

NEWSLETTER

/SI Global

August 15, 2026

FEATURED STORY

GEC Academy Launches 2026 OPC 3.0 University Partnership Initiative in Xi'an

On July 18, GEC Academy launched the [Xi'an University Partnership Initiative for the 2026 OPC 3.0 Global Business Challenge](#) at Xi'an Eurasia University, bringing the OPC university network to Shaanxi for the first time. With its historic ties to the Silk Road and growing innovation community, Xi'an provided a fitting setting for the launch. Under the theme “[Silk Road Singularity: Building AI-Powered OPC in Xi'an Universities](#),” the event explored how universities and industry can work together to foster AI entrepreneurialism and connect student learning with real-world challenges. [Xi'an Eurasia University, a well-established private university known for its application-oriented approach, became the first university partner for OPC 3.0 in Shaanxi.](#) Its strong focus on project-based learning and industry engagement closely reflects the practice-oriented approach behind the OPC initiative.

The initiative was jointly launched by GEC Academy and Xi'an Eurasia University, with the Association for Student Employment, the Asia-Pacific Society for Students Career and Entrepreneurship, and the Xi'an Artificial Intelligence Association joining as partners. INTIME Retail served as the flagship title partner.



Representatives from education, technology, and industry sectors gather to witness the launch of the OPC university partnership initiative in Xi'an.

FEATURED STORY

Hosted by Ms. Wendy Wang, Co-founder of GEC Academy, the event featured opening remarks, partnership ceremonies, keynote speeches, and panel discussions centered on AI entrepreneurialism, talent development, and university–industry collaboration. The launch also marked two new collaborations for GEC Academy: with **Xi'an Eurasia University** on OPC 3.0 projects and industry challenges, and with **the Association for Student Employment's Office of Internship and Services** on the recognition of students' internship and project experience.

• Highlights from the Event



Mr. Rui Wu shares Xi'an Eurasia University's practice-oriented approach to education.

Mr. Wei Xu, General Manager of Touch Turing (Xi'an), shared how AI applications are creating new possibilities in education and professional fields.



Panel 1: Preparing Students for an AI-Driven Future through University–Industry Collaboration

Panel 2: Talent and Industry Opportunities in Xi'an's AI Landscape



FEATURED STORY

- **About the 2026 OPC 3.0 Global Business Challenge**

The 2026 OPC 3.0 Global Business Challenge brings together university students and young innovators to explore how AI can be applied to real-world and business problems. Participants can pursue their own ideas through the **Innovation Track** or take on challenges from industry partners through the **Challenge Track · Bounty**. To date, OPC 3.0 has reached around **30 universities** across China and works with industry partners including INTIME Retail, New Oriental, Zhaopin, Tencent Cloud, Seko, AWS, and SenseTime, etc.

With nearly **500 teams** participating, the competition is now entering its final stages. The Top 100 were announced on August 7, with the Top 20 finalists to be revealed on August 16, followed by the final Demo Day at the end of August. This fall, GEC will bring OPC to more campuses through **a city-by-city, university-specific approach**, and in September, plans to launch **the 2nd OPC 3.0 Global Business Challenge in Hong Kong**, opening the competition to a broader international participant community. For more information about the 2026 OPC 3.0 Global Business Challenge, please visit opc.gecacademy.cn.

For GEC faculty members: if you are interested in AI entrepreneurialism, venture building, youth innovation, or future career development, please feel free to reach out to us at publicity@gecacademy.com to explore future collaboration opportunities, including workshops, mentoring sessions, seminars, and community engagement.

LUMINAI Public Lecture Recap

Chemistry, AI, and a Sustainable Planet: Highlights from Professor Omar Yaghi's LUMINAI Public Lecture

On July 29, **ASI Global** hosted the third session of the **2026 LUMINAI Public Lecture Series Nobel Laureate Special Session**, featuring **Professor Omar M. Yaghi**, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry and a pioneer in reticular chemistry. Recently joining **Tsinghua University's Department of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering**, Professor Yaghi is leading the **AIMATRY Institute (AI × Materials × Chemistry)**, which explores the intersection of artificial intelligence, materials science, and chemistry. In his lecture titled **“Chemistry and AI for a Sustainable Planet and Hope,”** Professor Yaghi shared his scientific journey and explored how AI-enabled approaches and advanced materials can contribute to addressing global challenges, including carbon emissions, water scarcity, and the future of scientific discovery.

Chemistry and AI for a Sustainable Planet and Hope

Omar M. Yaghi

DEPARTMENTS OF CHEMISTRY AND CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
AIMATRY INSTITUTE: AI × MATERIALS × CHEMISTRY
TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY



Designing Materials for a Sustainable Planet

During the lecture, Professor Yaghi introduced his research in **reticular chemistry**, a field focused on designing materials at the atomic and molecular level. He explained how metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) and related materials can be constructed through molecular building blocks, creating precisely designed structures capable of capturing and storing molecules such as carbon dioxide, hydrogen, and water.



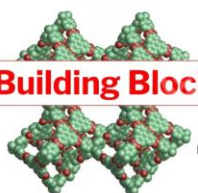
LUMINAI Public Lecture Recap

Reticular Chemistry

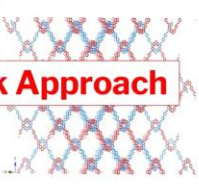
The chemistry of linking molecular building blocks by strong bonds to make crystalline extended structures.



Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs)
Nature 1995, MOF crystals
JACS 1998, Gas adsorption isotherms
Nature 1999, Ultra-high porosity MOFs



Covalent Organic Frameworks (COFs)
Science 2005, COFs: the first, readily robust, mechanically robust. Materials so at the heart of the chemistry that we have developed is the strong bond that the bond between



Molecular Weaving
Superior mechanical properties
Science 2016



Professor Yaghi highlighted how these materials can contribute to addressing global sustainability challenges. For carbon emissions, advanced materials can help capture carbon dioxide from industrial sources and the atmosphere. For water scarcity, MOFs provide a new approach to harvesting water from the air and producing clean drinking water with renewable energy.

Beyond individual technologies, Professor Yaghi emphasized the importance of global scientific collaboration. He shared how researchers from different countries and backgrounds worked together to advance these discoveries, demonstrating how science can bring people together to solve complex problems.

AI-Enabled Discovery: Transforming the Future of Science

A key focus of the lecture was the **emerging relationship between artificial intelligence and materials science**. Professor Yaghi explained that AI is changing the way researchers explore scientific possibilities by helping them analyze information, generate hypotheses, and accelerate experimental discovery.

He shared how his team combines AI models with robotic platforms and experimental feedback to improve the process of discovering new materials. Through repeated cycles of prediction, testing, and learning, AI-assisted approaches have significantly reduced the time required for certain discoveries, transforming research processes that previously took years into experiments completed within weeks.

Considerations in moving from the age of scarcity to the age of abundance

1. Fewer routine tasks, far more ambitious projects, and a premium on people who can ask **important questions, interpret reality, and build new systems**.
2. Complete change in the way science is done. We move **from asking what should we make? to why should we make it?**

Omar Yaghi says:
“Okay, so in the fullness of time, when this is these cycles are working, it means few of us will be thinking about, let's say what are the big questions that we need to answer and many of us be looking at different materials in different context.”

*“We move from asking what should we make to why should we make it.”—
Professor Omar Yaghi.*

LUMINAI Public Lecture Recap

Looking ahead, Professor Yaghi suggested that the future of science will require researchers to think beyond individual discoveries and build larger systems that connect scientific innovation with real-world applications. He emphasized that AI will become an important partner in this process, helping scientists explore new possibilities while keeping human creativity and judgment at the center.

Inspiring the Next Generation of Innovators

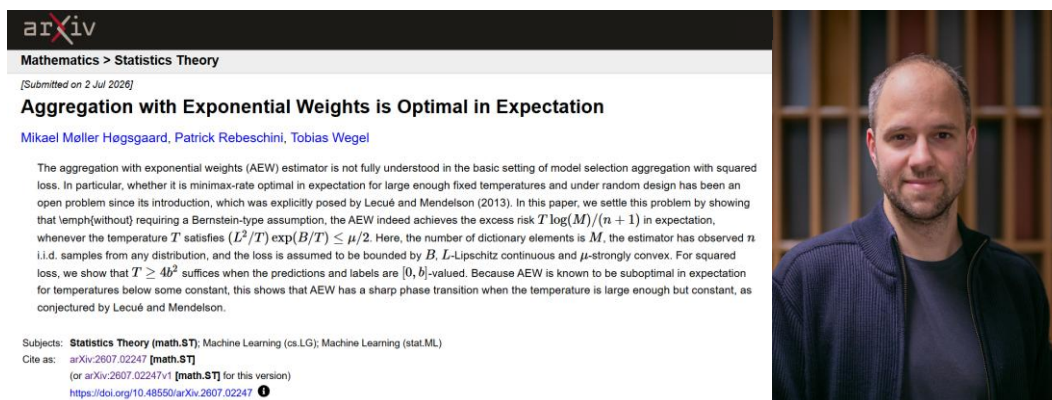
During the Q&A session, Professor Yaghi shared his thoughts on the role of human creativity in the age of AI. He emphasized that AI requires human guidance, critical thinking, and scientific judgment. Rather than replacing researchers, AI can help scientists ask deeper questions, explore new directions, and expand the boundaries of discovery.

When discussing advice for young students interested in science and technology, Professor Yaghi encouraged them to develop strong foundations in their fields while actively exploring knowledge across disciplines. He highlighted that future innovators will need to connect different areas of expertise, including chemistry, engineering, computer science, and AI.

If you're interested in learning more about the LUMINAI series, please feel free to contact us at publicity@gecacademy.com.

Faculty Work Gallery

*This month we introduced **a paper co-authored by Prof. Patrick Rebeschini, Statutory Professor (Chair) of Statistical Science Department of Statistics, University of Oxford.** If you are interested in showcasing your research, grants, book releases, conference presentations, or any work you deem valuable and interesting to share, please feel free to contact us at publicity@gecacademy.com.*



Aggregation with Exponential Weights is Optimal in Expectation

Abstract:

The aggregation with exponential weights (AEW) estimator is not fully understood in the basic setting of model selection aggregation with squared loss. In particular, whether it is minimax-rate optimal in expectation for large enough fixed temperatures and under random design has been an open problem since its introduction, which was explicitly posed by Lecué and Mendelson (2013). In this paper, we settle this problem by showing that without requiring a Bernstein-type assumption, the AEW indeed achieves the excess risk $T \log(M)/(n+1)$ in expectation, whenever the temperature T satisfies $(L^2/T) \exp(B/T) \leq \mu/2$. Here, the number of dictionary elements is M , the estimator has observed n i.i.d. samples from any distribution, and the loss is assumed to be bounded by B , L -Lipschitz continuous and μ -strongly convex. For squared loss, we show that $T \geq 4b^2$ suffices when the predictions and labels are $[0, b]$ -valued. Because AEW is known to be suboptimal in expectation for temperatures below some constant, this shows that AEW has a sharp phase transition when the temperature is large enough but constant, as conjectured by Lecué and Mendelson.

Høgsgaard, M. M., Rebeschini, P., & Wegel, T. (2026). Aggregation with Exponential Weights is Optimal in Expectation. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2607.02247*.

In July 2026, Prof. Rebeschini was an invited speaker at Mathematical Foundations of Modern Machine Learning, a workshop hosted at Peking University. His talk, "Generalisation Error and Effective Dimensions: From Neural Networks to Diffusion Models," explored theoretical perspectives on generalisation across modern machine learning models. For more information, please visit [the workshop website](#).

GEC

Culture Story

I Have You By My Side: A Summer to Remember with iHUB 2026!

At the end of July, the **2026 iHUB Summer Research Program** came to a successful close, wrapping up another inspiring and unforgettable summer for the iHUB community. This summer, nearly **600 iHUBers** participated in project-based learning experiences across **Beijing, Shanghai, and Shenzhen**, working with close to **40 GEC Teaching Faculty members** and exploring around **80 research-oriented projects** across a wide range of academic fields.

Throughout the program, we were grateful to have our GEC Teaching Faculty accompany students through research discussions, project development, and academic exchanges. From lively classroom discussions and hands-on research to project presentations and summer camp activities, every experience was filled with curiosity, collaboration, and connection.

Please enjoy these highlights from 2026 iHUB Summer Research Program and revisit the unforgettable moments shared by our faculty members and iHUBers.

- **A Summer of Exploration Begins**



GEC Culture Story

- Exploring Ideas Through Research



- More Than Research



GEC Culture Story

• A Summer to Remember

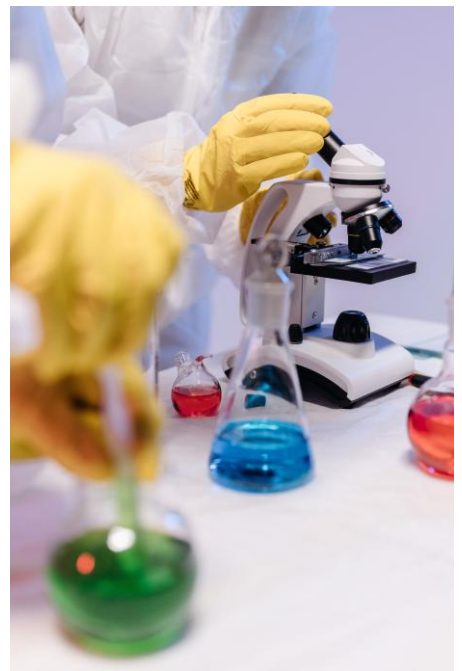


AMAZING WORK FROM GEC STUDENTS

Each month, GEC will introduce some of our exceptional students' work in a specific research area to our audiences. This month we selected two articles from our previous students in the field of **Biomedical Science**.

Movement Intention Recognition of Upper Limb Rehabilitation Exoskeleton Based on Surface EMG Signals

In this paper, a surface electromyography (sEMG) recognition architecture is designed that is accurate and robust. The experiment uses Ninapro DB1 data and compares different machine learning and deep learning applications. Single models are the most accurate, with the Bagged Trees model registering the highest score of 76.5%. It is also sensitive to the movement of the electrodes, and its performance can be reduced by 31.1 percent. Three optimization strategies are proposed. They are voting ensemble, Bayesian hyperparameter optimization, and targeted data augmentation...



Click [HERE](#) to read the full text!

CD19 And CD22 Dual-Target CAR-T Therapy Via CRISPR/Cas9 Engineering for Relapsed B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia



This paper includes up-to-date information about childhood B-ALL epidemiology and treatment, information about recent progress of CAR-T, and problems associated with the single antigen approach. It investigated the design principles for CD19/CD22 dual-target CARs, contrasted conventional gene transfer methods against the CRISPR variety, then provided a rundown of current-day-to-day research. Lastly, there are the strengths, limitations, and future directions of the combination of the double-target strategy and CRISPR in R-ALL. And these approaches take us on a map forward to a long-term, right, and achievable immunotherapeutic approach that a lot more people can have a whole bunch of things that they don't have a lot of cures for...

Click [HERE](#) to read the full text!



Join Us at ASI Global Technical Sponsorship Conferences: Open Calling for Committee Members & Speakers

We are thrilled to hear from our GEC faculty members, teaching fellows, teaching assistants (PhD holders), and scholars.

Since 2023, ASI Global has taken immense pride in its role as a technical sponsor for a diverse array of international academic conferences, with a vision entailing both promoting interdisciplinary cooperation and nurturing an inclusive, collaborative educational environment that extends its benefits beyond the scientific community to society at large. **Hence, we are enthusiastic about extending invitations to more of our esteemed GEC Faculty members and Teaching Fellows, encouraging your active involvement as committee members or innovative speakers and storytellers**, who are passionate about sharing innovative ideas with the brightest minds, providing enriching insights, offering innovative experiences, and sharing real-world examples, among other valuable contributions to ASI Global technical sponsorship conferences.

Upcoming Conferences

For August, we have 2 technical sponsorship conferences covering Clean Energy, Energy Storage, Environmental Science, Sustainable Materials, Smart Manufacturing, Green Economy, Financial Management, Digital Finance and beyond.

- Aug. 28-30, Singapore
- [2026 International Conference on Sustainable Energy, Environment and Materials \(ICSEEM 2026\)](#)
- Aug. 21-23, Singapore
- [2026 4th International Conference on Financial Management and the Digital Economy \(ICFMDE 2026\)](#)



WHAT PROGRAMS DOES GEC OFFER IN JUL & AUG SEMESTERS?

In July and August, GEC launches a total of **195 online research programs** in the areas of Business and Finance, Computer Science, Engineering, Mathematics, Biology, Social Sciences and Humanities, Law and so on, partners with **Dalian University of Technology** to develop students’ global competence through the GEC Global Competence Development Course. In August, GEC also provides **1 personalized program** for Guangzhou Medical University. We will continue to gather students, faculty, and staff for an unrivaled academic experience.

The tables below show detailed information about the programs:

[2026 July Path Academics Program List](#),
[2026 August Path Academics Program List](#),
[Universities offering GEC Global Competence Courses in July 2026](#),
[GEC Personalized Programs for Universities in August 2026](#)

Please click [HERE](#) to find previous program/course offerings.

Newsletter Improvement Survey

We would love to hear your thoughts or feedback on how we can improve your experience with our newsletter.

For your convenience, please click [HERE](#) to fill out the survey link.

ASI Global

publicity@gecademy.com | asi@gecademy.com
<https://www.asi.gecademy.com/>