Assoc. Prof Joseph Ooi and his PhD student, Xu Ruoran, together with Prof David Ling from the University of Florida, have been awarded research funding from the Real Estate Research Institute (RERI) for their research proposal “Asset Growth and Stock Performance: Evidence from REITs” in May 2015. They propose to investigate whether the rapid asset growth of REITs are followed by periods of abnormally low returns; in other words, can the growth rate of a REIT be used as a predictor of its future returns? The study will also examine the role of different sources of financing in influencing the effect of asset growth on stock returns.

RERI is a non-profit organization incorporated in the US to stimulate high quality research on real estate investment performance and market fundamentals. It is supported by an extensive sponsor base of industry associations, real estate investment advisory firms, and industry research firms. RERI’s mission is to encourage and reward research on real estate as an investment and as an asset class that is both academically rigorous and of value to the institutional real estate investment profession. In addition, RERI serves to provide a forum through which the real estate academic, professional, and regulatory communities can interact, facilitating exchange of insights amongst these stakeholders. The Real Estate Research Institute have to date a research agenda and study priorities established, broad recognition by top-flight academics, a broadening sponsor base of academic and industry associations, an active research program and a track record of successfully completed projects.