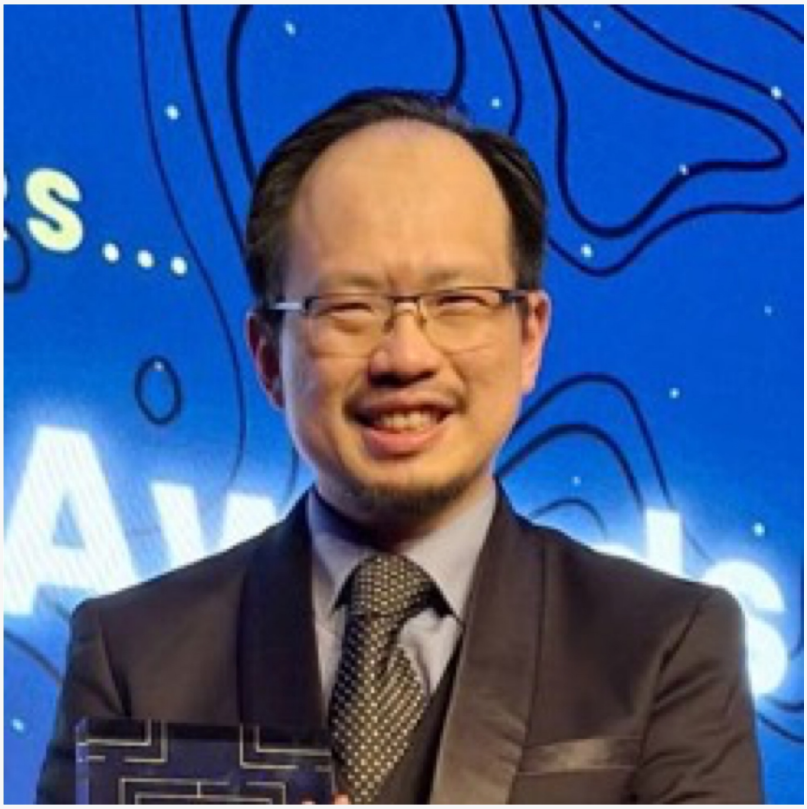
In cybersecurity, his UK–Japan 6G collaboration with the University of Tokyo — funded through the UK Government's International Science Partnerships Fund — has produced federated malware detection achieving 96.8 percent accuracy at sub-0.8-second inference times, without sensitive data leaving its originating device. The architecture addresses a problem that conventional security frameworks sidestep: how to build robust threat detection across hospitals, industrial networks, and public infrastructure when pooling raw data between organisations is neither permissible nor practical. Chang's answer—federated learning applied

directly to the network security layer—is now a working model rather than a theoretical proposal.

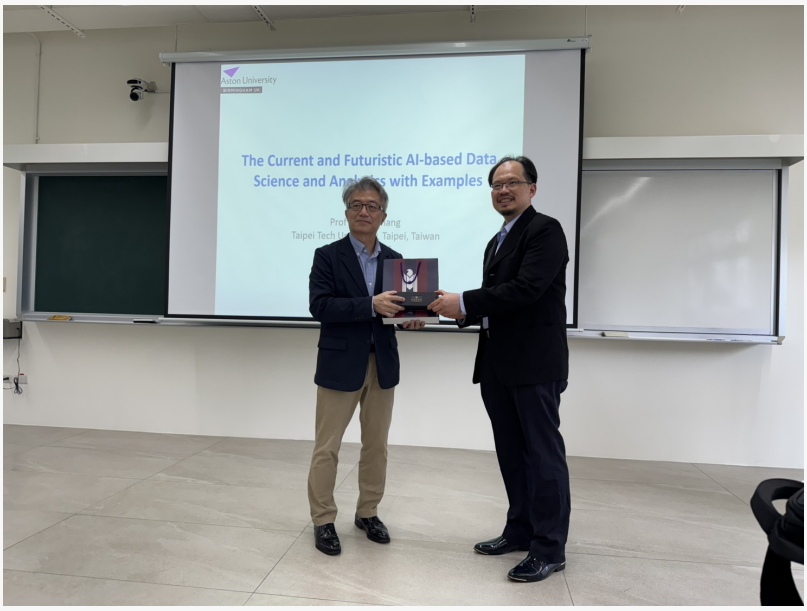
“The most meaningful innovations are those that deliver strong results not only in theory but also when used in real-life situations, maintaining their effectiveness over time and beyond initial excitement.” — Professor Victor Chang

The Only Academic on Computing's AI Leadership Index 2026

Computing magazine's AI Leadership Index 2026 profiles individuals who are actively shaping how artificial intelligence is developed and deployed at scale across UK industry. Chang's selection as the sole academic on a list of 25 senior executives reflects a distinction the other two publications also flag: his work does not remain inside research journals. It reaches operating theatres, trading floors, factory floors, and public networks. His research spans federated learning, healthcare analytics, cybersecurity, financial AI, smart manufacturing, and intelligent transport — sectors that rarely share a single investigator's portfolio at depth. His citation count exceeds 31,000 across more than 300 peer-reviewed publications, placing him among the top 0.2 percent of scientists worldwide by citation impact. Research.com ranked him 82nd in Computer Science in the UK as of May 2025.



Prof Victor Chang is in the AI Leadership Index



Prof Chang received an honor

“For me, ethics is not a constraint on innovation but a design discipline that produces stronger, more auditable systems.” — Professor Victor Chang

Finance, Education, and the Adoption Question

In financial services, Chang's core question is whether those predictions are legible to the people who must act on them. His collaborations with financial institutions apply explainable machine learning to credit risk assessment, creditworthiness evaluation, and bank performance analysis. As regulatory expectations continue to tighten, systems that can show their reasoning to risk officers and compliance teams are not a preference — they are the standard that gets deployed. Chang has made that argument to students and institutional partners alike, and the track record of adopted systems behind it lends it weight.

His approach to education reflects the same insistence on contact with reality. Conventional programmes teach theory first and defer real-world application until after graduation. Chang inverts this. His Research and Practice Integration Model places students on live, stakeholder-facing problems from the start of their programmes. A master's student can design a federated learning pipeline for a healthcare partner, the same week a doctoral candidate presents clinical results directly to surgeons. Data quality stops being an abstract concept when a false alert costs clinical time. Procurement processes, regulatory compliance, and institutional communication are treated as core competencies rather than administrative contexts. The global research network built through this model now spans over 250 researchers across more than 100 institutions in over 20 countries.

Fellowships and the Shape of the Record

In October 2025, the Institute of Physics elected Chang as a Fellow (FInstP). In January 2026, the Royal Society for Public Health followed (FRSPH). These join a list of eleven other fellowships he has been honoured The breadth of those affiliations traces the range of communities his research actually reaches — it is not an honorary collection but a map of where the work has gone.

The awards context reinforces the same picture. In 2024, the British Computer Society named Chang Inspirational Individual of the Year at the UK IT Industry Awards. In 2025, he won Data Leader of the Year at the British Data Awards — with judges citing his healthcare AI contributions nationally and internationally — and Cybersecurity Initiative of the Year at the UK Business Awards. American Management University awarded him an Honorary PhD in Technological Innovation. Insights Success Magazine included him in its Inspirational Icons to Watch for its December 2025 edition. The Enterprise World designation in early 2026 and the subsequent recognitions from Computing and CIO Look arrive on top of that foundation.

His research funding stands at over three million pounds secured as Principal Investigator, with involvement in collaborative projects totalling more than fourteen million pounds across Europe and Asia. The 2026 research agenda has opened two new fronts—smart manufacturing and intelligent transport—extending federated learning methods to IoT-based machine health monitoring and real-time decision systems across transport networks. Both sectors present the same structural challenge that Chang's group has addressed across healthcare, finance, and

security: how to build AI that operates reliably across institutional boundaries without concentrating data it has no right to hold.

“Think in decades, not months. Build capabilities and impact that last. AI can save lives, expand access, and improve systems at scale — but only if the people building it insist on doing things right.” — Professor Victor Chang

About Professor Victor Chang
Recent news: https://www.einpresswire.com/article/910168960/professor-victor-chang-of-aston-university-named-cybersecurity-professional-of-the-year-2026
Enterprise World cover story: theenterpriseworld.com/professor-victor-chang-aston-university
Computing AI Leadership Index 2026: computing.co.uk/profile/ai-leaders-2026/professor-victor-chang
CIO Look: https://ciolookmedia.com/pioneering-ai-leader-for-public-good-2026-march-2026/ and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DeJbEvgmN1o

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