

Biomechanics and Yuan-Cheng (Y. C.) Fung: A Special Tribute on His 100th Birthday

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On this momentous occasion of Y. C. Fung’s centennial birthday, we send our very best wishes for his health and well-being and to thank him for being a consummate teacher, a distinguished scholar, a brilliant researcher, a quintessential leader, a visionary role model, and more personally, he has been our revered mentor, generous colleague, and loving friend.

Fung’s writings and teachings have inspired and directly influenced our studies and our careers. He has brought biomechanics to everyone’s attention and taught us how to share the knowledge worldwide. He is a pioneer and is respectfully called the “Father of Modern Biomechanics”. Fung teaches by example and motivates all his students to excel. Students are in awe by his deep knowledge, insight, and integrity towards science and engineering. Fung treats his students like family and takes care of all their needs. As such, students could focus on their studies while learning to respect, admire, and love him.



Professor Y. C. Fung



Fung’s Books on Mechanics and Biomechanics

In this lecture, we will give examples so that the younger investigators could learn some history of how Fung has successfully inspired, taught, and guided junior colleagues on “why, what, and how” to make sustainable contributions to our field. He has taught us how to do research properly and has outlined the necessary and sufficient steps for us to take when solving biomechanics problems. In addition, he has guided us to include professional services to the field of biomechanics as part of our academic duties and become leaders in this field. In the early 1970’s, he wanted to bring biomechanics front and center in bioengineering. So, he gathered us together and used the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) as a platform to launch the biannual Biomechanics Symposium in 1973. This meeting has grown and was later renamed as the annual Summer Biomechanics, Bioengineering and Biotransport Conference (SB³C). He also co-founded the Journal of Biomechanical Engineering in 1977 – an ASME Transaction. In addition, Fung orchestrated the United States National Committee on Biomechanics (USNCB) to bring biomechanics to the world stage. Examples include the First China-Japan-USA (Singapore was later added) Conference on Biomechanics in Wuhan, China in 1983; then, the First World Congress of Biomechanics (WCB) in La Jolla, California in 1990. Fung also founded the World Committee of Biomechanics to oversee the World Congress. Because of Fung, biomechanics has become a very visible discipline. In honor of Fung’s contributions, the International Astronomical Union named an Asteroid (210434 Fungyuancheng) after him in 2012.

Our 50 years of association and close friendship with Fung have not only benefited our academic careers, but more importantly, have guided us to become better educators and more caring individuals. We are deeply grateful to him and are delighted to have this wonderful opportunity to share our incredible journey with our respected mentor.

Keywords: Biomechanics; Y.C Fung; teacher; mentor; role model; 100th Birthday



**Organizing Committee for Y. C. Fung's 90th Birthday Symposium
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