

## 12% of full-time faculty are among the world's top 2% of researchers... GIST leads the way in quantum and new drug development

- Elsevier and Stanford University jointly announced the "2025 Global Top 2% Researchers" list, which includes 23 GIST researchers (12% of 194 full-time faculty members)... Nine researchers are ranked in the top 1%, marking five consecutive years of producing numerous top-1% researchers
- The late Professor Kyoung-Woong Kim, who passed away in August of this year, was included in the "Global Top 2% Researchers" list for five consecutive years... As a world-renowned expert in soil and groundwater contamination remediation, he contributed to solving water problems in developing countries with his non-electrical water purification system and non-powered water treatment devices



▲ Panoramic view of GIST campus

The Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST, President Kichul Lim) announced that 23 GIST researchers were selected for the "Top 2% Scientists 2025" list, jointly announced by Elsevier, a global academic information analytics company headquartered in the Netherlands, and Stanford University. Nine of these researchers are considered top-tier researchers, ranking among the top 1% of researchers worldwide.

The "Top 2% Scientists" list, published annually by Elsevier and Stanford University, assesses the impact of researchers worldwide. It is considered a global indicator of objective academic impact by

comprehensively analyzing not only the number of papers and citations but also the citation index, co-authorship contributions, and the h-index, which reflects the productivity and influence of researchers.

GIST recorded a high percentage among major Korean universities, with 23 of its 194 full-time faculty members, or approximately 12%, on the list based on the 2025 university information disclosure standards.

Notably, nine researchers are ranked in the world's top 1%: ▲ Professors Chun T. Rim and Byoung Seung Ham of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science; ▲ Professor Hyo Sung Ahn of the Department of Mechanical and Robotics Engineering; ▲ Professor Yong-Chul Kim of the Department of Life Sciences; and ▲ Professor In S. Kim of the Department of Environment and Energy Engineering. Among these researchers, Professors Chun T. Rim, Byoung Seung Ham, Hyo Sung Ahn, and Yong-Chul Kim have maintained their outstanding research achievements, having been ranked in the top 1% for five consecutive years.

Professor Chun T. Rim, who has been selected as a top 1% researcher in the field of Electrical & Electronic Engineering for five consecutive years, is a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and is considered one of the world's leading scholars in the field of wireless power.

In October of this year, he received the Milan M. Jovanović Award, the most prestigious academic award in the field of wireless power, from the IEEE. This is significant, as he is the first Korean researcher and only the seventh globally to receive the award.

Professor Byoung Seung Ham has been ranked among the top 1% of researchers in the field of Optics for five consecutive years. A world-renowned expert in quantum information and sensing, Professor Ham is leading research in quantum fields, a national strategic technology included in the Korea-U.S. Technology Prosperity Agreement.

Last year, he presented a new concept of "super-resolution quantum sensing" compatible with classical optics. In March of this year, he announced a method for implementing a "quantum spectrometer" applicable to existing spectrometers. His forward-looking and practical research has garnered international attention.

Professor Hyo Sung Ahn, ranked among the top 1% of researchers in the field of Industrial Engineering & Automation for five consecutive years, is leading cutting-edge convergence research based on control engineering, including autonomous operation of unmanned aerial vehicles and intelligent control systems. His research is expanding into a wide range of applications, from industrial automation to aerospace systems.

Professor Yong-Chul Kim has been ranked among the top 1% of researchers in the field of Medicinal & Biomolecular Chemistry for five consecutive years. Professor Kim is leading a paradigm shift in the global pharmaceutical industry through AI-based new drug development and the establishment of a bioinnovation platform.

Professor Kim, who also founded and currently serves as CEO of Pelemed, a venture company dedicated to the industrialization of new drug development, stated, "It is crucial for GIST to attract world-class scholars and support researchers in an optimal environment." He added, "Building on GIST's excellent research infrastructure and resources, we will continue to produce world-renowned research results and conduct research that contributes substantially to human society."

Meanwhile, the late Professor Kyoung-Woong Kim of the Department of Environment and Energy Engineering (Environmental Sciences), who recently passed away, was selected as one of the "Top 2% of

Researchers in the World" for five consecutive years, starting in 2021, highlighting his lifetime academic achievements.

Professor Kim, a world-renowned expert in soil and groundwater remediation, has demonstrated his commitment to the social responsibility of science and technology through the "Ongdalsam Project," which developed and distributed a water purification system that operates without electricity to water-scarce regions, and the development and distribution of the "GIST Hope Water Purifier," a non-powered water treatment device. He has become a role model for researchers, caring for underprivileged communities and the global environment.

President Kichul Lim stated, "The fact that approximately 12% of our full-time faculty are ranked among the world's top 2% of researchers demonstrates that GIST's research competitiveness has reached an international level. We will continue to produce world-class research results and grow into a university that contributes to a better future for our local community, nation, and humanity."

Meanwhile, this list is the result of a comprehensive analysis of the number of citations, h-index, and author contribution from 1960 to 2024, targeting researchers from around the world who have published at least five papers across 22 fields and 174 subfields, and was compiled based on Elsevier's academic database 'SCOPUS'.

