

## Peter Tsai

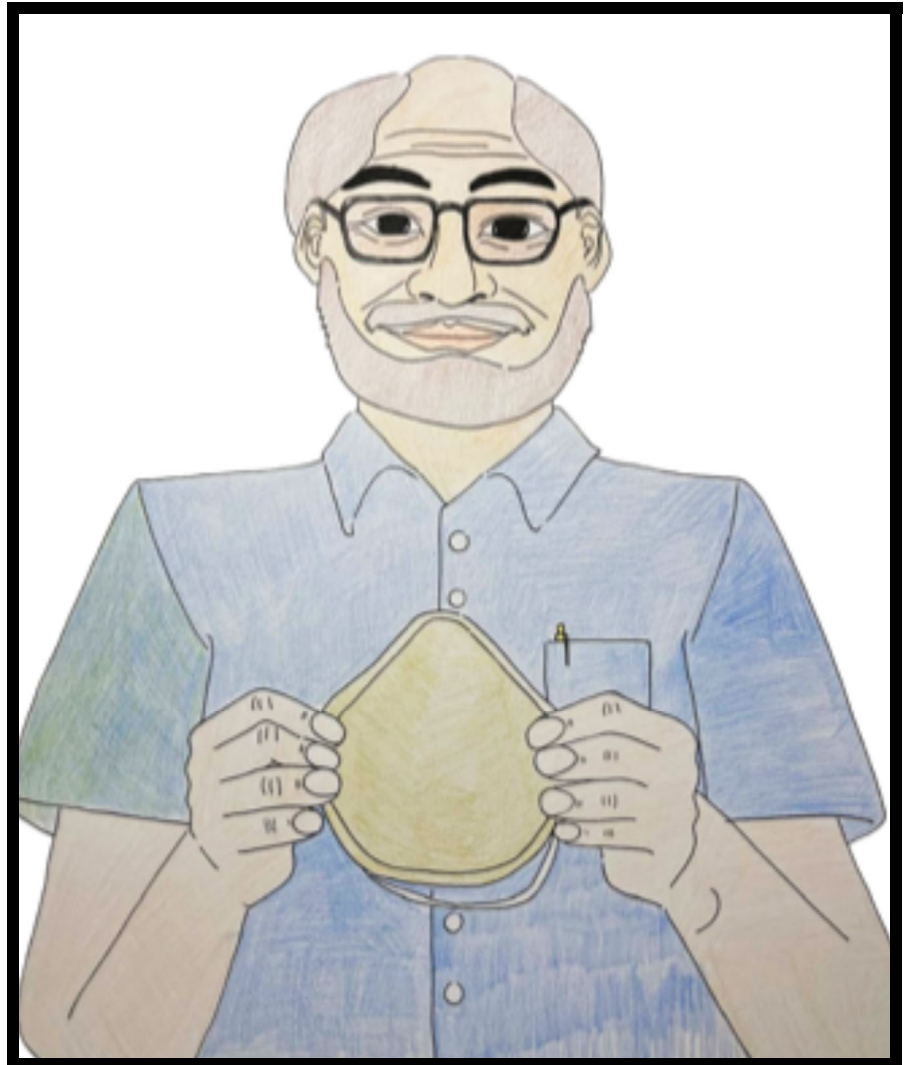
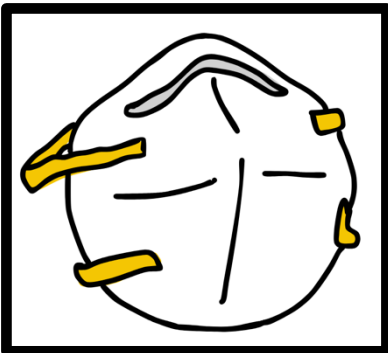
(b. February 6, 1952)

Professor,  
University of  
Tennessee

### Taiwanese American

Place of Birth: Taichung,  
Taiwan

Invention: N95 Respira-  
tory Facial Mask Filter



Qilan Huang (SFSU 2025)

Peter came from a low-income farming family of ten children. He walked miles to school and made his own roller skates from old door rollers. Peter studied chemical fiber engineering in Taiwan. He then moved in 1981 to the United States, where he worked long hours at a fish-and-chips restaurant to earn his doctoral degree in material science at Kansas State University. Peter invented the technology that led to the invention of the N95 respiratory facial mask worn by many people during the COVID-19 pandemic. Peter is the first person to receive the B. Otto and Kathleen Wheelley Award twice.