

# Prof Xia receives A-rating

Prof Xiaohua Xia, associated with the Department of Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering at the University of Pretoria (UP), is currently the only A-rated researcher in the faculty. This is but one of his many achievements.



Prof Xia recently received an A-rating from the National Research Foundation (NRF). The NRF's evaluation and rating of individuals is based primarily on the quality of the research outputs in the recent past and is undertaken by national and international peers and reviewers who are requested to critically scrutinise the completed research. An A-rating is the highest rating for individuals who are unequivocally recognised by their peers as leading international scholars in their field for the high quality and impact of their recent research outputs.

Adding to this achievement, he was also elevated to a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) for his contributions to the observation and control of non-linear systems.

Recognition as an IEEE Fellow is one of the organisation's most prestigious honours and the highest membership grade. IEEE Fellows are nominated

by their peers and approved by the IEEE Board of Directors, based on an extraordinary record of accomplishments that, according to the IEEE, have "contributed importantly to the advancement or application of engineering, science and technology, bringing the realisation of significant value to society."

Prof Xia obtained his PhD degree at the Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics in 1989. He was academically affiliated with the University of Stuttgart, Germany, the Ecole Centrale de Nantes, France, and the National University of Singapore before joining the University of Pretoria in 1998. Prof Xia served as the IEEE South African Section/Control Chapter Chairperson. He also serves as the chairperson of the Technical Committee of Non-linear Systems of the International Federation of Automatic Control (IFAC), and as a member of the Technical Board of IFAC. He has been an associate editor of *Automatica*, *IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems II*, and specialist editor (control) of the *SAIEEE Africa Research Journal*. He has been elected as a fellow of the South African Academy of Engineering.

He has been recognised for three consecutive times as an Exceptional Academic Achiever of the University of Pretoria. Prof Xia currently heads the South African National Hub for the Postgraduate Programme in Energy Efficiency and Demand-side Management. His research interests include non-linear feedback control, observer design, time delay systems, hybrid systems, modelling and control of HIV/Aids, control and handling of heavy-haul trains, and, more recently, energy modelling and optimisation. 🌐