

SARS

Special Issue



24 JUN 2003

shows disease from animal has mutated, warn experts

virus shock



Hong Kong University researchers claim the virus has mutated. From left, front row, Professor Shiu-ming Liang, Dr Frederick Leung, Professor Yuen Kwok-yung and Professor Mark Peiris. Assistant researchers are in the back row.

Yuen said there were other reasons why infections in some cases were more severe than in others, such as larger doses of the virus or secondary infections caused by other viruses. "Large," he said. "When the dose is large, you'll get severe infections. Secondly, to see whether there are other infections as well. When you

奪命冠病毒

港大破基因密碼與牛



【本報訊】香港研究非典型肺炎病毒專家，揭開致命冠狀病毒的基因密碼。香港大學公共衛生學院院長馮忠義、香港醫學會中區人理會會長馮國光、香港醫學會傳染病專科委員會主席馮國光、香港醫學會傳染病專科委員會主席馮國光、香港醫學會傳染病專科委員會主席馮國光。

中港聯合研究 鎖定非典病毒果子狸



【本報訊】香港與中國科學家聯合研究，證實非典型肺炎病毒與果子狸有關。香港大學公共衛生學院院長馮忠義、香港醫學會中區人理會會長馮國光、香港醫學會傳染病專科委員會主席馮國光、香港醫學會傳染病專科委員會主席馮國光、香港醫學會傳染病專科委員會主席馮國光。

酒精拭紙可殺滅病毒

手摸眼鼻口最易傳染



遍肺炎蔓延 港大有天

發現最新病毒 最快5日斷症



全球專家正研究如何防止非典型肺炎蔓延。目前，非典型肺炎的傳播途徑尚不明確，但專家認為，非典型肺炎的傳播途徑可能包括飛沫、接觸、以及與受感染動物（如果子狸）的接觸。

March 22

DISCOVERY OF AN EMERGING SARS AGENT: THE VIRUS AND THE DIAGNOSTIC TEST

HKU microbiologists, under the leadership of Professor Malik Peiris (裴偉士), Chief of Virology and Professor Yuen Kwok-yung (袁國勇), Head of Department of Microbiology, have successfully identified and cultured the killer virus responsible for the outbreak of SARS. The team has also developed an antibody test for the detection of SARS in infected patients.



April 10 - 12

MEDICAL AND NURSING STUDENTS HELP IN FIGHT AGAINST SARS

More than 200 medical and nursing students from the Medical Faculty kick off an intensive three-day public education campaign across Hong Kong. The students spend 12-hour days in a variety of MTR stations in a bid to boost public health and confidence in dealing with SARS.



March 27

CORONAVIRUS PNEUMONIA: AN INTERNATIONAL BREAKTHROUGH

The World Health Organization hails the Department of Microbiology team after they have confirmed the mysterious pneumonia is caused by a coronavirus. This world first crucial breakthrough is complemented by the development of a new diagnostic test (RT-PCR test) for SARS by the team.



April 4 & 29

PUBLIC PERCEPTION AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES OF HONG KONG CITIZENS CONCERNING SARS

A survey conducted by the Department of Community Medicine team in early April reveals the anxiety level and knowledge of Hong Kong citizens in dealing with SARS. A follow up survey conducted in mid-April points out SARS epidemic has increased solidarity amongst Hong Kong people in general but solidarity within neighbourhoods is still weak. The two surveys act as a rallying call to increase public education about the killer virus in order to help the public to break the cycle of ignorance and fear.



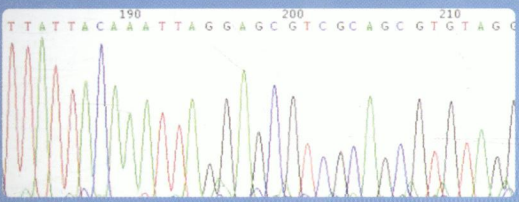
SARS TIMELINE

A CRITICAL PATH

April 16

HKU SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES THE DNA SEQUENCING OF SARS CORONAVIRUS

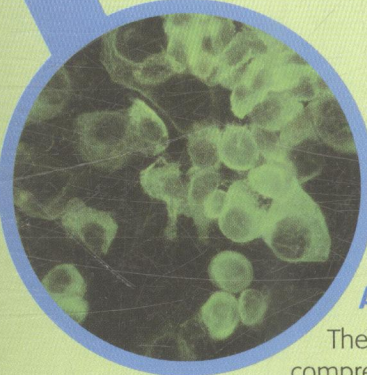
Researchers from the Faculty of Medicine and Science have worked together to complete the genetic sequencing of SARS coronavirus, following Canadian researchers and US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



April 27

JOINT SYMPOSIUM ON ATYPICAL PNEUMONIA

Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention and Faculty of Medicine jointly organize a regional symposium and invite experts from across Mainland, Taipei and Hong Kong to share their experience on SARS. Discussion topics include epidemiology; clinical management; virology and pathogenesis and infection control of SARS.



April 19

CORONAVIRUS: THE CAUSATIVE AGENT OF SARS

The microbiology team comprehensively proves that the coronavirus is behind SARS and its pioneering work is published in the leading international medical journal, The Lancet, on April 19.

April 26

MEDICAL EXPERTS MEET IN HONG KONG TO FIGHT AGAINST SARS

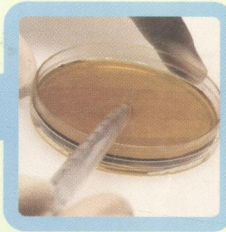
Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention and Faculty of Medicine invite medical experts from Mainland, Taipei and Hong Kong to meet at an expert discussion meeting with the aim to exchange information on SARS and to establish collaborations within the Region to fight against the deadly disease.



May 23

EXPERTS FROM MAINLAND AND HKU SUCCESSFULLY ISOLATE SARS CORONAVIRUS FROM CIVET CATS

Researchers from the Department of Microbiology and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention of Shenzhen have successfully isolated the coronavirus causing SARS from the civet cats. This is another important milestone for the control of SARS.



May 28

COLLABORATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF INACTIVATED CORONAVIRUS PREPARATION WITH MAINLAND RESEARCHERS

Researchers from Guangzhou Medical College, Fudan University and the Department of Microbiology, HKU have collaborated on the research of an inactivated coronavirus preparation used for intranasal immunoprophylaxis with the objective to abort the invasion of live coronavirus into nasal mucosa.

May 11

HKU TO STUDY ANTIVIRAL AGENTS ON STOPPING ENTRY OF CORONAVIRUS

Dr Richard Kao (高一村) and Dr Leo Poon Lit-man (潘烈文) from the Department of Microbiology, HKU have set up the antiviral peptide neutralisation assay for the confirmation of the effectiveness of these compounds in blocking the entry of the coronavirus into the cells. The world famous AIDS expert Dr David Ho (何大一) announces he is teaming up with University of Hong Kong scientists to develop a synthetic drug that will block the SARS virus from penetrating into the human cell.



April 27

SIGNING OF MOU BETWEEN CHINESE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION AND FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention and Faculty of Medicine sign a Memorandum of Understanding to establish collaboration to fight against SARS. The two institutions will pool together resources on SARS research.



Vice-Chancellor's Message

►► **Hong** Kong was unprepared when Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) came upon us as a sudden attack which brought panic and pain.

Our colleagues in the Department of Microbiology were better prepared, however. As professionals, they have been living with viruses and infectious agents all the time. They provided the world with the crucial scientific information about the SARS agent – a new strain of coronavirus – in an unprecedented pace.

Our clinical colleagues and health care workers have been exemplary in the SARS battle, with truly unusual courage, prepared to face failures and casualties. We should all salute to their professionalism and their dedication to the welfare of the whole Hong Kong. Other colleagues also joined the fight: engineers, architects, social workers, psychologists, ... even statisticians, contributing their professional knowledge and services to the community. Our students too have taken on a leadership role in the many community projects that were being organized. It has indeed been a time for every citizen in Hong Kong to demonstrate unity, determination and commitment through participation and contribution. There are many unsung heroes.

The Faculty of Medicine has been a forerunner in undertaking ground-breaking research into the cause of this new disease. Our medical colleagues have, in collaboration with other disease control institutions, worked day and night to try to unveil the secret code of the deadly virus. This small compilation we have here is but a record of what has happened among our medical colleagues, who have been at the forefront of the battle. They represent the spirit of perseverance and commitment, which are also widespread among many other institutions, laboratories and hospitals. Such a spirit has been what shaped Hong Kong, but is now revitalised and should lead Hong Kong into the future.

Let us pay tribute to all those who have been battling with a deadly disease, and have saved many lives in Hong Kong and around the world. ◀

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Lap-Chee Tsui'.

Professor Lap-Chee Tsui
Vice-Chancellor
The University of Hong Kong

Dean's Message

▶▶ **The** devastating nature of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and the unprecedented speed of its spread have deranged the equilibrium of the world. However, we are fortunate in that the progress of research on SARS also proceeds at an unparalleled pace.

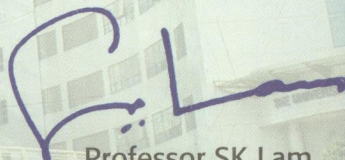
We now know SARS first emerged in the province of Guangdong in Southern China. The majority of SARS cases worldwide can be traced to one single person. A professor who had been involved in treating SARS patients in Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong, traveled to Hong Kong to attend a wedding. Several people in the hotel where he stayed and a few others in close contact with him were infected. They all became the index cases in Singapore, Hanoi, Toronto, and Hong Kong. It was in Hanoi that Dr Carlo Urbani, the WHO scientist, investigated a patient with atypical pneumonia. He recognized the severity of the disease and alerted WHO of the existence of a severe form of acute atypical pneumonia that is now known as SARS.

Research on SARS progresses as rapidly as SARS strikes havocs in hospitals and our health care system. Information on SARS distributes with amazing speed via the internet and other electronic means. Telecommunication has aided research efforts and cooperation as information is exchanged by the WHO network laboratories by regular video and teleconferences. In an unprecedented pace, researchers identified a novel coronavirus. This new virus has now been accepted by WHO as the causative agent for SARS being able to fulfill all Koch's postulates. Equally amazing is the speed at which the RNA sequence of the coronavirus is completed. Furthermore, what used to be months from paper submission to the time of publication has changed. The first description of the clinical features of SARS was provided by 2 online publications in the New England Journal of Medicine on March 31, 2003. Coronavirus as a possible causative agent for SARS was published online in The Lancet on April 8, 2003. Two papers reporting the full sequence of the coronavirus were published online in Science on May 1, 2003. The list keeps growing at an incredible speed.

At this moment, we are still at an early stage in terms of therapy for SARS. Clearly we need more than ribavirin and steroids. Efforts are underway to look for better and more effective therapies ranging from new immunosuppressive agents, to specific peptides that inhibit the entry of the virus to host cells, as well as for vaccines that will ultimately prevent the disease.

In effectively combating SARS and other infectious diseases, joint efforts from scientists and medical experts from the Region is vital. In view of this, the Medical Faculty has signed an agreement with the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, with the aim to enhance collaboration on SARS research and infection control; and indeed the successful tracking of the source of the coronavirus to the civet cats is a fruitful result of such collaboration.

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to salute all the health care workers who work tirelessly and selflessly to look after SARS patients. I also wish to thank all the scientists burning the midnight oil to unfold the mystery of SARS, from the isolation and identification of the coronavirus to its gene sequencing, in record time. Let us all work together and rid this virus from the face of the earth. ◀



Professor SK Lam
Faculty of Medicine
The University of Hong Kong



中國CDC病毒病所 與香港大學醫學院 工作展望

2003年4月26-27日在香港舉行的“兩岸三地”預防控制SARS討論會期間，香港大學醫學院與中國CDC病毒病預防控制所簽署了通過對SARS病人樣品檢測進行SARS病原學研究的合作協議書。這是中國CDC病毒病所與香港有關機構簽署的第一份合作協議書，標誌著兩家聯手抗擊SARS的研究正式開始。

此前港大醫學院已與病毒病所交換過SARS病人血清樣品，開始了合作研究。在今年2月中旬SARS爆發的早期，病毒病所與港大進行了病原的合作研究，並成功排除SARS可能是由禽流感病毒所引致。合作協議簽署後，港大醫學院還向病毒病所提供了他們分離的SARS毒株，為進一步開展病原學和致病機理的研究創造了很好的條件。

目前內陸許多研究機構已與香港相應機構建立了良好的合作關係。最近，兩地聯手在野生動物中發現了人類SARS冠狀病毒的前體病毒，這對預防和控制SARS具有重要戰略意義。我深信，港大醫學院與中國CDC病毒病所簽署的正式合作協議書，將會大大促進京港兩地SARS的相關研究，例如：病原學、流行病學、發病機理、診斷試劑、疫苗和藥物等，並取得重要成果。兩地聯手，將為預防控制，甚至根除SARS做出我們的貢獻。



中國CDC病毒病預防控制所

阮力 所長



SARS DETECTIVE STORY

Microbiology Team

▶▶ **I**f toll of the SARS outbreak is etched into Professor Yuen Kwok-yung (袁國勇)'s face then so is the determination to carry the fight to the virus until victory is assured.

As Head of the Department of Microbiology, Yuen and his chief of Virology, Professor Malik Peiris (裴偉士) have been instrumental in leading his team in hunting down the virus, devising diagnostic tests and so helping mold frontline treatment.

But the professor is quick to acknowledge the personal cost.

Yuen says: "This has been the hardest test for me professionally and personally. I have lost 5 kilos, don't have enough sleep and been under great pressure.

"Finding a diagnosis for SARS and helping devise the treatment has been so important to Hong Kong with over 1800 infections and more than 200 deaths.

"There has been a big burden on our shoulders and a real sense of urgency."

Despite his evident exhaustion, Yuen then jumps up - to the whiteboard and begins to sketch out the role of his core team in helping tackle a global epidemic.

As early as February when the rumours of a mysterious outbreak in Guangdong first emerged, the team dispatched two of its members to the Mainland.

Yuen recalls: "We sent Drs Guan Yi (管軼) and Zheng Bojian (鄭伯健) and they tried to isolate the virus but at that time we were so focused on H5N1 (Avian Flu) that we did not get anything."

By the end of February, however, the first index case emerged in Hong Kong and Yuen was invited to Kwong Wah Hospital to witness at first hand the human cost.

Yuen recalls: "I found it was a horrible disease because the index patient was a strong man who came down with severe respiratory failure. But the turning point was the discovery of the coronavirus." This happened after a lung biopsy - the removal of lung tissue - from a subsequent SARS patient which gave them the first chance to grow the virus in isolation.

Yuen says: "We were smarter this time and realised we needed more cell lines to increase the chances of growing the virus because originally it did not grow.

"Dr Chan Kwok-hung (陳國雄) was very smart because he used a very unusual cell type to grow the virus and this worked because it was more susceptible to infection."

At this point it was the turn of Professor Malik Peiris who characterised the virus, and Dr John Nicholls (黎國思) who ascertained the pathology of SARS.

Colleague Dr Leo Poon Lit-man (潘烈文) then took centre stage with his "gene fishing exercise" which enabled the team to isolate a fragment of the SARS gene.

For the first time they realised they were dealing with a completely new type of gene.

Yuen says: "The discovery is not down to one person but

is a team effort. Drs Guan and Zheng risked their lives by going to Guangzhou and realised it was not H5N1 we were dealing with. After that, it was the turn of the rest of the team."

The price has been long hours - with team members racking up 16-hour days.

Motivation, however, is not an issue when life and death are at stake.

Yuen says: "It is the patients that keep me going because to see them dying before your eyes is horrible. You feel that you can't let them die."

As the outbreak begins to recede, the temptation to bask in the glow of success is not one that Yuen is likely to succumb to: there are too many lessons to be absorbed.

The departmental head believes that SARS has vital lessons for the University of Hong Kong and ones that help shed light both on the past and the future.

He says: "The strength of HKU is history. When I became departmental chair in 1999, I saw the long history stretch out before me.

"The foundation chair CT Huang in 1976 identified a bacteria as responsible for the deaths of dolphins at Ocean Park but no one would believe him until the Pasteur Institute in France confirmed his diagnosis.

"This was the start of the direction towards emerging infectious diseases that I stressed we must concentrate on when I became chair.

"We must concentrate on our strengths - emerging infectious diseases - because we are the best safeguard for Hong Kong and the world.

"The problem is we don't have the money!"



Professor Yuen Kwok-yung,
Head of Department of
Microbiology, HKU



CLINICIANS AT SARS BATTLEFIELD

SARS Team at Queen Mary Hospital

►► **When** Stephanie, James and Jonathan Tsang hear their father opening the front door, they don't run to greet him but dutifully take their position outside the shower room.

This may seem odd until you realise that their father is the Associate Professor of Respiratory Medicine Dr Kenneth Tsang Wah-tak (曾華德) with a frontline role in the fight against SARS.

Tsang says: "Family life has become very difficult and I spend much less time with my kids and wife and have to be meticulous about my physical health."

"I constantly take showers after every (hospital) round, have a good scrub, wash my hair and then when I go home I do the same all over again."

"My wife Janette and kids miss me so much and they realise that they must stand outside the shower room when I come back from the hospital."

This 8 pm routine draws the curtains down on Tsang's professional day - exactly 12 hours after his working day begins.

This probably represents a shorter day than many other HKU specialists involved in the fight against SARS but then few face the intensity of life and death decisions.

Tsang, however, comes face-to-face with these from the moment he walks into his office.

Joined by fellow consultant Wong Poon-chuen (黃泮銓), Tsang begins the clinical day by making his rounds of the hospital wards that fall under their jurisdiction.

Tsang says: "It is both stressful and difficult for each case because if we make the wrong diagnosis and give them the wrong treatment, we might hurt them."

"The morning round could last 3-4 hours and during this time you are wearing an N95 mask, you are fully gowned and standing up the whole time."

"You feel physically exhausted and you then realise that you have to do it all over again in the evening."

At the peak of the outbreak, Tsang and his SARS team at Queen Mary Hospital were faced with five wards and so far they have admitted 450 suspected SARS patients, with 52 eventually being confirmed.

But the problems do not end there.

Tsang says: "This is without a rapid diagnostic test that is universally accepted and a lot of the time the results are not clear-cut."

"This means we have to go on clinical definition but we don't know that much about the disease so it is very difficult."

Each year, for instance, Hong Kong has 22,000 pneumonia cases with 3,000 fatalities that do not respond to conventional anti-biotic treatment.

This is also a characteristic of SARS. The question is where do doctors draw the line between the two?

This means that Tsang and Wong can take nothing for granted, including the diagnoses of their junior doctors and nurses. Everything has to be checked and checked again.

All these have to be completed before a late lunch at 2:30 pm.

Another key part of their daily schedule is to keep doctors up-to-date on infection control during exhaustive and exhausting three-hour training sessions with Dr Szeto Wing-hong (司徒永康), Chairman of Infection Control of Queen Mary Hospital.

During the afternoon, Tsang will attend to administrative duties before starting the evening rounds in the late afternoon.

Tsang says: "It has been the greatest test for everyone - even my boss Professor Lam Wah-kit (林華杰) admits that this has been the most challenging condition in medicine."

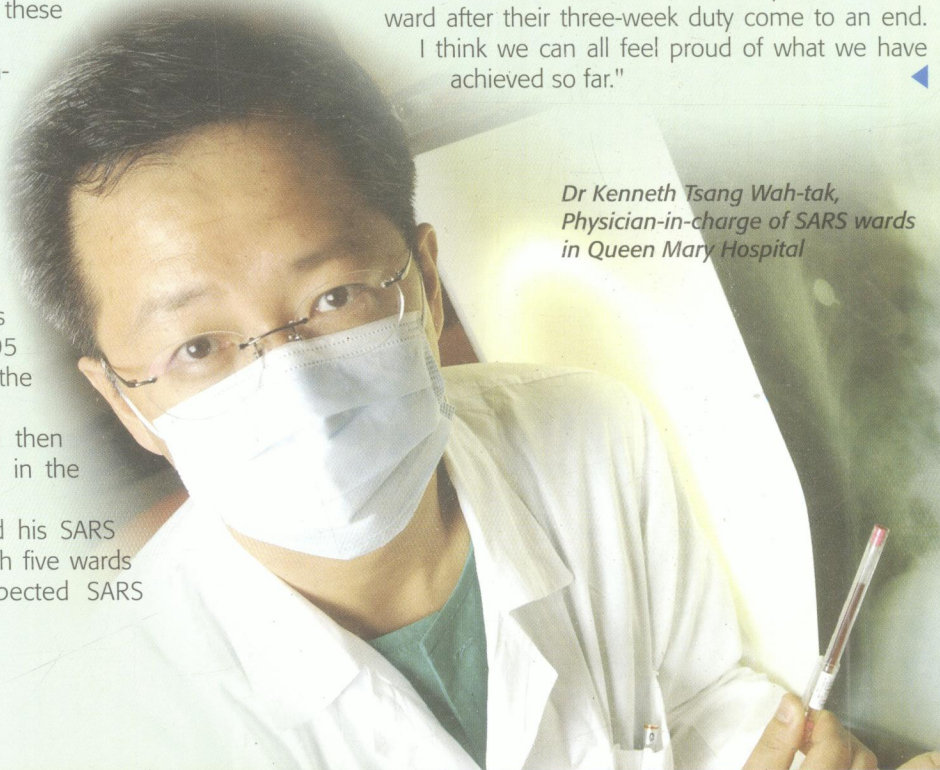
"People have been overwhelmed because if you get it, you could die and you will give it to your family."

"You become emotionally attached to your patients which is unusual for consultants."

"The other problem is how do you keep up morale? I must say that our SARS team has been extremely good because we have tried our very best to keep the cross infection rate to minimum."

"So much so that staff want to stay on the SARS ward after their three-week duty come to an end."

I think we can all feel proud of what we have achieved so far." ◀



*Dr Kenneth Tsang Wah-tak,
Physician-in-charge of SARS wards
in Queen Mary Hospital*

A RACE AGAINST TIME CRACKING THE GENETIC CODE OF SARS CORONAVIRUS

Genetic Sequencing Team

►► **If** Dr Frederick Leung (梁志清) is proud of being the first in the world to successfully sequence the coronavirus genome, he is equally pleased that he could still bath his infant daughter.

Despite putting in 20-hour days to help unlock the secrets of the coronavirus across ten anxiety filled days, the zoologist was determined that his family should not suffer.

The father-of-six laughs: "I am really proud of the fact that I still managed to get home each evening for dinner and to bath my daughter.

"I am lucky that I live so close to the university."

At their laboratories in the Kadoorie Biological Sciences Building, the 11-strong team, including students, had to make do with little sleep as they battled to be the first.

Leung, who is also the Dean of the Faculty of Science, recognizes that this was one of the biggest moments of his professional career, which has spanned more than 30 years.

The race began at 5 pm on April 7 after Leung had assembled his students and would only end when they uploaded the sequence onto the worldwide web at 11:40 pm on April 16.

He recalls: "I told them that we were starting behind the US and Canadian teams, it would probably take us ten days and there was a good chance we could come third. I said to them 'Would you be interested?' and all the students put their hands up. That's how we started."

Because they were dealing with an unknown quantity, the team was initially struggling to pin the virus down and Leung compares its complexity to "landing on the moon".

Nevertheless, land they did and with increasing speed mapped out the sequence.

Leung's pessimism, however, appeared vindicated when their rivals uploaded sequences onto the National Center for Biotechnology Information website first.

Inevitably, the bouquets, plaudits and kudos went across the Pacific but five days after Leung's team had uploaded their sequence, their rival's flaws began to emerge.

Leung says: "They had to issue corrections and filled in the deficient sequences on later days whereas we were right from the start. It is disappointing because I do believe we deserve the recognition of being first.

"This is critical in science, not least because we had the most accurate reporting yet Science (magazine) took our rival's paper because they said they were first."

What makes the HKU effort all the more admirable was that they were up against teams that could call upon far greater resources, as well having had a head start.

Leung says: "There were ten of us whereas the Canadian group would have had 50-60 people and the US team have over 300 working for them.



Dr Frederick Leung and his team of scientists

"We also had just one large and one small sequencing machine compared to our rivals and this shows that machines are not the key.

"I told my students that 'Working hard, working smart' was the key to success."

PhD student Raymond Hui Kin-hi says: "We have learnt so much from this. I can't believe we could sequence the genome with such speed.

"To be also involved in the development of a new diagnostic kit is completely new technology for me. I feel tired but at the end of the day very happy."

Reflecting on their success, Dr Zeng Fan-ya, who helped lead the team, believes that the Hong Kong team deserves to be rated alongside the best.

On secondment from Sichuan University, Dr Zeng says: "This has been the most hardest, most demanding time of my career.

"We now know what SARS is and this shows how powerful biotechnology is because 10-20 years ago we could not have done this.

"I have worked with many different teams in many different places and I am very proud of this team. It is a very good team and works well together."

The team also used the crisis to develop new diagnostic tests that will greatly speed up the process of analysis and increase their accuracy.

One of these bright ideas now has a patent application pending.

That such creativity should stem from such circumstances comes as no surprise to Leung.

He says: "Of course the pressure was intense but that's where the road to discovery leads. It is always competitive.

"You don't get that many chances like this in life. Although SARS did kill many people, our accomplishments will help mankind and that's the pay off on all the pain.

"I just hope that Hong Kong will realise our potential now. We need your support" ◀

The full team list:

Dr FY Zeng; Carol, WM Chan; Charis, MN Chan; Dr J Chen; Ken, YC Chow; Chung C Hon; Raymond, KH Hui; J Li; Vince, YY Li; Crystal, Y Wang; Patrick, Y Wang



(From left) Dr GM Leung,
Professor AJ Hedley and
Professor TH Lam

HITTING SARS

Community Medicine Team

► **For** Professor Anthony Johnson Hedley (賀達理) and Professor Lam Tai-hing (林大慶), Head of Department of Community Medicine, the University of Hong Kong, the impact of SARS hit them with a sharp jolt when one of their own colleagues was suspected to be infected with SARS.

For the wider public, this alarm would perhaps mean little because the department's work centres on public health, epidemiology and statistics, and analysing the numbers behind the unfolding epidemic.

Hedley says: "Information is vital to combat an epidemic, but without investment in that area, you will never be able to have effective instruments for control of the epidemic."

Research of the department has centred on three areas:

1. Analysing the effects of public health interventions on epidemiological parameters (such as the time from onset of symptoms to hospital admission).
2. The effect of changes in the parameters on the transmission of the disease.
3. The factors that have influenced case fatality.

But before they could even begin to contemplate this, the team had to start the laborious process of setting up a comprehensive database with the information to fuel it.

"But there are always problems capturing valid, accurate, reliable and timely data on health events and the SARS epidemic was no exception."

Hedley freely admits that this sometimes involved a lot of difficult interfaces in accessing information from diverse institutions and bodies, which do not always have the same agenda.

Two of the departmental researches have been published in leading international medical journals, one of these in *The Lancet* and the other in *Science*.

Hedley says: "What the evidence shows is that without the (public health) interventions which were implemented by mid-March, and also self-imposed restrictions on movement by the public, we could have had a roaring epidemic of 200-300 infections a day.

"The information we compiled was also presented by Dr Margaret Chan, Hong Kong's Health Director, at a WHO meeting."

Although the team is reluctant to take plaudits, they believe they have stood the test of time and SARS well.

Hedley says: "If we are going to work in the field of communicable disease epidemiology, we have still got a lot to do but there are many threats out there.

"Avian and human flu, dengue fever, resurgence of tuberculosis and now SARS have meant a recognition that we are entering a new era of emerging communicable disease."

For Lam, the work carries on.

He says: "We have been doing repeated population surveys and they show that if your anxiety level is too high or too low, your preventive measures will have a poor effect.

"This shows that we need to have carefully crafted public health messages in order to have a well informed public and this means we must not spread panic nor reassure people unnecessarily.

"It also shows that statistical analysis is an important key to understanding how best to combat epidemics." ◀

NURSES AT THE FOREFRONT OF SARS

Nursing Team

► **While** nurses have paid with their lives in the frontline of the war against SARS, they have been supported by a secret army of nursing students and academic nursing staff.

Dr Sophia, Chan Siu-chee (陳肇始), Head of Department of Nursing Studies of the University of Hong Kong, believes that the frontline sacrifices have only helped inspire her colleagues.

But she also believes that this 21st century crisis has only helped to reaffirm the standards set by Florence Nightingale – the 19th century mother of modern nursing.

Chan says: "My feeling is we are with the patients 24 hours a day and are in close contact with them, so it's impossible to be totally risk free.

"Although we have to be vigilant, as nursing professionals, however, we have a mission and SARS has conveyed the truth of the Florence Nightingale pledge to nurses of the 21st century."

This devotion to the welfare of patients and the wider community has seen Chan and her colleagues undertake a mass public education campaign and vital research.

Initially this was restricted to basic instruction in hygiene for the public and how to use masks but now has developed in three key directions.

First, the department has led the way in examining the role of nurses in combating SARS so as to improve the preventive measures and reduce health care worker infections.

Secondly, one of the research teams has been developing a "protocol" or nursing care model for the virus, which has taken Hong Kong to the very edge of medical science and treatment.

Finally, there has been the public health education campaign, which has also developed in a number of different directions.

Chan says: "We felt it was very important to educate different groups in the community about SARS: personal hygiene and preventive measures.

"It has been very, very demanding doing all these research in different directions without extra resources. We have had to work harder and sleep less."

For nursing students, postgraduate researchers and teachers, the normal timetables have had to be set aside in the wake of SARS but they have had other things to focus on.

One of these has been a campaign by nursing and medical students set in MTR stations and designed to access and inform the public.

More recently, students have been involved in a health education programme conducted through the telephone and targeting at the elderly.

This has focused on assessing their state of health and preventive measures, and giving advice based on their responses.

Another project has involved nursing teachers and students visiting primary schools to educate pupils and staff about how to avoid SARS.

If all these sound removed from the frontline, then Chan and her colleagues have had a sharp reminder of the very real dangers they face day-to-day.

She says: "One of the nursing officers who was assessing the physical and psychological needs of SARS patients as part of one of our research teams had just contracted SARS. The dangers are very real."

Another research team has also been compiling a survey of 1,500 nurses in Hong Kong.

It looks at the health – physical and mental – of nurses, as well as their knowledge and beliefs of SARS, alongside assessing what preventive measures they take at home and work.

Chan says: "Even if I am not at the forefront caring for SARS patients, we have done the research to benefit the public and profession.

"I feel privileged in that respect."



Dr Sophia Chan (middle) and her nursing team



Professor Mary Ip (葉秀文),
Associate Dean (Education &
Student Affairs)

THE IMPACT OF SARS ON MEDICAL EDUCATION

Education Team

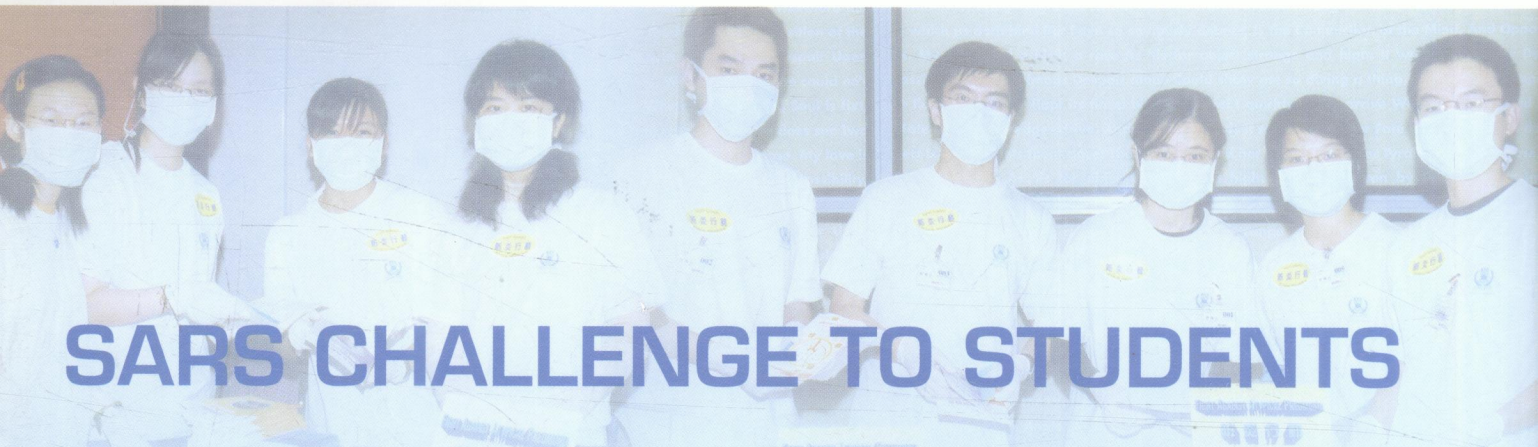
► In mid-March, news of a hospital outbreak of "atypical pneumonia" in Hong Kong came out. At that time, although our teaching hospital, Queen Mary Hospital (QMH), was not afflicted in a major way, we felt that it was imperative to prepare our students adequately for any possibility of contact with SARS patients in the course of their learning, and to minimize human traffic in the hospital so as to facilitate infection control. Based on these considerations, the Faculty decided to suspend clinical classes for medical, nursing and Chinese Medicine students as from March 18. We were fortunate that the final year examination for the MBBS and BNursing courses could be completed without delay, and the students who were most affected were Years 3-5 MBBS students whose programmes involved a lot of patient contact. Two weeks later, non-patient contact teaching was also suspended in line with all tertiary institutions in Hong Kong. Understandably, students were anxious about the loss of learning opportunities, as well as the threat of SARS. To alleviate their anxiety, the Faculty conducted talks on SARS, and subsequently posted update information and the QMH SARS daily letter onto the student web, as fear for this new disease can only be allayed and turned into a positive force if we are well informed. During the period of suspension of classes, we delivered lectures through the web, and even attempted to conduct PBL discussion in the chat-room style. While we encouraged our students to make use of the time to study and revise, we also organized the "Fight Against Atypical Pneumonia" campaign in which our students reached out to the community serving as ambassadors for educating the public on SARS at many MTR stations.

With the gradual control of SARS in the hospitals and community, both students and teachers were keen to resume patient-contact sessions, as this could hardly be replaced

adequately by other modes of learning/teaching. We also firmly believe that students have to be trained to face SARS and other new diseases in their future profession. Resumption of clinical teaching requires meticulous planning to allow maximum opportunities for learning, and minimum disturbance to SARS control in the hospitals. The safety of both our students and our patients are of top priority in the exercise. We are very grateful to have received the full support of the hospital administration as well as medical and nursing staff of QMH, and also of some units in other public and private hospitals and clinics. Our honorary teachers were most supportive. An appeal for donation for purchase of personal protective apparels for students was sent to alumni and teachers and the feedback was very encouraging. The QMH infection control team conducted a series of workshops for the students, our nurses acted as vigilant monitors, while teachers met students both at formal feedback sessions and over informal gatherings to address their concerns and problems. Clinical classes have been resumed since May 5, and we are glad to report that the Faculty hotline, established to deal with emergency situations arising therein, has not received any call.

SARS has posed an unprecedented crisis to the healthcare system, and indeed the whole community, of Hong Kong. In the face of this turmoil, we are called upon to once again reflect on our Faculty's mission of nurturing doctors for the practice of the art and science of medicine and health, and what better way to fulfill this mission than through serving as role-models in selfless commitment to patient care and scientific research? It is also the time when students, burning the midnight oil studying, are called to remember the noble aspirations many of them have declared when they struggled through the entrance gate of the medical school. ◀

by Professor Mary Ip



SARS CHALLENGE TO STUDENTS

►► **For** nursing student Zoe, Chong Wing-sze (莊穎詩), confronting the SARS crisis brought her face-to-face with the bitter childhood memories of her grandmother dying of lung cancer.

That sense of impotence, frustration and lack of knowledge not only has driven her desire to become a nurse, but also to help Hong Kong people in their hour of need.

This was the motivating factor in joining 200 other nursing and medical students in April to launch a mass public health information campaign about SARS on the MTR.

The first-year student said: "At that time, I did not know how I could help because I am only a student and can't help in the hospital. Therefore, I thought about how I could contribute to the community.

"The MTR campaign gave me the chance to do something, to help educate the public and help in a crisis."

Terence, Tong Yee-hong (湯爾康), a second year medical

student, admitted that he could not put his finger on who developed the idea, preferring to see it as spirit of the moment.

However, from its inception to launch, it took exactly seven days of liaising among the Medical Society, senior Faculty of Medicine members and MTR officials.

The campaign was enthusiastically supported by over 300 students. However, due to a shortage of space, only 200 students have finally taken part in the actual campaign.

Beginning in the afternoon of April 10, the 200 students were spread in teams across six MTR stations covering Hong Kong Island and Kowloon.

During the second and third days, the students put in 12-hour days as they handed out information about the killer virus and demonstrated basic health and hygienic techniques.

Terence said: "What impressed me was that final year medical students were even prepared to join in and help despite all the pressures they were facing.

"I think that shows the spirit of the University of Hong Kong students and their sense of responsibility to the wider community."

Terence, 20, said this sense of obligation to his fellow man was one of the crucial reasons why he had been motivated to pursue a career as a doctor.

He said: "I looked through all the professions but felt that most dealt with things that were not of benefit to anyone: dealing with bureaucracy, politics and procedure. I wanted to choose something that I could work in with a clear conscience, with other people and to their benefit. I thought that a doctor could meet all these criteria."

Despite the terrible toll that SARS has taken on health care professionals, both Terence and Zoe remain steadfast in their determination to pursue their chosen careers.

They both believe that they and the wider community have learnt some valuable lessons from what has been a traumatic experience.

Terence said: "I am only 20 years old, so, although there have been other epidemics over the last 100 years, this is a new experience to me.

"It is unfortunate, of course, but outbreaks of this kind are really not that uncommon in history. The difference is that it is uncommon for Hong Kong and this generation."

The North Point student has come to realise that holistic care - dealing with both the physical and psychological care of patients - is more than just a theory in the face of SARS.

He said: "What this teaches us is that the standard of medical care, improvements and research make the difference between life and death.

"This is the real challenge for medical professionals."

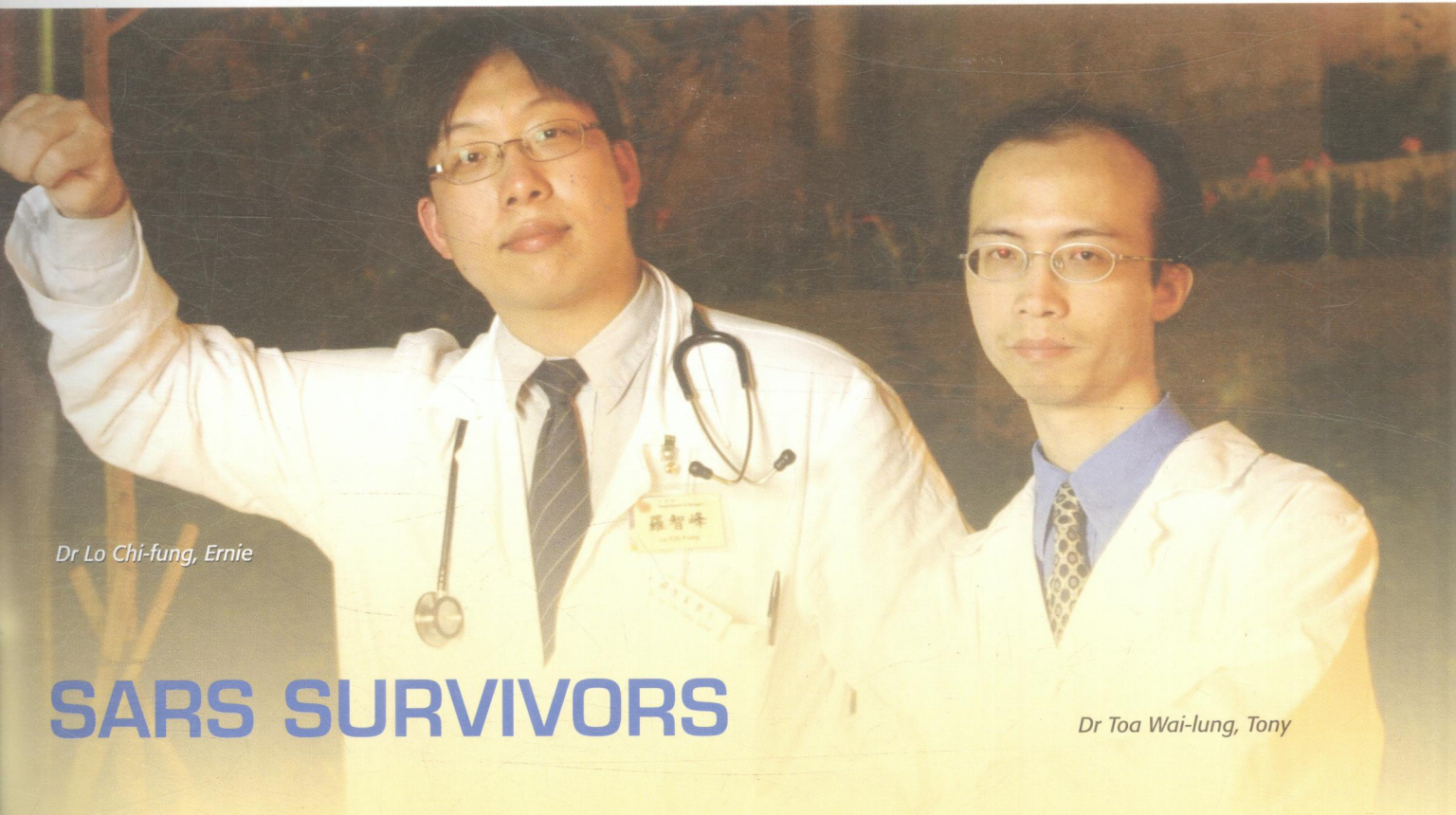
For Zoe, it is also just the beginning. "I am disappointed at the number of people who've got infected because of a basic lack of SARS knowledge and protective equipment.

"We have to be prepared for the next time."

Terence
Tong



Zoe Chong



Dr Lo Chi-fung, Ernie

Dr Toa Wai-lung, Tony

SARS SURVIVORS

▶▶ **As** a doctor, the challenge of combating SARS is tough enough but Dr Lo Chi-fung, Ernie (羅智峰) then found himself fighting for his life when he contracted the disease.

The young doctor, a fresh intern, apparently fell foul of the virus while treating a pneumonia patient at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) in early March.

He recalls: "At that point there was no policy on protection. Therefore, I took the case as usual but three days afterwards there was a dramatic deterioration in the patient's lungs.

"The patient went into intensive care unit and at that point I started having chills and fever. I thought, however, it was common cold and was not alert to SARS."

It was only on the 17th that Lo's colleagues became alarmed when they realised that one of the nurses Lo had been working with on the 9th was struck down with pneumonia.

Along with a second nurse, Lo was admitted to an isolation ward at the QEH.

He says: "I understood that the virus was completely unknown to the medical field, therefore, there was more uncertainty in my mind and I was a bit frightened.

"I could see my colleagues - the two nurses - and one of them deteriorated rapidly. I also knew that there was no confirmed effective treatment.

"SARS was still a mysterious disease at that time. Even the doctors treating me did not know what was happening and I was even thinking of death."

Because there was no characteristic white shadow on his chest X-rays, Lo was not treated as SARS at first and put on a course of antibiotics.

But by the 19th staff realised this was not working and he was switched to Ribavirin and steroids. Immediately his fever began to subside.

Lo says: "They did an X-ray on the 22nd that showed a haziness (on my lungs) had consolidated and this meant that my condition had deteriorated.

"At that time, I was conscious (of my illness) but did not want to think about it. For a couple of days, I just lay there and

looked at the ceiling. I could barely eat.

"I had my mobile and spoke to my girlfriend and mother who cried. I was depressed and desperate and thought that I would die."

But after 4-5 days, Lo's condition stabilised and after being transferred to a "step-down" ward for observation, he was discharged on April 4.

Despite a minor setback, Lo was back at work on April 28 but the impact of SARS and his subsequent recovery will continue to live with him for the rest of his life.

Lo says: "It was an unlucky event but it has made me realise that life is more uncertain. Because of this, I live more for the moment and life has become more precious.

"Another important impact for me has been the fact that being a patient has made me more sympathetic to their needs.

"Even the small stuff that might not matter to you as a doctor is very important to the patient."

This is a sentiment that fellow intern Dr Toa Wai-lung, Tony (陶偉龍) echoes.

Struck down when working at the Tai Po Nethersole Hospital in late March, Toa believes that it was his strong faith that helped carry him through the infection and its aftermath.

Transferred to the Princess Margaret Hospital in late March, Toa suffered from all the calling cards associated with SARS: chills, muscular pain, shortness of breath and fever.

He recalls: "For two days they had me on oxygen. I had prepared for death but I was not frightened. It was my family and friends who were worried."

Although he was eventually discharged after three weeks' treatment, Toa will not forget the lessons of SARS.

He says: "It effected me because I can now see the world from the patient's perspective. There is a shortage of time for doctors and patients to communicate. Doctors might not take the time to reassure patients and listen to all their concerns seriously.

"Now I see it as my duty to explain everything to SARS patients and to try and educate them about the disease." ◀

EXPERT PANEL MEETING AND JOINT SYMPOSIUM ON ATYPICAL PNEUMONIA

▶▶ **The** Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Chinese CDC, 中國疾病及預防控制中心) and the Faculty of Medicine, the University of Hong Kong (HKU) have co-organized a Joint Symposium on Atypical Pneumonia on Sunday, April 27 at the Faculty of Medicine Building. An expert panel meeting was also scheduled for Saturday, April 26 before the Symposium.

The objectives of the expert panel meeting and the Symposium were to advocate collaborations between medical professionals and scientists in the Region and to keep them up-to-date of the latest development of SARS. Medical professionals and

scientists from Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Taipei, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the University of Hong Kong and government officials were invited. They included Professor Ruan Li (阮力), Director of the Institute for Viral Disease Control and Prevention, Chinese CDC; Professor Hong Tao (洪濤), Academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering; Professor Ih-Jen Su, Director of Division of Clinical Research, National Health Research Institutes, Taipei, Taiwan; Professor Wen Yu-mei (聞玉梅), Professor of the Department of Molecular Virology, Shanghai Medical College, Fudan University; Professor Leong Che-hung (梁智鴻), Chairman of Hospital Authority (HA), Dr Vivian Taam Wong (黃譚智媛), Director (Professional Services & Medical Development) of HA, Dr Lo Wing-lok (勞永樂), President of Hong Kong Medical Association; Professor Sydney Chung (鍾尚志), Dean of Faculty of Medicine, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and many other experts were invited to join the expert panel and to deliver talks at the Symposium.

A Memorandum of Understanding between Chinese CDC and Faculty of Medicine, HKU was signed during the Joint Symposium on April 27. The Symposium was well attended by over 600 participants who responded with great enthusiasm to the experience sharing of the experts on SARS from different regions.



FIGHT AGAINST ATYPICAL PNEUMONIA

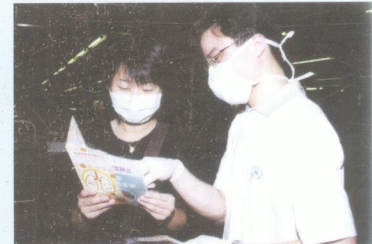
▶▶ **The** anxiety level of HK citizens has been pushed to a historical high by SARS. In order to provide more education of the disease to the community, Faculty of Medicine, the University of Hong Kong (HKU) and MTR Corporation have co-organized a health educational campaign so that HK citizens could have more thorough knowledge in combating SARS. This was a three-day educational campaign in 6 selected MTR stations, including Hong Kong Station, Admiralty, Yau Ma Tei, Wong Tai Sin, Po Lam and Tsuen Wan.

The Campaign has received very positive support from students. Over 200 medical and nursing students from the Medical Faculty have

participated in the Campaign. The student ambassadors distributed health education leaflets and answered public enquiries at the 6 MTR stations from April 10-12, 2003.

An Opening Ceremony was held on April 10, 2003 at the Hong Kong Station. Professor SK Lam, Dean of Faculty of Medicine and Mrs Miranda Leung, Corporate Relations Manager, MTR Corporation, were the officiating guests. The event was well covered by the media and have received very encouraging feedbacks from the MTR passengers.

To review the Opening Ceremony and snapshots of the Campaign, please visit www.hku.hk/facmed/mtr.



PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR ELECTRONIC MEDIA



▶▶ **With** the aim to provide the public with most updated SARS information, Faculty of Medicine, HKU has produced the 1st series of educational program on SARS in early April. The theme of the segments was to educate HK citizens with some practical tips on the prevention of the disease.

In view of the trend that SARS has gradually been under control, the Medical Faculty has produced the 2nd series of educational program which were broadcasted on ATV, Cable TV, Commercial Radio HK, Metro Radio, Phoenix Satellite TV, RTHK and TVB from May 29, 2003 onwards. A total of 9 segments were produced with the support of RTHK. The topics included some guidelines on household and public hygiene, rehabilitation of SARS patients, demonstrations on the correct procedures in measuring body temperatures for children and dealing with emotional stress relating to SARS etc.

VCD of the educational segments would be produced and distributed to all secondary and primary schools as well as kindergartens in Hong Kong. ▶

HKU NURSING HEALTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

▶▶ **“HKU** Nursing Health Ambassador Program” is an interactive educational seminar to introduce to primary school teachers and students on the preventive measures of SARS.

Over 117 on-site demonstrations by HKU nursing students and instructors were presented to 6,500 students in 17 primary schools from May 19-21, 2003 on the topics: (1) proper facemasks wearing, (2) temperature taking, and (3) contingency plan if students had fever.

The program was completed with great success and feedback from various schools was very encouraging. The teachers expressed great needs on other health promotion seminars to be organized in the future. ▶



SARS INFORMATION

Clinical Trial Centre
<http://www.hku.hk/ctc>

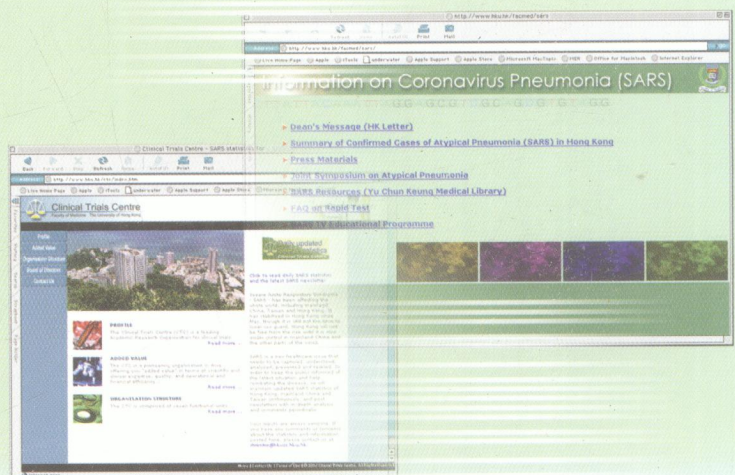
Faculty of Medicine
<http://www.hku.hk/facmed/sars>

Mapping Atypical Pneumonia (SARS)
<http://facarts.hku.hk/geog/sars>

HKU SARS Website
<http://www.hku.hk/sars>

Yu Chun Keung Medical Library
<http://www.lib.hku.hk/medlib/sars>

Fighting Against Atypical Pneumonia
<http://www.hku.hk/facmed/mtr>



In Memoriam

Dr Cheng Ha-yan, Kate (鄭夏恩)

Dr Cheung Sik-hin, Thomas (張錫憲)

Ms Lau Kam-yung (劉錦蓉)

Dr Lau Tai-kwan, James (劉大鈞)

Mr Lau Wing-kai (劉永佳)

Ms Tang Heung-may (鄧香美)

Dr Tse Yuen-man (謝婉雯)

Ms Wong Kang-tai (王庚娣)

The Faculty of Medicine, HKU and The University of Hong Kong Medical Alumni Association express our sincerest condolences and appreciation to the supreme sacrifice of the above medical frontline workers.

Their selfless devotion in the fight against SARS has demonstrated the highest level of professionalism with exceptional courage.

We extend our deepest sympathies to their family members.

Their dedication and spirit will be dearly remembered.

OUR MISSION

To diagnose SARS more quickly in the short term

To develop a cure for SARS over the medium term

To develop a preventive vaccine to eliminate further SARS cases over the long term

MAJOR COLLABORATION ON SARS

HONG KONG

- ▶▶ Chinese University of Hong Kong
- ▶▶ Department of Health
- ▶▶ Hospital Authority

MAINLAND CHINA

- ▶▶ Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, Beijing
- ▶▶ Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention
- ▶▶ First Military Medical University, Zhujiang Hospital, Guangzhou
- ▶▶ Guangzhou Medical College and Guangzhou Institute of Respiratory Diseases
- ▶▶ Institute for Viral Disease Control & Prevention, Beijing
- ▶▶ Key Laboratory of Medical Molecular Virology, Shanghai Medical College, Fudan University, Shanghai
- ▶▶ Shenzhen Centre for Disease Control & Prevention

INTERNATIONAL

- ▶▶ WHO SARS Laboratory network
- ▶▶ New York, Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Centre
- ▶▶ Rotterdam, The Netherlands - Erasmus MC

SARS RESEARCH AND ACTIVITIES

Centre / Department	Project / Activity Title	Investigator(s)/ Person(s) In-charge
Anatomy	▶▶ Neuroprotection in steroid treated patients: an animal model.	KF So, SW Tang
Anatomy/Medical Sciences Group	▶▶ Study on the physical and biochemical properties of the S, M, E proteins of the SARS-Coronavirus in relation to its very unique impenetrating property of infectivity.	RMW Chau
	▶▶ Drug development specific for inhibiting SARS-Coronavirus infectivity: Targeting on S, M, E, 3CL ^{pro} and RNA polymerase.	
	▶▶ "Dermal-Thermo-Natural Medicinal Herb Treatment" for rehabilitation of recovering SARS patients: a pilot study.	
Clinical Trials Centre	▶▶ Summary of confirmed cases of atypical pneumonia (SARS) in Hong Kong – daily update.	JPE Karlberg
	▶▶ Letter to the Editor – summary of confirmed cases of atypical pneumonia (SARS) in Hong Kong – daily update.	
	▶▶ Why do men have a higher SARS case fatality risk than women?	
	▶▶ Are healthcare professionals influenced by negative media coverage? A Swedish-Hong Kong SARS story.	
	▶▶ The social impact of medical information and communication: The importance of new media technologies with SARS as a case in point.	W Lai
Community Medicine	▶▶ Surveys on public perception and preventive measures concerning SARS in Hong Kong.	TH Lam, GM Leung, SY Ho, B Chan, LM Ho, AJ Hedley
	▶▶ Studies on epidemiological determinants of SARS.	AJ Hedley, GM Leung, TH Lam, LM Ho jointly with Imperial College, Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, Department of Health, Hospital Authority and Department of Community and Family Medicine, CUHK
	▶▶ Epidemiological-serological studies of SARS patients and contacts and patients in primary care.	GM Leung, AJ Hedley, TH Lam, jointly with Department of Microbiology, HKU and Hong Kong Medical Association, Department of Health and Hospital Authority
Diagnostic Radiology	▶▶ Predictive value of radiographic evaluation in SARS.	CGC Ooi
	▶▶ Relationship between radiological and clinical parameters in SARS.	
	▶▶ Temporal lung changes on HRCT in SARS.	
	▶▶ Prevalence of fibrosis on long term follow up in SARS.	
Medicine	▶▶ Study of therapeutic antibodies.	KN Lai
	▶▶ Role of macrophage migration inhibitory factor in SARS pneumonia.	
	▶▶ Investigation of the liver function derangement of patients with severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).	CL Lai, ZD Goodman, A Mehrotra, KY Yuen, MF Yuen, WM Wong, PC Wong, KWT Tsang, ST Lai, WC Yu, TN Chau
	▶▶ Clinical profiles and longitudinal clinical course of SARS patients.	KWT Tsang
	▶▶ Retrospective study on treatment response to different steroid regimens in SARS.	
	▶▶ Study of acute respiratory distress syndrome by animal model.	J Mak
	▶▶ Screening for subjects with fever by remote sensing infrared thermographic camera.	CR Kumana, LS Chan

Centre / Department	Project / Activity Title	Investigator(s)/ Person(s) In-charge
Nursing Studies	▶▶ A study on the influence of SARS on the nurses' physical and psycho-social health.	SSC Chan, AFY Tiwari, S Leung, F Salili, GM Leung, TH Lam
	▶▶ Health assessment and health education to the vulnerable elderly people during SARS epidemic.	SSC Chan, WKW So, ACK Lee and AFY Tiwari
	▶▶ Nurses on the frontline of care delivery to patients with severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in Hong Kong.	AFY Tiwari, SSC Chan, A Wong, J Tai, K Cheng, J Chan & KWT Tsang
	▶▶ A study of the physical, psychological and social needs of a cohort of suspected SARS paediatric patients and their parents during hospitalization.	SSC Chan, AFY Tiwari, E Wong, D Leung, J Lee, SL Lo and YL Lau
	▶▶ Evaluation of nursing knowledge and practices for the infection control precaution in the paediatric units during SARS crisis.	EMY Wong, SSC Chan, AFY Tiwari, FCW Chung
	▶▶ A training program for primary school students as a health model at home during SARS outbreak.	T Fung, I Fu & R Chan
	▶▶ HKU nursing health ambassador programme for primary school students during SARS outbreak.	KH Yip, D Chow & A Wong
Obstetrics and Gynaecology	▶▶ Effects of severe acute respiratory syndrome and its treatment on semen parameters in humans.	EHY Ng
Orthopaedic Surgery/ Division of Joint Replacement Surgery	▶▶ A special clinic to follow-up the musculoskeletal status of SARS patients who had received high dose steroid.	KY Chiu
	▶▶ Avascular necrosis of femoral head in patients with history of SARS treated with high dose steroid. A prospective study of the epidemiology.	WM Tang
	▶▶ Early surgical intervention of avascular necrosis of femoral head in patients with history of SARS treated with high dose steroid. A prospective randomized study on core decompression and vascularized bone graft.	WP Yau & BKK Fung
	▶▶ Arthroplasty in SARS patients with steroid induced avascular necrosis of femoral head. A prospective randomized study comparing hemiarthroplasty and resurfacing total hip arthroplasty.	TP Ng
Paediatrics & Adolescent Medicine	▶▶ Seroepidemiological prevalence survey of SARS-associated coronavirus antibody in children residing in Amoy Garden compared to a control group in Southern District.	YL Läu
	▶▶ Is low serum mannose-binding lectin (MBL) associated with poorer outcome in patients with SARS?	
	▶▶ Seroepidemiology survey of SARS-associated coronavirus antibody in healthcare workers and patients in private clinics in a community with SARS outbreak.	SSS Chiu
	▶▶ Household attack rates of the novel coronavirus.	
	▶▶ The novel coronavirus as a cause of febrile illness other than SARS in children.	
	▶▶ The novel coronavirus as a cause of gastroenteritis in children.	
	▶▶ Mechanism of immune dysregulation in SARS: identification of viral genes.	ASY Lau, DCW Lee

Centre / Department

Project / Activity Title

Investigator(s)/
Person(s) In-charge**Pathology**

- ▶▶ Mechanisms of lymphopenia in coronavirus pneumonia. L Lu, ESK Ma, LC Chan
- ▶▶ Study of various immune escape mechanisms adopted by SARS-associated coronavirus. G Srivastava, L Lu, SL Beh, KW Chan
- ▶▶ Tissue tropism and localization of coronavirus. IOL Ng
- ▶▶ Cytokine profiles in patients with coronavirus pneumonia. BM Jones, ESK Ma, JSM Peiris, Department of Medicine
- ▶▶ Establishment of laboratory database for SARS. BM Jones, ESK Ma, S Tam
- ▶▶ Analysis of laboratory database for SARS. BM Jones, ESK Ma
- ▶▶ Cytokine profiles in patients who have recovered from coronavirus pneumonia. BM Jones, ESK Ma, JSM Peiris, Department of Medicine
- ▶▶ Virus-induced cytokine production – an early diagnostic test? BM Jones, JSM Peiris
- ▶▶ Genetic susceptibility to coronavirus pneumonia (SARS-CoV). US Khoo, ANY Cheung

Psychiatry

- ▶▶ Psychiatric complications in SARS patients. ML Ng, RYL Chen
- ▶▶ Health care workers' perception of risk and preventive measures for SARS – an international study. ML Ng
- ▶▶ Psychological effects of SARS on 250 health-care workers compared with 350 matched healthy community controls. SE Chua
- ▶▶ How medical and nursing students adapt to SARS and standards of infection control: a sample of 300 HKU students.
- ▶▶ A comparison of 30 sick health-care workers with SARS and 220 SARS patients to determine psychological need.
- ▶▶ 250 high risk and 250 low risk health-care worker groups and their psychological response to SARS outbreak.
- ▶▶ Psychological effects of SARS on people in Hong Kong.
- ▶▶ Neurobiological dysfunction in patients with severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) following corticosteroid treatment: a follow-up study. RYL Chen, TMC Lee, AM Lee, SE Chua, KS Tai, L Yam, SW Tang
- ▶▶ A study of the immediate and long-term impact of the SARS epidemic on the well-being and quality of life of pregnant women in Hong Kong. AM Lee

Surgery

- ▶▶ Aerosol spread during endotracheal intubation, Ambu bagging, bronchoscopy and tracheostomy. WI Wei
- ▶▶ Immune status of health care workers in a moderate risk area.
- ▶▶ Protective facial masks (e.g. N95) and blood gas changes.
- ▶▶ The study of immune interaction between host and virus in SARS. L Tian

SARS PUBLICATIONS FROM FACULTY OF MEDICINE, HKU

American Journal of Nursing

Infection control and SARS in Hong Kong. American Journal of Nursing. June issue. 103:6, 60. (In press)
SSC Chan

British Medical Journal

Outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region: case report. BMJ. 2003 Apr 19; 326(7394):850-2.
Chan-Yeung M, Yu WC.

Clinical Chemistry

Rapid diagnosis of a coronavirus associated with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). Clin Chem. 2003 Jun; 49 (6); 953-5.
Poon LL, Wong OK, Luk W, Yuen KY, Peiris JS, Guan Y.

Clinical Infectious Diseases

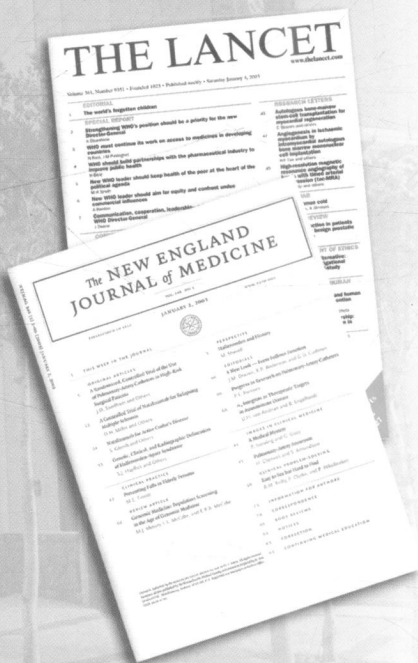
SARS Bulletin from Hong Kong: 6-13 April 2003. [news] Clin Infect Dis 2003 May 1; 36(9):iii. Cheng VC, Peiris JS, Yuen KY.

Journal of Nursing Scholarship

Nurses fighting against Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in Hong Kong. Journal of Nursing Scholarship. 2003; 35(3) (original article, in press)
SSC Chan

Lancet

- ▶▶ Lung pathology of fatal severe acute respiratory syndrome. Lancet. 2003 May 24; 361(9371):1773-8.
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SARS DONATION FOR STUDENTS

▶▶ In order to protect students against the risk of SARS, Faculty of Medicine, the University of Hong Kong has initiated a fundraising campaign amongst teaching staff and alumni in early May. The objective of the campaign was to support the expenses of the protective apparel for students attending clinical teaching at various hospitals.

The campaign was enthusiastically supported by staff members and alumni of the Medical Faculty and a total of HK\$219,350 has been raised by the end of May. The donation was used for the purchase of gowns, caps, goggles and surgical marks. They were distributed to medical, nursing and Chinese medicine students for free since the resume of clinical teaching on May 5, 2003.

The generous donation showed the united spirit of senior members from the Medical Faculty in fighting against SARS as well as their concern and support to the students. The SARS crisis has given the Faculty a much stronger sense of "one family" - one that all of us should be proud of.

HKU ESTABLISH A SCHOLARSHIP IN MEMORY OF MR LAU WING KAI

▶▶ Mr Lau Wing-kai was fatally infected by SARS as he tried to resuscitate a SARS patient who also later succumbed. With the support of Mrs Lau (wife of late Mr Lau Wing-kai), the Department of Nursing Studies, Faculty of Medicine, will establish a **HKU - Lau Wing Kai Scholarship** 劉永佳獎學金 to commemorate the significant contribution, commitment and selfless efforts of Mr Lau. The scholarship will be awarded annually to undergraduate and postgraduate nursing students who have achieved academic and clinical excellence.

Should you wish to give your support, please deposit your donation to the following bank account:

Bank of East Asia

Account no.: 015-176-25-00620-2

Account name: HKU - Lau Wing Kai Scholarship

FACULTY OF MEDICINE SARS FUND

Let's support the research and anti-SARS activities conducted by HKU!

Mail your cheque, made out to "The University of Hong Kong", to
6/F, Academic & Administration Block, Faculty of Medicine Building,
21 Sassoon Road, Pokfulam, Hong Kong



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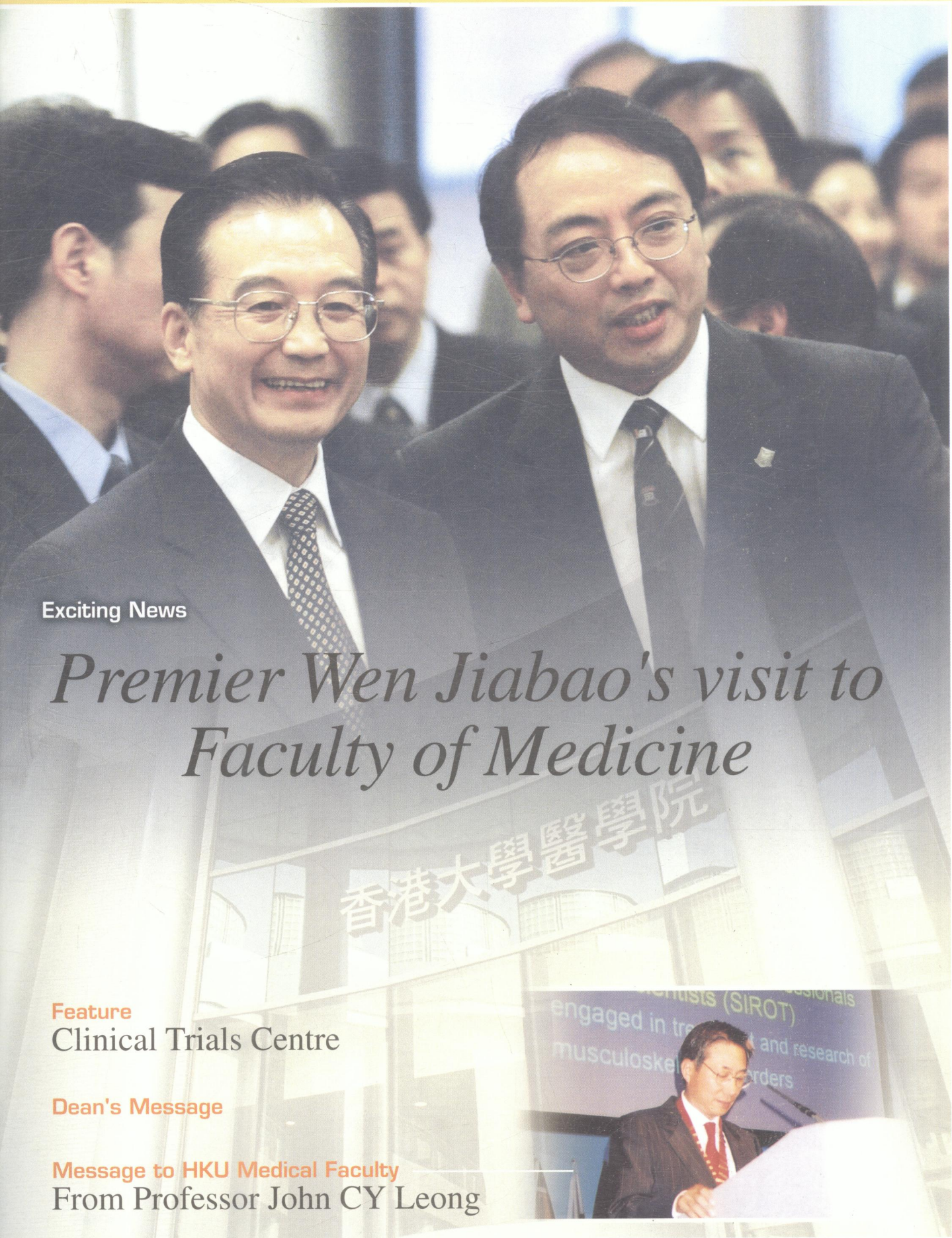
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Exciting News

Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to Faculty of Medicine

Feature

Clinical Trials Centre

Dean's Message

Message to HKU Medical Faculty

From Professor John CY Leong



Clinical Trials Centre

Clinical trials are essential to ensure the safety, efficacy and quality of a drug, device, diagnostic test, traditional therapy or a medical procedure. Without clinical trials, the marketplace would be flooded with all kinds of therapies and practices that have not undergone proper clinical development and unbiased quality assurance.

With its passion and commitment to promoting the excellence, scope and efficiency of clinical research activities, the Clinical Trials Centre (CTC) at The University of Hong Kong is striving to be a regional academic centre of excellence for clinical trials in Asia. From the early clinical stage to the approval stages and beyond, the CTC provides a dedicated array of services to clinical trial sponsors and investigators. The CTC is the first and currently the only full-service academic research organization in the Asia region.

Since the mid-1990s, the number of clinical trials conducted in Asia has grown rapidly, and has been predicted to increase for decades to come. There are five reasons for this phenomenon. First, the growing number of clinical trials is a global trend because more and more novel compounds need to be developed for many more populations around the world. Consequently, more clinical trials of these new compounds need to be conducted on more patients to take into account different population profiles. Second, the Asia region has a large patient population and many clinical investigators. These are two important selection criteria for choosing a trial site. Third, because of the large patient populations in Asia – the region harbours about half of the world's population – the potential market for a new treatment can be huge in Asia. Fourth, some diseases are much more prevalent in Asia than in other continents, so clinical trials should be conducted on relevant populations. And fifth, the

Asian biotechnology industry is developing at pace and will need its products to undergo clinical trials.

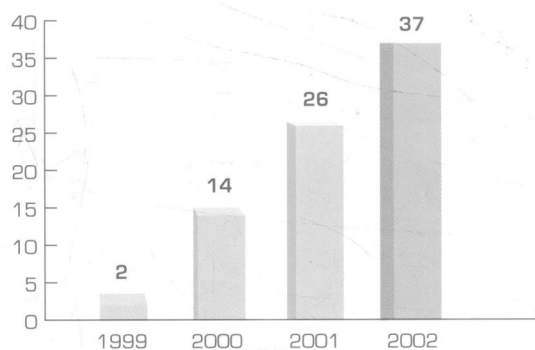
Since its establishment five years ago, the CTC has successfully responded to the rising demand for more clinical trials in Asia. The centre has some notable achievements. These include:

- 1) Reaching HK\$55 million worth of clinical trials contracts by the end of 2002;
- 2) Gaining accreditation for the clinical laboratories at the Queen Mary Hospital under the Laboratory Accreditation Programme (LAP) of the College of American Pathologists (CAP);
- 3) Signing a Memorandum of Understanding with CentraLabS Clinical Research Limited, a UK-based international laboratory testing company. The MoU will allow CTC and CentraLabS to establish a strategic alliance for pursuing the international clinical trials central laboratory business;
- 4) Signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Fudan University of Shanghai for long-term collaboration on international clinical trials; and
- 5) The graduation of the 25th student from the centre's Master of Medical Sciences degree programme in Clinical Trials Research Methodology.

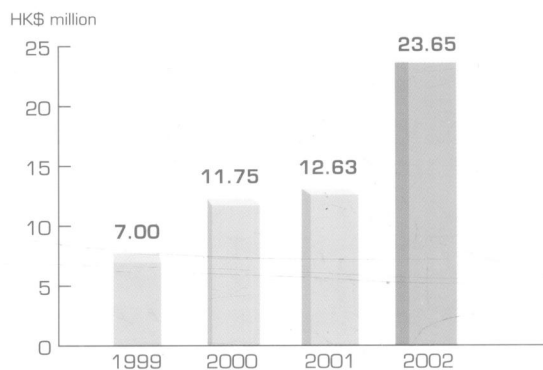
The CTC is well positioned to facilitate and conduct clinical trials effectively, efficiently and professionally. The most active clinical trials by therapeutic specialty co-ordinated through the CTC are in gastroenterology and hepatology. Other active areas include endocrinology and metabolism, cardiology and clinical oncology. Phase II and III trials account for the majority (83%) of clinical trials at the CTC.

Because clinical trials activities are important here in Asia, the CTC has always sought to offer a one-stop solutions service for professionals, and to be an informative user-friendly resource to the public.

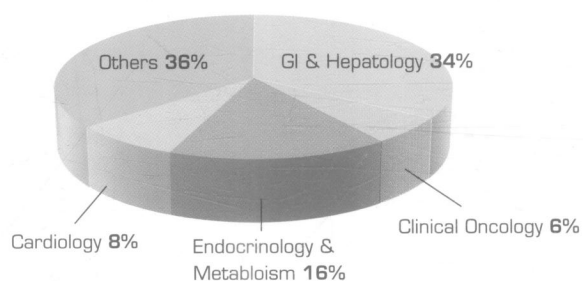
Annual Number of Clinical Trials Contracted



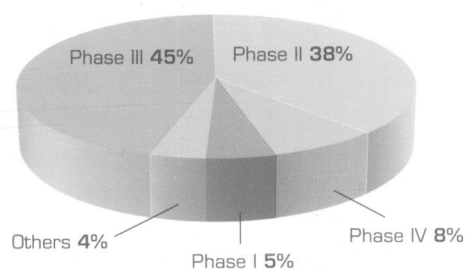
Annual Contract Value



Types of Clinical Trials Coordinated through the CTC by Therapeutic Area (1999-2002)



Types of Clinical Trials Coordinated through the CTC by Trial Phase (1999-2002)



The recent outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) clearly shows that the CTC has positioned itself advantageously. Because of SARS, media interest has inevitably focused on the development of a drug or vaccine against the SARS coronavirus. Therefore, there is a need to remind professionals about the progressive nature of clinical trials, while at the same time it is beneficial to educate everyone about what is involved in developing new medical therapies. The public are rightly concerned about SARS and questions have been repeatedly asked about how long it would take to develop safe and efficacious SARS therapies. The CTC can provide information on clinical trials and related issues through the worldwide web (www.hku.hk/ctc/), newsletters, conferences, seminars and symposia. Through these channels, the CTC can educate the public that the timeframe involved in identifying potential drug candidates to preclinical and approval phases of clinical trials is measured in years, not months. In addition to educating the professionals and the public, the CTC is also in the best position to manage and monitor future trials work on SARS drug or vaccine candidates.

Professor Johan Karlberg is the centre's Director. Currently, the CTC has a staff of 18 full-time and part-time employees, serving over 100 clinical investigators at HKU in industry-sponsored clinical trials. The CTC

can coordinate and advise on the preparation and design of protocols, pre-study statistical requirements, budgeting and writing. The CTC can also monitor trials, assist with data management, ensure compliance with protocol requirements, and help with the preparation of final reports. However, to keep pace with the rapidly growing clinical trials activities in Hong Kong and the region, the CTC has readied itself to expand and diversify its activities. The CTC anticipates the list of clinical investigators to grow in the coming years. Recently, the CTC has moved into newly-renovated offices on the 8th floor of the Clinical Pathology Building in Queen Mary Hospital. The new offices will offer efficient management of clinical trials activities and better integration with the accredited clinical laboratories.

In line with the CTC's rapid development, the Board of Directors was established in June 2002 to oversee the centre's development strategy in various aspects including research consultation, business and development, site management, project management, data management and medical statistics, laboratory and research pharmacy, and education. "The CTC will continue to improve its team, its infrastructure and its services with the objective of enhancing holistic medicine research in Hong Kong on a global basis," said Professor Karlberg.

Dean's Message



Dear Colleagues,

While SARS has given Hong Kong multiple scars, it has left the public an imprint that the medical science in Hong Kong is world class, and it has given hospital medics a new relevance in humanity. All walks of life appear to converge and all minds feel a special bond of kinship with each other. It is on this wider base of collaboration, local and abroad, that this Faculty will be able to achieve our vision, sooner and better.

Our vision, remember, is to build world medicine in Asia.

Our broad research vision that the 21st century is a biomedical century, and that evidence-based medicine is medicine, whether it is Western or Chinese, has led us to one specific mission: that HKU will help to develop Hong Kong into the biomedical capital of Asia, and that we will work towards a one-nation medicine for China and a one-world medicine for mankind.

The Genome Research Centre is shaping up under the leadership of the Vice-Chancellor and is fast becoming a hallmark of HKU. The HKU-Pasteur Research Centre is anchoring well on the grounds of the medical school and a new team on infectious disease is coming. David Ho and his team from New York are busy organizing the AIDS Institute and are laying down great plans for vaccine technology in the school and vaccination programme in Yunnan. The ground works to build the Influenza Centre have been laid down, and we have successfully attracted Robert Webster to take the helm. The School of Public Health, with the support of SH Lee over the past year, is coming into focus.

The Biopharmaceutical Centre has just taken off with the arrival of Paul Vanhoutte, the world president of pharmacology, who has worked in Mayo, Baylor and Servier. Patrick Choi from Canada and Jonathan Lamb from Edinburgh are helping us to set up the right infrastructure to market our tradable research. Tommy Cheng from Yale is working full swing to build the Chinese Medicine Research Consortium based in HKU with buyers in already from the relevant tertiary institutions in Hong Kong, Mainland China, Taiwan and United States, and this ties in nicely with the HRI/CAM (Human Research Institute for the Study of Complementary and Alternative Medicine), which has just received full approval from UGC on its phase 1 development.

All these, together with the outstanding research background components within and outwith HKU will set the scene for Biomedical Hong Kong, with upstream discovery research having a strong foothold on the Genome Research Centre as a technology platform, and with midstream and downstream applied research centering around the HRI/CAM.

We are confident that the next school of medicine of HKU will move to the centre of gravity in Asia for knowledge transfer and for upstream, midstream and downstream biomedical R&D. In that process, the next school of medicine will create gargantuan social wealth – wealth in knowledge, in mind, and in quality of life.

Yes, we will plant the HKU flag on the summit of the Mount Everest of medicine. We will lift Hong Kong, and for that matter China, to a higher destiny.

Cheers,

Professor SK Lam
Dean



Message from Professor John CY Leong *Head of Orthopaedic Surgery*

I have developed an intense attachment to my alma mater, The University of Hong Kong, after having been educated within it, and then having spent 38 years serving it, benefiting from opportunities provided by it, and receiving its unrelenting support.

The bulk of my time was of course spent in the Faculty of Medicine, but I made it a point to reach out to the rest of the University whenever I can, wherever I can, and in as many ways as I can. These activities have broadened my horizon tremendously. My 23 years as Head of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery have fully convinced me that any personal achievements were the fruit of good team work.

I have witnessed a multiplicity of changes in the Medical Faculty. The sixties saw a Faculty with a small complement of full-time staff, but doing the all-important work of educating medical students to world standards, providing a role model for the health delivery service of Hong Kong, and grasping the limited opportunities to excel in many pioneering clinical innovations that achieved international recognition. The seventies and eighties were periods of cautious but effective expansion, particularly of clinical specialties and subspecialties. The late eighties and the nineties experienced an unprecedented era of emphasis on basic research, coincidental with substantial allocation of funding by the Government. The undergraduate medical curriculum, although being continuously refined since the sixties, took a big stride forward recently by following the world trend of more interactive and problem-based learning.

By any standard, our Faculty has performed well. This is attributed to the effort of each and every member, all of whom have a constancy of purpose. A new system of governance will soon come into play with an appointed Dean. The foci of research are now heavily skewed towards molecular biology and genetics, with some exciting outcomes. However, a medical school must not lose sight of many other areas that encompass the health sciences, such as medical engineering, community and mental health, clinical research etc. Also, any past or present proven significant contributions in any field must not be stifled, but positively supported.

Of necessity, there have been periods of ups and downs. Funding from the Government, through the UGC and the Medical & Health Department (and now the Hospital Authority) have also been like a roller-coaster. Pressure to perform more, and better, keeps increasing. At times, morale have plummeted, and there may have been a sense of despondency. Colleagues question whether the institution is rendering them enough support. It may be relevant to remember what John Kennedy said in his induction speech as President of the United States: "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country".

Some colleagues ask why I am moving into a new direction. It is my genuine belief that front-line workers are the most important assets in any institution. Nevertheless their performance can be significantly enhanced or curtailed, depending on the system that they work within, and the administrators who steer the system. Having spent most of my working life as a front-line worker, but complemented by stints of administrative experience as Dean, Director of Postgraduate Medical Education and Training, and a member of Faculty, University and Government Committees, I have decided to assume an administrative position to lead the Open University of Hong Kong. It caters to the needs of people, mainly adults, who require continuous and life-long learning opportunities to meet the challenges of a knowledge-based economy and society of the 21st Century.

I will retain a research alliance with colleagues in the Faculty. The Faculty of Medicine and the University will always occupy a special place in my heart. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all colleagues who have supported me. I believe I have made many friends in this institution, whose friendship I treasure.



Professor Leong receiving Membership of the Chinese Academy of Sciences from President Lu Yong Xiang.

Premier Wen Jiabao 溫家寶 *Visited the Faculty of Medicine*

Premier Wen Jiabao met with more than 100 students and teaching staff at The University of Hong Kong on June 30, 2003 and praised the University's contribution to controlling SARS.

At his meeting with the medical students and faculty members at the University's Yu Chun Keung Medical Library, Premier Wen gave an impromptu address, praising our success in controlling SARS but at the same time reminding us that our mission has not yet been fully accomplished.

He stressed the importance of coming up with better diagnostic tests, much needed treatment and a vaccine. He also highlighted the need for genetic investigations to combat rapid mutations in the coronavirus. He bade the university success in achieving these three goals.



During his tour, he visited the Cheung Kung Hai Conference Centre, the Genome Research Centre and Yu Chun Keung Medical Library. The Premier was greeted by Pro-Chancellor Dr David Li (李國寶), Council Chairman Dr Victor Fung (馮國經), Vice-Chancellor Professor Lap-Chee Tsui (徐立之), and Dean of Medicine Professor SK Lam (林兆鑫). He was also joined by Secretary for Education and Manpower Professor Arthur Li (李國章) and Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food Dr EK Yeoh (楊永強) throughout the tour.

The Dean of Medicine briefed the Premier on the history of the Faculty and also mentioned some of the important projects being conducted in the Faculty including many of which are conducted in

collaboration with prominent international scientists, such as Dr David Ho (何大一). The Premier noted with interest Hong Kong's discovery and its applied research capabilities that operate as a technical platform for upstream research. These include our Genome Research Centre.

The Premier was also briefed on the Faculty's efforts in integrating Western and Chinese Medicine and, to a larger extent, in the globalization of medicine. For downstream research, the Faculty expects to be the leading medical centre in the region and, in collaboration with pharmaceutical companies, to develop drugs and vaccines for the community.

At the Genome Research Centre, the Premier met with the Head of Microbiology Professor KY Yuen (袁國勇), Chief of Virology Professor Malik Peiris, and virologist at the Department of Microbiology, Dr Guan Yi (管軼). Professor Yuen briefed the Premier on how the University managed to track down the agent of SARS with limited resources during the SARS outbreak, while Dr Guan explained to the Premier how they discovered the virus in animals and how to run the test on animals.

Through live video link to the isolated laboratory at the Queen Mary Hospital, where all highly infectious agents are being studied, Premier Wen congratulated the researchers and technicians there for their achievements. After visiting the Genome Research Centre, Premier Wen went to Yu Chun Keung Medical Library and met with some 60 students and teachers of the Medical Faculty along with the presidents of Students' Union and the Postgraduate Student Association of The University of Hong Kong and their three colleagues.

Wishing Hong Kong a better tomorrow, Premier Wen left the University with his motivating parting words: "Hong Kong is China's Hong Kong. It is Hong Kong people's Hong Kong. Hong Kong faces the world." which he emphasized as the most important message to Hong Kong people.

Genome Research Centre Collaborates with Leading Canadian Genomics Centre

The newly established University of Hong Kong Genome Research Centre will collaborate with one of the world's leading centres for genomics research. A memorandum of understanding on collaborative initiatives in genomics research and development was signed on January 14, 2003 by representatives of The University of Hong Kong (HKU) and The Hospital for Sick Children of Toronto, Canada.

"It is an excellent opportunity for HKU's new Genome Research Centre to enter into a collaboration with an established genome centre with such an excellent track record. I am proud that I have been able to act as a bridge between the scientific communities of Canada and China," said Professor Lap-Chee Tsui (徐立之), Vice-Chancellor of HKU.

The Genome Research Centre, located at HKU, was



established in 2002 to lead the development of genome research in Hong Kong, South China and the region. Its services will be available for use by all universities in Hong Kong. The Centre has a mandate to provide the expertise and infrastructure for studies in genomics, proteomics, and bioinformatics. It will also promote and facilitate the translation of the knowledge of genes, the proteins they encode, and their functions into applications for the understanding of disease mechanisms and for the development of diagnostic and therapeutic measures. It is also mandated to improve the human resources in biotechnology by providing training to graduates, postdoctoral fellows, clinician-scientists and biotechnologists, and to enhance public awareness in genome research for the benefit of the society.

Croucher Advanced Study Institute on "Advances and Challenges of Stem Cell Research"



Study Institute (ASI) on "Advances and Challenges of Stem Cell Research" on March 3-7, 2003.

This was a 5-day course focusing on the theoretical and technical aspects of stem cell research and its applications. Through this ASI, scientists and clinicians were updated on the latest developments, experimental approaches and technical hurdles for the derivation and use of both pluripotential human and mouse ES cells and adult stem cells. The ASI also covered the moral, ethical and legal concerns arising from the research and applications of stem cells in therapy.

Altogether fifteen leaders in the field from Australia, Canada, Mainland China, Japan, UK and USA gave the lectures, including Anne McLaren, Austin Smith, Brian Hendrich, Fiona Watt, Martin Pera, Michael Rudnicki, Norio Nakatsuiji, Robin Lovell-Badge, Stephen Dunnett, Ron McKay, Hui-zhen Sheng, Shinichi Nishikawa, Tony Perry, Teruhiko Wakayama and Peter Donovan. Gerhold Becker, Athena Liu and legislator Lo Wing Lok (勞永樂) provided valuable insight into the regulations in Hong Kong. As a follow-up, eight of the lecturers have agreed to continue to help us develop stem cell research through sharing of reagents, expertise and training opportunities. Initiatives for multidisciplinary research and additional workshops in this area are planned. For more information please contact Professors Kathy Cheah (biochem@hkusua.hku.hk) and Paul Tam (paultam@hkucc.hku.hk).

Croucher Advanced Study Institute on "Molecular Science of Liver Diseases: Linking Basic Science to Clinical Application"

Having been awarded a grant by the Croucher Foundation, the Centre for the Study of Liver Disease (CSLD) held a Croucher Advanced Study Institute (ASI) on "Molecular Science of Liver Diseases: Linking Basic Science to Clinical Application" during January 13-18, 2003 in the Faculty of Medicine Building.

Five overseas speakers were invited to give a series of open lectures in the ASI, namely, Professor David A Brenner from Columbia University, USA; Professor Mark A Fitelson from Thomas Jefferson University, USA; Professor John J Fung from the University of Pittsburgh, USA; Professor Gregory J Gores from the Mayo Medical School, USA; as well as

Professor Pierre Tiollais from the University of Paris VII, France. Their lectures were attended by an average of 150 audiences. In addition, a total of 25 participants from Fudan University, National Taiwan University, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and The University of Hong Kong gave short presentations on a wide variety of researches in liver diseases. It was hoped that this ASI would enhance the interface between basic scientists and clinical researchers in the understanding of liver diseases, with the aim of creating a better platform for the design of new treatment modalities.

Naming Ceremony of "SH Ho Foundation Research Laboratories in Pathology"



S. H. HO FOUNDATION RESEARCH LABORATORIES IN PATHOLOGY NAMING CEREMONY



A naming ceremony was held on March 22, 2003 to commemorate the generous donation made by the SH Ho Foundation towards the construction of the new research laboratories in Pathology, located at the Laboratory Block of the Faculty of Medicine Building. The joyous occasion, attended by over 50 honoured guests, staff and student was officiated by Dr David Ho (何子焯), Chairman of the SH Ho Foundation Ltd., Professor Lap-Chee Tsui (徐立之), Vice-Chancellor, Professor SK Lam (林兆鑫), Dean of Medicine and Professor LC Chan (陳立昌), Head of Pathology. The event served to earmark a new era of Pathology research in the University, as Pathology moved from the classical to the modern, and the futuristic genomic phase.

The new facilities will provide 410 square metres of additional research laboratory space to the Department of Pathology, including three first-class communal tissue culture facilities. Research groups and postgraduate students will utilize the new laboratories to conduct cutting-edge research with emphasis on the pathogenesis of liver, breast, gynaecological and blood cancers.

First Global Chinese Conference on Reproductive Medicine

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the Hong Kong Society for Reproductive Medicine jointly organized the First Global Chinese Conference on Reproductive Medicine on December 14-15 2002. The meeting was held at the Faculty of Medicine Building. The purpose of the meeting was to promote friendship, communication and research collaboration among Chinese working in the field of reproductive medicine.

Professor Yu Xiucheng (于修成), Ministry of Health, Beijing, Dr CH Leong (梁智鴻), Chairman of Hospital Authority, Hong Kong and Professor SK Lam (林兆鑫), Dean

of Medicine officiated the Conference. Professor R Gosden, Eastern Virginia Medical School, USA and Professor SL Tan, McGill University, Canada were the plenary speakers of the Conference. The other speakers were Chinese clinicians and scientists from different parts of the world. One hundred and eighty-five delegates worldwide attended the meeting. In the meeting, a preparatory committee for the Global Chinese Association on Reproductive Medicine was formed. Professor PC Ho (何柏松) and Dr WSB Yeung (楊樹標) of Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology were elected as members of the committee. The next Global Chinese Conference on Reproductive Medicine will be held in Mainland in 2004.

Visit by Mayo Clinic Delegation

A delegation from Mayo Clinic visited the Faculty of Medicine on March 23-25, 2003. Dr James Garrity, Chairman of the International Activities Committee, Mayo Clinic, and Professor Lap-Chee Tsui (徐立之), Vice Chancellor of HKU, had signed a Letter of Intent to pave the way for further collaboration between the two institutions to build integrated programmes in medical care, research and education with an international reputation based on standard of the highest order, to serve the community of "Greater China", Asia and beyond.

The visitors, including Dr James A Garrity, Chairman of International Activities Committee & Consultant, Department of Ophthalmology, Dr Joseph C Kolars, Internal Medicine Residency Program Director & Associate Chair, Department of Internal Medicine, Dr Carl W Chan, Consultant, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and Mr Stephen Gudgell, Operations Administrator of International Activities and Regional Coordinator for Middle Eastern, exchanged ideas with HKU



representatives on the common goals of further collaboration with a view of pursuing excellence in medical service, research and education, and agreed on a genuine interest to work towards a Strategically-Related Institute.

The international profile of both institutions would be enhanced through student and staff exchange programmes. Mayo would be able to expand its medical knowledge reservoir to regional disease in Asia through HKU as an efficient and pivotal platform, while HKU would be able to learn from the Mayo experience to reform medical service in Hong Kong and to build HKU's medical team as a world-class team.

Gold Medal from the World Association for Sexology



Professor ML Ng (吳敏倫), Professor of the Department of Psychiatry, was awarded the Gold Medal from the World Association for Sexology in March 2003.

"The award is a surprise and great honor to me because former recipients have included Helen Kaplan, John Money, etc., big names whom I have admired since I started to learn sexology. I might be awarded only for my dedication and perseverance, in setting up and developing sexology at a significant but most difficult time and place."

"From early nineteen-nineties, I have been appointed by the World Health Organization to visit various places in China, sometimes remote regions, to help in the training of the country's new generation of sexologists. I also founded the Hong Kong Sex Education Association (1985) and the Asian Federation for Sexology (1990) which are still the most active sexualogical associations in this part of the world."

非典過後：未來工作的重點 After SARS: Agenda for the Future



Medical and Health Research Network

The Medical and Health Research Network (MHRN) was set up in the year 2000 to support, conduct and disseminate health care policy research, advocacy, analysis and planning. It is a multidisciplinary organization, composing of University members from the fields of medicine, medical sociology, health economics, health management, statistics and actuarial science.

Being a multidisciplinary research-based health policy think tank, MHRN aims to assist the government, through the provision of professional services, to formulate the most appropriate health care policy to meet the growing public demands. Its missions are to stimulate scientific enquiries into the issues of health care, to explore the optimum means of health care financing, and to design the most effective delivery model of health care services to the public.

Since its establishment, MHRN has gained wide recognition locally. Its achievements can be demonstrated by the Government commissioned consultancy projects, for instance on the development of appropriate methods and infrastructure and the appraisal of applications for Hong Kong's Domestic Health Accounts. MHRN has also conducted collaborative researches and symposia with different faculties within and outside the University.

In order to enhance intellectual exchange, MHRN organizes regular monthly seminars, in which prominent

Professor SP Chow, Convenor of MHRN, presenting a souvenir to Professor CH Leong.



local and overseas speakers are invited to share their expertise and experience on issues related to medical and health care. Recent MHRN monthly seminars include the following:

on August 9, 2003: Joint HKU-HKTDC Conference on Exporting Hong Kong's Medical and Health Services;

on July 2, 2003: Academic Seminar on "After SARS: Education and Research Agenda for the Future" jointly organized by The University of Hong Kong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Central Policy Unit of the HKSAR; and

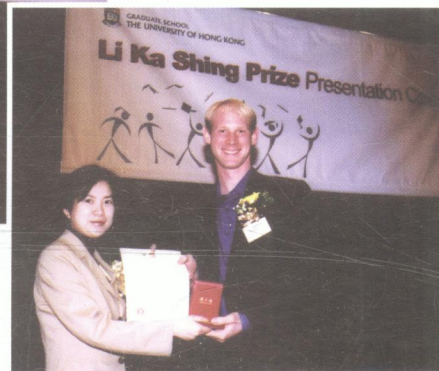
on June 23, 2003: Interdisciplinary Research in Infectious Disease Epidemiology: Epidemic Outbreak Analysis by Professor Roy Anderson, Head, Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College, University of London.

In addition, MHRN and Harvard School of Public Health will jointly organize an Executive Programme on "Reforming China's Rural Health Care System" in early September, aiming to train up and equip senior Chinese medical and health care officials with rural health care financing options and health care sector management.

MHRN will continue its leading role to bring together expertise from different disciplines in creating an excellent platform for health care policy research and planning. For more information on MHRN and its upcoming activities, please visit the MHRN website at <http://www.hku.hk/facmed/mhrn>.

Li Ka Shing Prize

Mr Lee Kin-wah (李健華) of the Department of Pathology and Dr Nathaniel Dominy of the Department of Anatomy, were awarded the Li Ka Shing Prize. The prizes were awarded on the basis of academic excellence, one for a PhD thesis and one for an MPhil thesis, to graduates from within one of two broad groups on an annual alternating schedule. Group A comprises PhD and MPhil graduates of the Faculties of Architecture, Arts, Business & Economics, Education, Law and Social Sciences; and group B consists of PhD and MPhil graduates in the Faculties of Dentistry, Engineering, Medicine and Science.



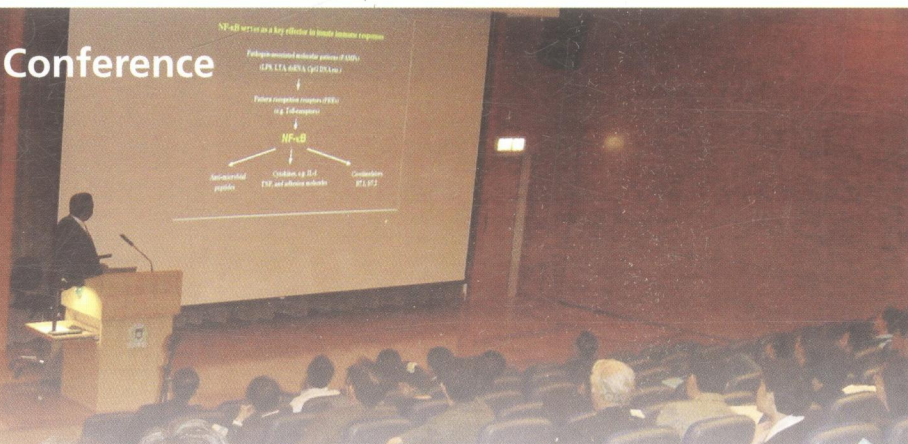
Association for International Cancer Research Award



Dr IOL Ng (吳呂愛蓮), Associate Professor of the Department of Pathology, obtained the award under the Association for International Cancer Research for the research project entitled "Characterization of novel tumour suppressor genes, DLC1 and DLC2 genes, in liver cancer".

"It is with great pleasure that I receive the award. The Association for International Cancer Research is an organization in United Kingdom, and most of their awards are made mainly to UK institutions, with a few to prestigious institutions outside UK, like the Pasteur Institute. This is perhaps the first award given by the Association to an institution in Hong Kong. The award will certainly further enhance and expand our research work in liver cancer, which, being the second commonest fatal cancer in Hong Kong and southeast Asia, inflicts so many people here each year."

8th Medical Research Conference



With the newly formed Medical Science Group, the Medical Research Conference on January 25-26, 2003, previously organized by the Department of Medicine, was for the first time held under the Group banner, incorporating the Departments of Anatomy, Diagnostic Radiology, Medicine and Pharmacology.

Professor CF Lee (李焯芬), Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor SK Lam (林兆鑫), Dean of Medicine and Professor Karen Lam (林小玲), Group Chairman, officiated the opening of the conference. Plenary lectures included the 28th Dr ST Huang-Chan Memorial Lecture by Visiting Professor Sankar Ghosh of Yale University School of Medicine; Professor CL Lai (黎青龍) and Professor CP Lau (劉柱柏) of Medicine; Dr Karmin O (柯嘉敏) of Pharmacology and Dr George Tsao

(曹世華) of Anatomy. Each of the participating departments gave an introduction on their research. There were 6 scientific sessions, 30 oral presentations and 60 poster presentations. The 160 submitted abstracts and those of the plenary lectures were published as a supplement of an indexed journal, the "Hong Kong Medical Journal", the official publication of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine and the Hong Kong Medical Association.

The conference provided researchers and post-graduate students with an important venue for exchange and stimulation of ideas, and an opportunity for junior staff to present their work. Young Investigators Awards were given to those with outstanding performance in the oral and poster presentations.



Men in Yellow

by David Lung, MBBS V

Nowadays the most important thing a medical student has to bring to class (Wards in Queen Mary Hospital and outpatient clinics) is not a stethoscope nor a white coat but several yellow protective gowns and a face mask. In the past, we had thousands of excuses for not bringing a stethoscope, and most of the time we could get away with it. However, now, no excuses are accepted for not bringing our own yellow gowns. Nurses will stop us from entering the wards before we have put on our

gowns correctly, and they will point out our stupid mistakes in not observing safety precautions in front of all our classmates, which makes us feel even worse than not knowing how to manage chronic obstructive airways disease.

We have been wearing these yellow gowns, sponsored by generous alumni, to school for a few months, from spring to summer. The weather has become hot and each time after we have taken off our gowns, our shirts are heavily soaked with sweat. The gowns are certainly not something comfortable to put on, but in order to protect ourselves, and more importantly people around us, protective measures must be taken. We are grateful that the alumni have contributed a lot so that we receive the required protection.

Therefore, next time when you see a bunch of yellow men in the wards, share our deep feeling towards the senior doctors and how they are taking care of us, medical students, even though they might have left the school for a long time. ▶

Message from the Nursing Society

by Ada Lo and Michele Siu
(nursing students)

The first time we had heard of "Nursing Society" was when we were in our Orientation Camp. Some enthusiastic nursing seniors were setting up a society for nursing students and were recruiting helpers among the freshmen. Driven by a sense of duty, we joined the society and became members of the Executive Committee. We are glad to witness the growth of our Society from mere a piece of constitution to having our Society's name card, our own society room and well organized activities such as the "Superpass Lunch".

As members of the Executive Committee of the society, we had chances to experience the setting up work. Among these, we treasured the experience in communicating with the Department of Nursing Studies. Better communication and stronger links brought successful cooperation in activities.

The scope of work of the Nursing Society is not limited to the Department. We also cooperated with the Faculty in various aspects. "Fight Against Atypical Pneumonia Campaign" was a good example. It also gave us an opportunity to stand shoulder to shoulder with Medical Society, the other student body in the Faculty of Medicine. We believe that this is just a beginning for our society to collaborate with the Medical Society. In the future, we shall continue to have many occasions to develop a comradeship with Medical Society, such as the Orientation Programme and the Christmas Ball. We hope that the medical, nursing and TCM students can co-operate and cultivate a better understanding of each discipline.

Another objective of our Society is to arouse the awareness of our members to the news of nursing profession. For this reason we provide our members with updated news in the nursing profession. We also actively reach out to other external entities for information and support, such as joining the Temporary Undergraduate Nursing Students forum as well as the "Undergraduate Nursing Students: The Way

Ahead" forum organized by the Association of Hong Kong Nursing Staff.

In the coming year, our society will work whole-heartedly for the interest of nursing students. We will also strive to maintain the harmonious relationship between medical and nursing students in the Faculty. ▶



Supporting the Alumni Chamber

An Alumni Chamber is on the way. The University of Hong Kong Medical Alumni Association (HKUMAA) is calling for contribution from all classes.

The Faculty has started the fitting out and tendering for the catering service on the Alumni Floor, located on the 7/F of the Academic and Administration Block. The adjoining lounge area has been named the "Alumni Chamber". The HKUMAA is responsible for the fitting-out of the Alumni Chamber, and would be most grateful for donations in any form for this cause. HKUMAA will set up a plaque in the Alumni Chamber to acknowledge those classes that have donated.

Should you want to support this project or have any queries, kindly contact Professor TM Chan, Honorary Secretary of the HKUMAA (Tel: 28554542, Fax: 28725828, E-mail: dtmchan@hkucc.hku.hk) and/or the HKUMAA Secretariat c/o Ms Carmen Choy, Faculty of Medicine (Tel: 28192857, Fax: 29740678, E-mail: kmchoy@hku.hk).

3rd Annual General Meeting

The 3rd Annual General Meeting of HKUMAA was held on April 24, 2003 (Thursday) at the Faculty of Medicine. The name of the Association has been amended to "The University of Hong Kong Medical Alumni Association", by deleting the word "Limited", and the Memorandum and Articles have been updated accordingly. Professor Chow Shew-ping (周肇平), MBBS 1968, Dr David Fang (方津生), MBBS 1973, and Dr Lee Kin-hung (李健鴻), MBBS 1958, were re-elected as members of the Executive Committee. Professor Rosie Young (楊紫芝), President of the HKUMAA, reported to members on the past activities and future plans of the Association, and thanked our Honorary Legal Advisors Ms Vanessa SY Siew and Mr PPY Yuen (阮北耀), and our Honorary Auditor Mr EKC Li (李家祥), for their advice and service over the past year. Mr EKC Li was re-appointed as Honorary Auditor and Mr Peter Mark (麥維慶) appointed as the Honorary Legal Advisor.

Professor Lap-Chee Tsui has become Patron of the HKU Medical Alumni Association (HKUMAA)

The HKUMAA is happy to announce that Professor Lap-Chee Tsui (徐立之) has kindly agreed to be Patron of the Association. As the Vice-Chancellor of The University of Hong Kong, and an internationally renowned leader in genome research, Professor Tsui has definitely enhanced the eminence of the Association and his support is a great bolster to the HKUMAA.

Donations to Dr Cheng Ha-yan, Kate's Family

Our distinguished alumna, Dr Cheng Ha-yan, Kate (鄭夏恩) (MBBS 1997), demonstrated immense bravery and an unflinching dedication to her profession during the SARS outbreak. Unfortunately, during her duty, she was infected with the disease and passed away on June 1, 2003. The HKUMAA wrote to our medical alumni to call for support for her family, and the responses showed that indeed we are one big family. The HKUMAA is very grateful for our alumni's generous donation.

Medal for Bravery

Dr Cheng Ha-yan, Kate (鄭夏恩), 97' Graduate, is posthumously awarded the Medal for Bravery (Silver) by the HKSAR government in recognition of her commitment and dedication whilst performing her last duties in the convalescence ward of Tai Po Hospital. Dr Cheng demonstrated a high degree of gallantry as she was among the first to have volunteered to work in the SARS ward to be set up in the hospital.



Obituary for the late Dr Cheng Ha-yan, Kate

By Medic Class '97

On 8th June, about 200 teachers, schoolmates, colleagues and friends attended the Memorial Gathering held in the Faculty to pay tribute to Kate, our beloved classmate who died of SARS which she contracted from some cryptic SARS patients under her care. At the gathering, we were all touched by the thoughtful words and music from Professor SK Lam, the heartfelt sharing by Professor Mary Ip and Mr WK Chan, the sincere regards from Professor Rosie Young, Professor Lap-Chee Tsui and Mr KC Cheung, plus the sympathetic tears on our faces.

Dr Sarah Lam, our classmate and colleague of Kate at Tai Po Hospital, expressed her profound sorrow over Kate's passing away. She was deeply impressed by Kate's noble character, her generosity to colleagues, dedication to her work, conscientious and loving attitude to her patients, and untiring care for her family. Sarah recalled the joy of sharing thoughtful insights and encouraging words with Kate, taking rides in her car, studying together, and celebrating the past Christmas with her at the Department. Looking back at the last moments that she spent with Kate outside the ICU, with colleagues and friends praying together in tears, we were all touched. At the Memorial Gathering, Sarah and her classmates brought Kate all her favourite things, including her ear-rings, perfumes, dolls, soccer star souvenirs, violin and guzheng, as well as all the little gifts from friends; yet she could no longer enjoy the company of them...

Kate's compassion and devotion has lighted up all our hearts. She has validated the missions and ideals of the medical profession and will certainly leave a profound and lasting influence on every one of us.

We would like to dedicate to Kate the following quote from the memorial brochure which

"KATE一直懷以真摯和熱誠去盡心地當醫生，救助困病和貧苦，不怕任重道遠，憑著心志和能力，去面對種種挑戰；她攜著衝勁和熱愛，將心中理想在世上實踐，絕不退後地以心輸出了溫暖。這是我們當初入讀醫學院時的諾言，今天充份在KATE的身上反映和實現了，我們全體同學都引以為傲。她無私奉獻的精神，將長留我們心中。"

Professor LC Chan (陳立昌), has been appointed Head of Pathology for the period from December 1, 2002 to November 30, 2005.

Dr DY Jin (金冬雁), Assistant Professor of the Department of Biochemistry, obtained three research grants/awards from the National Institutes of Health, Concern Foundation, and Innovation and Technology Fund, as well as the renewal of the Scholarship of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Dr Chandra Rodrigo, Associate Professor of the Department of Anaesthesiology, was awarded the Horace Wells Award conferred by the International Federation of Dental Anesthesiology Societies.

Professor KF So (蘇國輝), has been appointed Head of Anatomy for the period from December 7, 2002 to December 6, 2005.

Professor William Wei (韋霖), has been appointed member of the Executive Committee of the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies.

Donations

Bequest of the late Dr Patrick Wei (韋子謙) (MBBS 1958)

Dr Patrick Wei passed away on May 18, 2003. He had indicated in his Will his desire to donate his body to the Department of Anatomy for medical education and research purposes.

The Department of Anatomy would like to express their sincerest gratitude to the late Dr Wei for his noble act. His thoughtfulness and contribution will be highly cherished by the medical profession for many years to come.

Dr Ho Koon Piu and Dr Ho Koon Ki Tommy, in memory of their father Mr Ho King Mau, has donated a sum of HK\$100,000 for establishing the Ho King Mau Memorial Prize to be awarded to the student who has achieved the best overall results in the MBBS Second Summative Examination.

SH Ho Foundation (何善衡基金) has donated HK\$5,800,000 for the research laboratories in the Department of Pathology.

Dr Leung Tze Ching Vincent (梁子正) has donated HK\$100,000 in support of the construction of the Faculty of Medicine Building.

Mr Li Chi Keung (李志強) has donated a sum of HK\$1,000,000 to the Faculty in support of its educational and research activities.

Li Shu Fan Medical Foundation (李樹芬醫學基金會) has offered to contribute a sum of up to HK\$9,533,000 for three years in support of the establishment of a new Chair of Ophthalmology in the Faculty of Medicine. The Foundation has also donated HK\$15,000,000 for the Fan Pui Garden in the Faculty of Medicine Building.

Liu Chong Hing Investment Limited (廖創興企業有限公司) has donated HK\$250,000 to the "Liu Po Shan / Dr Vincent Liu Endowment Fund for Motor Neurone Disease".

Wei Lun Foundation Ltd (偉倫基金有限公司) has donated HK\$15,000,000 for the Education Centre in the Faculty of Medicine Building.

Mrs Wong Ma Lin Ying Angelina has donated a sum of HK\$250,003 to the Colorectal Surgery Division of the Department of Surgery for supporting its research, patient service and educational activities to combat colorectal disease. Mrs Wong has also donated HK\$100,000 to the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery for supporting its research, patient service and educational activities.

劉謙齋先生 has donated a sum of HK\$300,000 to the Spine Team of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery to support the research and development of treating spinal problems.

The following graduates have donated a total sum of HK\$103,608 in support of the construction of the Faculty of Medicine Building:

Chiu Shing Ping James 趙承平
Cho Ming Leung 曹明亮
Chow Wai-hung Willie 周偉雄

Choy Pui Man Philip 蔡佩文
Fung Stephanie

Tai Kin Shing 戴健誠
Yuen Kar Ngai Robert 阮嘉毅

Professor Richard Epstein joined 2003 the Department of Medicine in February with the mission of starting up Medical Oncology in both the Queen Mary Hospital and the Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital. Following his specialty training in Sydney and Melbourne, Dr Epstein obtained his PhD at Cambridge University, then undertook a further five years of postdoctoral training at Harvard University. On returning to the UK in 1993, he worked as Senior Lecturer at Imperial College and Consultant Medical Oncologist in the Hammersmith Hospitals Trust. In 1998 he became Head of the Department of Medical Oncology at the new National Cancer Centre in Singapore, where he was also an Associate Professor at the National University, and in 2001 he was promoted to Deputy Director of the Centre. At present, his clinical interests focus on breast and prostate cancer; his main research interests are phosphoproteomics and bioinformatics.



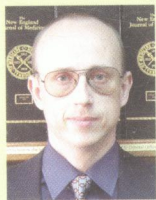
Dr Wendy WT Lam (藍詠德) joined the Department of Community Medicine as Lecturer in November 2002. She obtained her BSc (Nursing) from Queen's University, Canada, and then attended the University of Toronto obtaining her MSc in Nursing. She completed her PhD in Psycho-oncology from The University of Hong Kong and graduated in 2002. Her doctoral research combined qualitative and quantitative studies of breast cancer to improve the clinical psychosocial management of women with breast cancer. She was the foundation recipient of The Hong Kong Cancer Fund Scholarship in Psycho-oncology for 2001-2002.



Dr Pamela PW Lee (李珮華) joined the Department of Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine in July 2003 as Clinical Assistant Professor after completing her internship training at Queen Mary Hospital. As a medical student Pamela already showed great interest in clinical paediatrics as well as laboratory research. Being a graduate from the new Medical Curriculum, she has been actively involved in various workshops and forums on problem-based learning and medical education.



Dr G Neil Thomas joined the Department of Community Medicine in December 2002 as a Research Assistant Professor. Dr Thomas, who has resided in Hong Kong for 12 years, received his PhD in Medical Sciences from The Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1999, where he worked in the Department of Medicine and Therapeutics and with the Drug Development Centre. His major research focus is the biochemical and genetic epidemiology and treatment of the metabolic syndrome disease cluster of obesity, Type 2 diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidaemia and associated cardiovascular disease.



Professor Paul M Vanhoutte has recently taken up the post of Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Department of Pharmacology. Born in 1940 in Belgium, Professor Vanhoutte obtained his degrees at the University of Ghent (BS, MS, MD) and the



University of Antwerp (equivalent to PhD). He received his postdoctoral training at the University of Ghent and at the Mayo Clinic (Rochester, MN, USA). His academic career started at the University of Ghent (Assistant, 1969-1971), followed by the Mayo Clinic (Research Associate, 1972-1973), the University of Antwerp (Belgium), from Associate Professor to full Professor and Head of the Department of Pharmacology, 1973-1981), again the Mayo Clinic (Professor of Physiology and Pharmacology, 1981-1989) and Baylor College of Medicine (Houston TX, USA, Professor of Medicine, Pharmacology and Physiology, and Director Center for Experimental Therapeutics, 1989-1995). From 1992 to 2002, Professor Vanhoutte was Vice-President R&D, and Director of Discovery Research at the Institut de Recherches Internationales Servier, in Courbevoie (Paris, France). During his tenure as Director of Discovery Research at Servier, he supervised the discovery and preclinical development of drugs designed for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, obesity, central nervous system disorders, cancer and osteoarthritis.

Ms Emmy MY Wong (黃敏兒) joined the Department of Nursing Studies as Lecturer in January 2003. She received Master degrees in both Nursing (Sydney) and Health Care Management (Wales). Her major research interests focus in women's health, primary health care, public health and health services management. She has been actively involved in community health activities. She is a member of the Hong Kong Association of Baby Friendly Hospital Institute, the Hong Kong Federation of Women, Health Services Managers Association and the Royal College of Nursing, Australia.



Dr Zhongjun Zhou (周中軍) graduated from Xiamen University (BS) and Peking Union Medical College (PhD), did his postdoctoral training in the Karolinska Institute, Sweden. He joined the Department of Biochemistry in December 2002 as Research Assistant Professor. Dr Zhou is interested in understanding the in vivo functions of metalloproteinases and extracellular matrix components using knockout mice.



Retirement

Professor RLC Wong (黃令翠), Reader (Clinical), Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Departure

Dr RCK Chan (陳楚僑), Assistant Lecturer, Department of Psychiatry

Dr KMT Ho (何孟澈), Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery

Dr WK Taylor, Assistant Professor, Department of Nursing Studies

Forthcoming Events

Valedictory Lecture by Professor Htut Saing

Date : August 15, 2003
Venue : 5th Floor Lecture Theatre, Professorial Block,
Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong
Information : Dr Henry Tuen, Department of Surgery,
The University of Hong Kong
Tel: 2855 4781 Fax: 2855 1897

George Choa Visiting Professor Lecture by Professor Karl Höermann, Mannheim, Germany

Date : October 7, 2003
Venue : 5th Floor Lecture Theatre, Professorial Block,
Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong
Information : Department of Surgery,
University of Hong Kong Medical Centre,
Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong
Tel: 2855 4234 Fax: 2855 1897

10th Hong Kong International Cancer Congress

Date : November 19-21, 2003
Venue : Faculty of Medicine Building,
The University of Hong Kong, Sassoon Road,
Pokfulam, HK
Information : 10th HKICC Congress Secretariat
Department of Surgery,
University of Hong Kong Medical Centre,
Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong
Tel: 2818 0232 / 2855 4235 Fax: 2818 1186
Email: mededcon@hku.hk
Website: www.hkicc.org

Asian Chapter Congress of the International Union of Angiology

Date : November 25-26, 2003
Venue : Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre
Information : Congress Secretariat
Asian Chapter Congress of IUA
Department of Surgery,
University of Hong Kong Medical Centre,
Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong
Tel: 2818 0232 / 2855 4235 Fax: 2818 1186
Email: iuahk03@hkucc.hku.hk
Website: www.hku.hk/surgery

Advanced Trauma Care for Nurses (ATCN) Provider Course	Date: September 5-6, 2003
Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) Student Course	Date: September 5-7, 2003
Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) Provider Course	Date: September 18 & 25, 2003
Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) Provider Course	Date: October 9 & 16, 2003
Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) Provider Course	Date: November 8-9, 2003
Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) Student Course	Date: November 14-16, 2003
Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) Provider Course	Date: December 6 & 13, 2003
Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) Student Course	Date: December 19-21, 2003

Venue : **ATLS & ATLN Course**
The Jockey Club Skills Development Centre, C Wing, 3/F, Main Block, Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong
PHTLS Course
Hong Kong St John Ambulance, St John Tower, 2 MacDonnell Road, Hong Kong
Information : Course Administrator
Tel: 2855 4885 / 2855 4886 Fax: 2819 3416
Email: qmhsdc@hkucc.hku.hk



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Medical Faculty News



Feature

School of Chinese Medicine

Message to HKU Medical Faculty
From Professor Sir David Todd



Exciting News
Collaboration of
Harvard School of Public Health
and HKU

香港大學中醫藥學

School of Chinese Medicine



Logo of the School

The logo of the School of Chinese Medicine symbolises its vision and mission. In Chinese medicine, ginseng is considered to be both a traditional and

valuable natural source from our heritage. The visual element of ginseng has been incorporated into the logo to represent the development of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), suggesting that the School will inherit the traditional practice and knowledge of Chinese Medicine from its rich heritage in China spanning thousands of years.

Background

The School of Chinese Medicine on campus was set up in the Estates Building on Sassoon Road in August 2002, when the University decided to introduce a formal undergraduate programme with students admitted through JUPAS following a validation conducted by the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong in 2001. The primary objective of the School is to provide quality TCM training to dedicated students to continue and develop this cultural treasure of China and to contribute further in this field. The school started offering a full-time programme, Bachelor of Chinese Medicine, in September 2002.

Currently, there are 13 full-time academic staff under the leadership of an Executive Director, 3 visiting professors and 8 honorary staff in the School of Chinese Medicine. In addition to Professor JST Sham serving as the Honorary Deputy Director, the School of Chinese Medicine is honoured to have some of the most distinguished

educators and researchers in the field, including Professors Chen Ke Ji (陳可冀), Cheng Yong Chi (鄭永齊), Cheung Tai Chiu (張大釗), Deng Tie Tao (張大釗), Shi Qi (施杞), Yan Shi Yun (嚴世芸) serving as Honorary Professors, and Professor Wong Ngar Kok (黃雅各) as Honorary Associate Professor.

Teaching

Two batches of full-time Bachelor of Chinese Medicine students were admitted to the programme in 2002 and 2003 through JUPAS and the number of new admissions totals 30 for each year. The syllabus of the 5-year programme is designed based on the structure of the degree programmes of the first tier TCM universities on the Mainland. Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine is a close partner of the school in teaching and research, and it also serves as the Chief Academic Advisor, as well as External Examiner, of the School of Chinese Medicine. The collaboration dates back to 1997, when the former President Shi Qi of Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine and the former Pro-Vice-Chancellor STH Chan of the University of Hong Kong signed a collaboration agreement between the two universities on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine.



The curriculum of the Bachelor of Chinese Medicine conforms to the normal undergraduate requirements of the University of Hong Kong, i.e. including requirements on languages, IT and broadening courses offered by various departments of the University. The comprehensive programme includes TCM courses taught by full-time staff of the School of Chinese Medicine, western medicine courses including bedside teaching taught by the Faculty of Medicine, and TCM clinical training including clinical practicum undertaken in the Chinese Medicine out-patient clinic operated by the School throughout the first four years of study. The School takes a modern approach in TCM education using much of new multimedia and teaching aids including pulsographs as well as Multimedia Learning Laboratory to encourage the students "to learn how to learn". In the fifth year, a clinical clerkship is undertaken in the new affiliated hospitals of Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Pu-dong together with the local Chinese Medicine degree students there.

The minimum academic requirement for sitting for the licensing examination of the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong is the satisfactory completion of a 5-year full-time Chinese Medicine degree programme with 10 core TCM courses and no less than 30 weeks of clinical clerkship in a recognised Chinese Medicine hospital. The HKU full-time 5-year undergraduate Bachelor of Chinese Medicine programme is an "approved" curriculum by the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong and graduates are eligible to sit for the licensing examination of the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong.

Major Events

First Graduation Ceremony

The University started offering a part-time Bachelor of Traditional Chinese Medicine (BTCM) programme since 1998 and a part-time Master of Traditional Chinese Medicine (Acupuncture and Moxibustion) (MTCM) since 1999 as joint programmes by HKU SPACE and the school. In 2002, 17 BTCM students, who were "registered Chinese Medicine practitioners" under the "grandfather" clause of the professional recognition



arrangement of the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong and completed the curriculum, were awarded the degree of Bachelor of Chinese Medicine. The first graduation ceremony organised by the School of Chinese Medicine was held on January 21, 2003, in Loke Yew Hall of the University of Hong Kong. Dr Peter CY Lee, JP, member of Court, Council, and the Committee of Management of the School of Chinese Medicine, was invited to address to the graduates during the ceremony.

Pong Ding Yuen International Symposium on TCM and Distinguished Lecture Series

In early 2001, the family of Mr Pong Ding Yuen made a generous donation of HK\$10 million to the School of Chinese Medicine to establish a "Pong Ding Yuen Endowment Fund for Education and Research in Chinese-Western Medicine". Part of the funding is used for organising Pong Ding Yuen International Symposium on TCM. The School of Chinese Medicine has already held 2 symposia in April 2001 and October 2002, providing valuable opportunities for local students, Chinese and western medical professionals, government officials as well as businessmen to exchange their views on TCM development in Hong Kong. For the 2nd Pong Ding Yuen International Symposium on TCM, international figures such as Professors Chen Ke Ji, Deng Tie Tao, Shi Qi and Yan Si Yun from the Mainland, local TCM leader Professor Cheung Tai Chiu, Professor Cheng Yong Chi from Yale, Professor Fritz G. Wallner from University of Vienna and Dr FC Leung, Dean of the Faculty of Science, were invited to give plenary lectures in Cheung Kung Hai Conference Centre of the Faculty of Medicine Building.

In addition, as a community service to provide proper information to the public on the theories and various approaches of TCM, the school organises an on-going "Pong Ding Yuen Distinguished Lecture Series" and invites distinguished experts to speak on various topics of TCM. During October and November 2002, Professor Cheung Tai Chiu, who is qualified in both western and Chinese Medicine and a leading figure in the TCM field in Hong Kong, was invited to deliver four 2-hour lectures on TCM in the Rayson Huang Lecture Theatre. All lectures were well attended and highly praised by those present.





Learning Chinese Medicines in its natural environment

The "Chinese Medicine Field Trip" is part of our Bachelor of Chinese Medicine programme for encouraging students to learn and identify herbs in the wilds. Last summer, the School of Chinese Medicine arranged an exciting and fruitful 7-day field trip to Chengdu and Mount E-mei in Sichuan. The students visited Chengdu University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, its affiliated hospitals and its natural herbal base in Mount E-mei. The visit also included the new campus of the university and its big TCM museum, a number of Good Manufacturing Process ventures, other national Good Agricultural Process and Good Laboratory Process pharmaceutical centres, and the biggest and one of the busiest Chinese medicines wholesale markets in the Southern China.

Community services

In order to promote and disseminate proper knowledge and basic understanding of the theories and approaches of TCM, the School of Chinese Medicine has been active in organizing programmes to reach the general public. In 2002, the School mounted a series of Pong Ding Yuen Distinguished Lectures on TCM and took part in TVB Jade Channel series "Health Watch". Currently the School is organising a series of seminars for retired customers of Hang Seng Bank, who wish to learn more about TCM, and is preparing for the second series of "Health Watch". The school considers this a worthwhile and meaningful effort in promoting knowledge on health to this particular group of citizens by introducing them to the choice of most appropriate medicinal food and soups to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the relationship between the human body, the four seasons, basic concepts of TCM therapies, acupuncture and tui-na. Education should extend beyond our undergraduate students to reach various sectors of the community.

Clinical Centres for Teaching and Research

Owing to the fact that there are no proper TCM hospitals in the health care system in Hong Kong, the School must run its own clinics to attract patients for the clinical training of its students. The School is currently operating two Clinical Centres for Teaching and Research in Hong Kong, namely "Clinical Centre for Teaching and Research" at Queen Mary Hospital, and "Specialist Clinical Research Centre" on Sassoon

Road. The two centres not only provide quality TCM clinical services to the public, but also more importantly serve as a base for the students to undertake clinical practicum during their first four years of study. During the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), the two centres also made available SARS preventive herbal packs for members of the University as well as the public, which were well received. All HKU staff and students, when seeking medical consultations from our centre at Queen Mary Hospital, are entitled to a 20% discount on the consultation fee and medicine charges. Enquiries can be made by phone on 2589 0433. In order to recruit a wider spectrum of patients and disease types required for the supervised clinical teaching of the BChinMed students, the School of Chinese Medicine has recently acquired some 3300 square feet office space at No.9 Queen's Road Central; the new clinical centre for teaching and research will start operation in February 2004.



The new Director, Professor Tong Yao, with Executive Director, Professor STH Chan, and some staff members of the School.

Future

It is expected that with the establishment of a proper School of Chinese Medicine on campus in 2002 with excellent student intake through JUPAS and the recruitment of an outstanding academic in the TCM field, Professor Tong Yao, as the new Director, the School of Chinese Medicine will embark on a proper route for a development of quality education, research and clinical services in TCM. In addition, with the support from the region's most prestigious medical school and teaching hospital, the school will promote the collaboration of oriental and western medicine, and aspire to be a leading TCM school both locally and internationally. The School of Chinese Medicine of the University of Hong Kong will play a significant and crucial role, not only in the education of a new generation of quality TCM professionals to serve local needs in health care as well as in new commercial and industrial initiatives, but also in the modernisation of TCM to meet the new demands for alternative and better approaches in health therapy. ▶



Dean's Message

I take great pride and honour to become the first appointed dean of the Faculty. The appointment represents the culmination of a process that involves international advertisement, worldwide search by a headhunter company and a search committee, Faculty and CSST evaluation, and BAPR and Council approval. It is not a celebration of the success of a candidature; it is a celebration of the triumph of a school in its willingness to change, moving from an in-house election to an international appointment, thereby internationalizing even its governance. It is not a fulfilment of the appointee; it is a fulfilment of a school that determines to be responsible to the society through the Vice-Chancellor.

On 1st November, the University Council moves from governance through representation to a governance of trusteeship. Each councilor is there 100% as an individual, with a total independence of the mind and complete freedom from any electorate. Each councilor, based on his or her background, will contribute his or her worth to the community through the University. This is a historical shift towards a culture of trust.

This culture of trust is already taking ground firmly in the Faculty's governance. And the mechanism that triggers it is transparency – a transparency that the Core Management Team takes care to ensure in all its executions and a transparency that is strengthened by a close check and balance through a representative elected by the preclinical teachers.

This will be further strengthened by the forthcoming election of the Chairman of the Faculty Board, who will not only design the agenda and chair the Faculty Board Meeting, but will also contribute to the Faculty management.

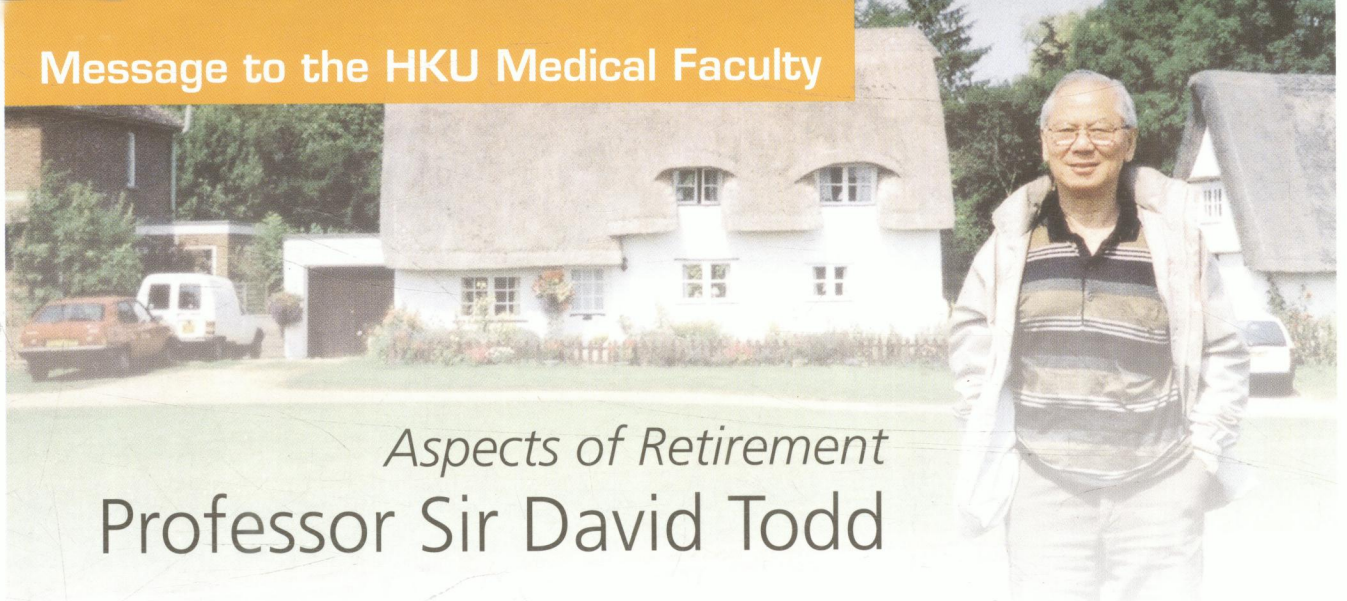
The Faculty Board has accepted the Review Panel's recommendation to revise our present organization structure to make our governance fit for purpose. The 22nd November 2003 would be a historical date in the Faculty's calendar, when we held a historical retreat to discuss the way forward.

If the world changes, and we don't, then we become of no use to the world. Our principles cease being principles and just ossify into dogma. We haven't changed to forget our principles, but to fulfil them; not to lose our identity, but to keep our relevance.

Tony Blair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SK Lam'.

Professor SK Lam
Dean



Aspects of Retirement Professor Sir David Todd

Time flies like an arrow, so the saying goes. It is six years since my retirement to Cambridge, the lovely, historic university city. While far less busy now, there is much to fill the days which pass quickly. Meetings of the SK Yee Medical Foundation take me back to Hong Kong three times a year so I am not entirely a stranger. The many friends and colleagues who visit also bring the latest news. Then of course there is the internet. On a recent return trip I was lost in admiration for the new Faculty of Medicine Building on Sassoon Road - and how fortunate are those who study and work in it. Less heartening is the news of reduction in university and hospital funding which inevitably will be detrimental to education, research and patient care. It is hoped appropriate adjustments can be made so that the high quality of the educational and professional institutions is maintained.

The University of Cambridge has an outstanding Medical School and I have been welcomed to the Department of Medicine's excellent weekly Staff Rounds, not unlike those held at Queen Mary Hospital. However, in the former case more staff from disciplines other than Medicine attend, in addition to undergraduates and visitors. Speakers range from the junior to the most senior and discussions are always lively. There are usually two topics for the hour-long meeting. On one occasion, there were presentations on oncogenic osteomalacia and on skin cancers after organ transplantation and both disorders appeared as articles, by non-Cambridge authors, in that week's New England Journal of Medicine. Happenstance? Each year, after the summer break, selected undergraduates have a session in which they describe their elective periods abroad, often spent in challenging conditions in Africa and India. Their accounts have been most interesting.

The National Health Service, supported by taxpayers, has come under much public criticism. An ageing population, increasing costs of drugs and technology, higher expectations and demands are some of the reasons for the discontent. Cambridge is probably fortunate in that the general practice and hospital systems appear to function well and there is close liaison between the two. Waiting time for appointments to see specialists may be long but very ill patients can be seen sooner or attend the accident and emergency department. The care at Addenbrooke's Hospital, the main teaching hospital in Cambridge, is excellent and impressive in how well-trained nurses and other allied health workers such as audiologists, radiographers, physiotherapists and community nurses, can lighten the doctors' workload. There is also private medical care, mainly provided by hospital specialists, and in general this is covered by insurance.

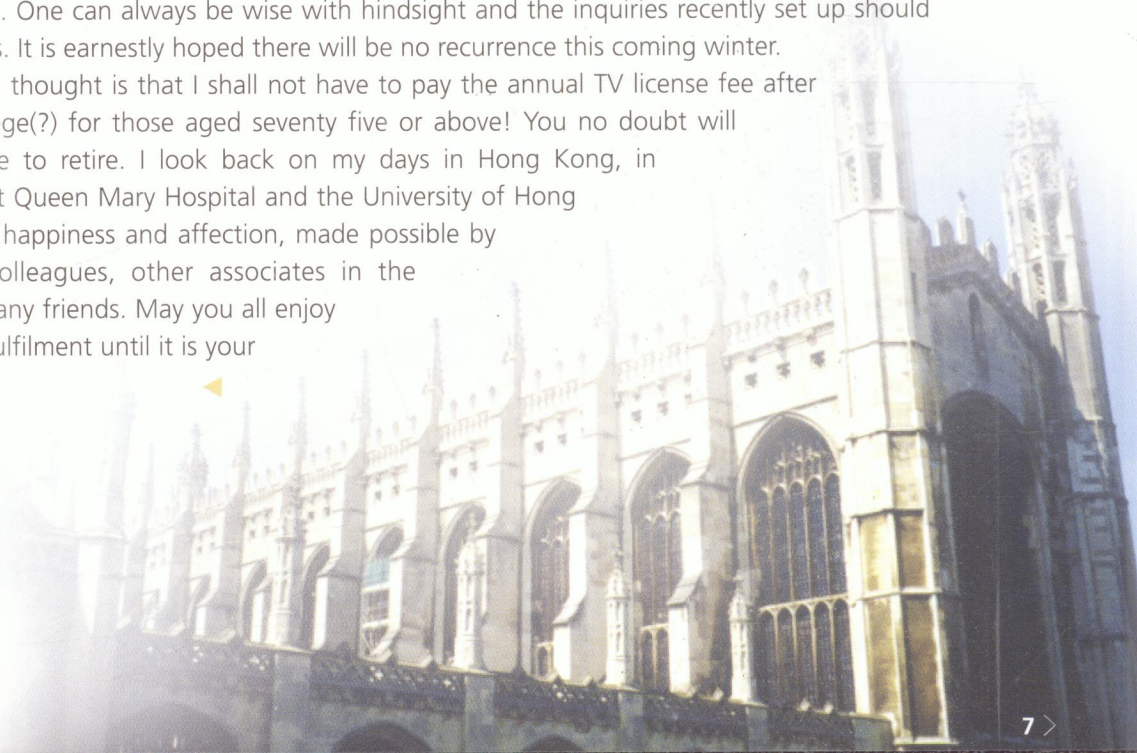
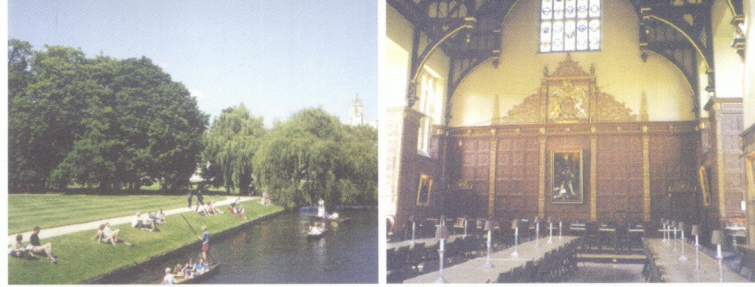
The undergraduate medical curriculum is one of the few in the UK which remains "traditional". The three years pre-clinical course is scientifically probably the best in the country. The duration of the clinical course is only two and a half years and is very intensive; some go to teaching hospitals in London for this. Then there is the MB, PhD programme for the more academically inclined which on the average adds on another one or two years. Medical students are highly selected so little wonder the graduates are of such high standard. The postgraduate and research activities of the Medical Faculty are renowned and well-funded, and having the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology with several Nobel Laureates "in residence" as neighbours is a boon.

In Cambridge one is surrounded by culture, natural and architectural beauty and friendliness. There are outstanding museums and the University Library has books of every description and used to receive a copy of every book published in the country. Long walks are a pleasure, especially in the warmer months when spring and summer flowers and trees are at their best and in the autumn when the foliage is so colourful. It takes me only fifteen minutes by foot to the city centre, through Selwyn and Kings College, and across the River Cam, made famous in China by Xu Zhi-mo.

It was hard not to smile when a fully dressed Japanese tourist fell into the river while trying to punt! This walk also provides the mandatory twenty minutes of exercise a day. In the town there are University clubs where one can read newspapers and magazines and have a cup of tea, as well as a public library and many bookshops in which browsing is welcomed! A pleasant surprise is that the weather has been milder than expected and snow has fallen for less than two weeks in each of the past few years. To satisfy my musical tastes there are frequent performances in the Faculty of Music's Concert Hall which is around the corner from home; in Kings College and other College chapels and in London which is only one hour away by train. Then there is the excellent BBC Radio 3 which, during the season, broadcasts directly from the Proms in London and music festivals in Edinburgh and elsewhere. Another advantage of living here is that sports on TV, such as Wimbledon, can be watched during waking hours! While East Anglia is mainly flat, there are numerous picturesque towns and quaint villages with fine pubs and restaurants within an hour or so by car. Alas, good Chinese restaurants are few and far between but there is one which serves delicious "dry fried beef rice noodles" and crispy duck.

The computer is a great asset. E-mail allows daily contact with relatives and friends in Hong Kong and other parts of the world. The recent SARS outbreak in Hong Kong was most distressing and was closely followed via www.MingPao.com. While early mistakes were made, from this distance it appeared that the community in Hong Kong tackled the disease reasonably well, given the circumstances. One can always be wise with hindsight and the inquiries recently set up should reveal more truths. It is earnestly hoped there will be no recurrence this coming winter.

A sobering thought is that I shall not have to pay the annual TV license fee after this year, a privilege(?) for those aged seventy five or above! You no doubt will agree it was time to retire. I look back on my days in Hong Kong, in particular those at Queen Mary Hospital and the University of Hong Kong, with great happiness and affection, made possible by students, now colleagues, other associates in the profession and many friends. May you all enjoy a life of joy and fulfilment until it is your turn to retire!



Collaboration of Harvard School of Public Health and HKU



Organized by the Medical and Health Research Network, the Memorandum of Collaboration Signing Ceremony between the Harvard School of Public Health and the University of Hong Kong was held on September 27, 2003. The partnership dated back to year 2001, when the first Memorandum of Collaboration was signed to jointly organize executive training programmes for medical and health care professionals in the Greater China region.

To further reinforce the collaborative effort of the two institutions in developing Hong Kong to be a regional centre for training and research in health reform, a second agreement was concluded on September 27, 2003 with the



ultimate aim to train medical and health care professionals to optimize resources available in the health care system.

The renewal of Memorandum of Collaboration signified the commitment of both institutions in advancing the public health and health care policy analysis. With this second agreement, there will be increasing academic exchanges of training programmes, researches, staff and students as well as researchers.

The Signing Ceremony was officiated by Professor Lap-Chee Tsui (徐立之), Vice-Chancellor, Professor SP Chow (周肇平), Convenor of Medical and Health Research Network, Professor PC Ho (何柏松), Acting Dean of Faculty of Medicine, of the University of Hong Kong, and Professor Barry R Bloom, Dean of Harvard School of Public Health.

We are honoured to have Dr PY Lam (林秉恩), Director of Health, and Dr TH Leung (梁挺雄), Deputy Director of Health to witness this memorable occasion. ◀

Recent Events



Valedictory Lecture by Professor John CY Leong

On October 27, 2003, over 400 guests attended the Valedictory Lecture of Professor John CY Leong (梁智仁), Chair Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, at Cheung Kung Hai Conference Centre at the Faculty of Medicine Building. He has been Head of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery of the University of Hong Kong since 1980. He will soon succeed Professor SW Tam (譚尚渭) to be the fourth President of the Open University of Hong Kong in December 2003.

The lecture was entitled "Reflection of an Academic Clinician: A Life Time's Experience with HKU and Queen Mary Hospital". Professor Leong recalled his fond memories over the 38 years he shared with HKU and Queen Mary Hospital. As Professor Leong's teacher as well as colleague, Professor

Rosie TT Young (楊紫芝), President of the University of Hong Kong Medical Alumni Association shared her recollections of him. After the valedictory lecture, Professor SK Lam (林兆鑫), Dean of Medicine congratulated Professor Leong for his many achievements and conveyed the Faculty's sincerest gratitude for his devotion. On behalf of HKU, the Vice-Chancellor Professor Lap-Chee Tsui (徐立之) presented a souvenir to him to acknowledge his immense contributions.

It is a great honour of this medical school to have had such a man of stature. The Faculty of Medicine wishes him every success in his future endeavours.

Professor John CY Leong - Valedictory Lecture

*"Reflections of an Academic Clinician:
A Life Time's Experience with HKU and Queen Mary Hospital"*



27 October 2003



Valedictory Lecture by Professor Htut Saing

On Friday, August 15, 2003 at 6:00 p.m.; a packed auditorium in the Underground Lecture Theatre, Queen Mary Hospital heard Professor Htut Saing (申陶), Chair of Paediatric Surgery of the Department of Surgery, delivered his Valedictory Lecture to mark the occasion of his retirement from the University of Hong Kong.

The title of Professor Saing's lecture was "A Tale of Two Cities: the Reflections of a Paediatric Surgeon". Considering himself to be extremely fortuitous, Professor Saing feels privileged to have been able to devote his services to the surgical care of children, both in Yangon, Myanmar, and in Hong Kong. He believed the emotional fulfillment in caring for children was an immensely gratifying reward. Professor Saing also spearheaded the surgery program of the new curriculum and headed the Centre for Education and Training of the Department.

In his opening remarks, Professor John Wong (黃健靈), Head of the Department of Surgery paid tribute to the enormous contribution that Professor Saing had made to advance the subspecialty of paediatric surgery in Hong Kong, transforming what was an adequate service unit to the internationally recognised centre of excellence that it is today.



The lecture organisers expressed great satisfaction with the turnout and were honoured to have Professor John Spinks (史秉士), Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong in attendance. He graciously thanked Professor Saing and presented him with a commemorative gold medal. Following the lecture was a black-tie dinner held in honour of Professor Saing. In his dinner speech, on behalf of the guests, Professor Spinks and Professor Chi-hung Leong (梁智鴻), Chairman of the Hospital Authority reiterated the gratitude and deep respect with which Professor Saing is held by the Hong Kong surgical community.

Visit of the George Choa Visiting Professor in Otorhinolaryngology



Professor Karl Hörmann, Head and Chairman, Department of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, University Hospital Mannheim, Germany appointed as the George Choa Visiting Professor in Otorhinolaryngology had visited the Department on October 4 – 10, 2003.

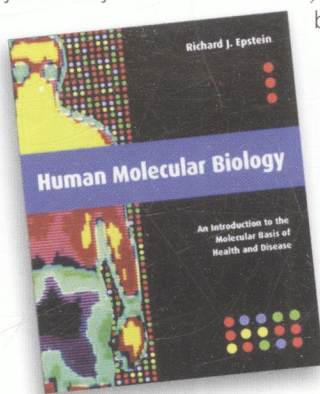
During the visit, Professor Hörmann was involved in a variety of activities, such as teaching of medical students, mock examination for fellowship candidates, ward rounds, hospital visit, etc. On Tuesday, October 7, 2003 at 6:00 p.m., the George Choa Visiting Professorship Lecture entitled "Carcinoma of Unknown Primary (CUP): Diagnosis and Therapy" was delivered at the 5/F Lecture Theatre, Professorial Block, Queen Mary Hospital.

Medical Book of the Year Award

The book *Human Molecular Biology: An Introduction to the Molecular Basis of Health and Disease* by Professor Richard Epstein, Professor of the Department of Medicine, has won the Medical Book of the Year Award by Royal Society of Medicine in October 2003. The book was also granted the Richard Asher Award for Best New Authored Book by the Society of Authors, and the Highly Commended Award by the British Medical Association. The book was published by Cambridge University Press in 2003.

The book breaks new ground by merging medicine and molecular biology for the new generation of life scientists and

medical students. Biology is aligned with clinical syndromes, genetic pathways with disease phenotypes, and protein function with drug action. In short, health and disease are presented as complementary parts of the same biomolecular spectrum.



Asked his reaction to being awarded the prizes, he said, "It's actually a great team effort to create a new book like this, and my team - the editor, illustrator, designer, proofreader, marketer and producer - was great to work with. But it's nice for the book to get some attention after all that sweat and worry. One thing you learn is that anyone who writes medical textbooks must be crazy!"

Visit of the First Chin Lan-hong Visiting Professor



Professor Edison Liu was appointed as the First Chin Lan-hong Visiting Professor and visited the Department of Surgery on September 7 - 10, 2003. He is a world-renowned breast cancer researcher and is currently the Executive Director, Genome Institute of Singapore, National University of Singapore.

During his visit, Professor Liu toured the Department of Surgery at Queen Mary Hospital and Faculty of Medicine Building. He also visited the Genome Research Centre. On Monday September 8, 2003 at 5:30 pm, Professor Liu delivered the lecture entitled "The Genome Institute of Singapore and the Biomedical Industrial Development in Asia" to the Faculty at Lecture Theatre 1 at Cheung Kung Hai Conference Centre, Faculty of Medicine Building. The auditorium was packed by over 150 audiences. The lecture was very informative and well received by the clinical and research members of the Faculty. On September 9, he delivered a lecture entitled "Molecular Oncology and Therapeutic Decision Making" to the Department of Surgery at 5th Floor Lecture Theatre of Professorial Block at Queen Mary Hospital.

20th Digby Memorial Lecture "Reflections on SARS – Both Sides Now"

The 20th Digby Memorial Lecture entitled "Reflections on SARS – Both Sides now" was delivered by Dr William Ho (何兆煒), Chief Executive of Hospital Authority on July 5, 2003 at 5:30 pm in the Underground Lecture Theatre, New Clinical Building, Queen Mary Hospital.

Dr Ho's unique and touching experiences of determination and courage relived in the Lecture had inspired all who were there in the packed auditorium.

A dinner in honour of Dr Ho was held in the Hong Kong Country Club on the same night. Dr Victor Fung (馮國經), Council Chairman, being introduced by Professor SK Lam (林兆鑫), the Dean with his witty anecdotes, had given an excellent and insightful After-Dinner Speech and won the applause from all the guests. The dinner was concluded by the vote of thanks from Professor Lap-Chee Tsui (徐立之), Vice Chancellor, HKU.



HKU Reunion at the Races 2003

On September 27, over 60 alumni and guests from the Faculty of Medicine participated in HKU "Reunion at the Races 2003". The annual Hong Kong University Alumni Association (HKUAA) Challenge Cup was competed for in the charitable event in Shatin Racecourse.

The HKU Foundation with the help of HKUAA and the Hong Kong Jockey Club turned the annual HKUAA Challenge Cup meeting into

a "Reunion" for the University's alumni and friends. Besides the Challenge Cup race, the other nine races on the day were named after faculties / departments / halls which secured a donation of at least HK\$100,000. With the generous donation from medical alumna Dr Tsoi Wai-wang, Gene (蔡惠宏) (MBBS 1980), one of the races was named after Medicine Alumni. Over 300 HKU alumni and friends enjoyed the "Fun Racing / Fund Raising Day". A total of 1.8M was raised for HKU, including winnings donated by guests. These donations will also be matched by the Government Matching Grant.

Opening of the AO International Spine Reference Centre, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

The Department of Orthopaedic Surgery was invited by AO (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Osteosynthesefragen or Association for the Study of Internal Fixation), to form an International Spine Reference Centre. The centre is dedicated to improving the care of patients with musculoskeletal problems, through research, development, education and quality assurance. The centre is only one of six such centres worldwide, and the only one in Asia. The opening was held on the October 25, 2003, and was attended by the Dean, representatives from AO, members of the Faculty of Medicine, Chiefs of Service in Queen Mary Hospital and members of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. An inaugural scientific seminar was held at the same time and attracted 40 local and 20 overseas participants from the rest of Asia.



Where the East meets West – at the Faculty of Medicine, HKU

by Esther Yu, MBBS III

Since September 2003, there has been a growing crowd of students outside A2/B2 at 8:15am sharp, waiting for the most-feared yet most anticipated bedside teachings in Medicine. Not only were MBBS students present in the big group; Bachelor of Traditional Chinese Medicine (BTCM) students were joining us too! To enhance integration of Chinese traditional medicine and western allopathic medicine, BTCM students are required to attend medical bedside teachings and surgical clinical skill learning sessions as part of their third year curriculum.

Exposures to patients and their clinical presentation, as well as the hands-on practice of the newly “acquired” clinical examination skill, have always been invaluable yet challenging to MBBS III students who had just struggled through the pile of anatomy, physiology and pathology books. How about the BTCM III students who have been conversely exposed to a very different set of Chinese traditional medical theories?

Let's look at some of their feedbacks:

“The teaching is very interesting. I don't find them too difficult since we had physiology and pathology classes before.”

“We have to pay double amount of effort in order to catch up with both the clinical teaching material and our original course work, but I enjoy the readings.”

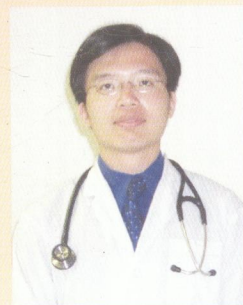
“Since we are not familiar with the terminologies, it is somehow difficult to understand what's exactly going on during the session. But all the same it is very valuable that we can observe clinical signs on real patients and practise some of the skills.”

It is clear that the BTCM students have been as excited as the MBBS III students during these clinical teaching sessions.

American Endocrine Society's Medical Student Award

Newly graduated Dr Chen Pak Lam, Sammy (陳栢林) (MRes(Med) & MBBS 2003), has been awarded the “Medical Student Award” by the American Endocrine Society for outstanding achievement in endocrinology.

“I feel deeply honoured and fortunate to have received the award from the American Endocrine Society. Indeed, this should be attributed to my supervisors and other colleagues in the metabolic laboratory, as their enlightenment allowed me to progress and study in the intercalated year. Additionally, I am grateful for those who have contributed to this course. This is an innovative course as it offers a post-graduate programme within the MBBS curriculum. It equips us with an early foundation for future career development.”



Outstanding Tertiary Student Award by the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce

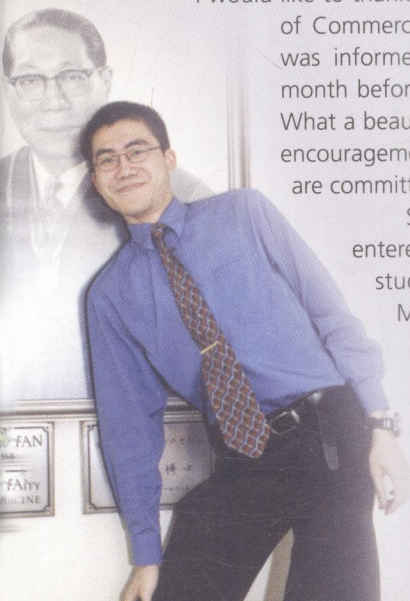
Newly graduated Dr James Fung (馮德焜) (MRes(Med) & MBBS 2003) has been awarded Outstanding Tertiary Student Award by the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce

“I would like to thank the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce for giving me this award. I was informed of winning the award one month before the end of my university life. What a beautiful ending it is! It was also an encouragement to university students who are committed to serve others.

Six years ago, when I first entered the University, I joined the student body of the Faculty of Medicine – the Medical Society HKUSU. One year later, I became the Chairman of the HKUSU Council. This experience became my first and the most important

enlightenment in my life. The life in the Union became my practical lessons in law, sociology, and philosophy. I gained the invaluable experience of serving others as a lay member in the community. These experiences allowed me to understand the perception and expectation of the general public on doctors. It had great impact on the self-perception on my future career.

As an activist in student movement, I used to work for ideology. However, overemphasis of ideal may cause a neglect of reality, a character incompatible with medical practitioner. Luckily, I started to participate in the Hong Kong Red Cross at that time, and later on the ORBIS, Oxfam and the Medecins Sans Frontiere. My service in these NGOs gave me the second enlightenment in the university years. These organizations carry out their ideal in real life. I started to understand that volunteering service was selfless and humble work aiming at solving real life problems. Later on, I served in the Union again in my fourth year, this time at the Health Committee of the Medical Society HKUSU, and practiced volunteering work in the community.”





Medic Class 1958 Reunion

The class of 1958 celebrated their 45th graduation anniversary at a dinner party held on October 17, 2003. The participants of this vintage class included Professor Kan Yuet-Wai (簡悅威) of the University of California, USA, Professor Richard Yu Yue-Hong (余宇超), President of the Hong Kong College of Physicians, Professor Ma Ho-Kei (馬可璣), and other eminent figures. Professor Lap-Chee Tsui (徐立之), the Vice-Chancellor was the Guest of Honour. Other guests included Professor Rosie TT Young (楊紫芝), Dr Chow Ki-Kit (周基傑), Dr Tsao Yin-Kai (曹延榮), Dr and Mrs Teoh Tiaw-Bee (張朝美). The Director of Development and Alumni Affairs Office Ms Bernadette Tsui (徐詠璇) also joined in for the exuberant festivities. The evening was sprinkled with lively speeches and toasts. The dinner party ended with two resounding resolutions - to raise more donations from the class for the Alumni Chamber at the HKU Faculty of Medicine Building, and to have the next class reunion in a year's time in Professor Kan Yuet-Wai's vineyard in Napa Valley.



100th Birthday of Dr KC Yeo

Dr KC Yeo (楊國章) (MBBS 1926), celebrated his 100th birthday earlier this year in Battle, East Sussex, UK, where he lives with his wife Florence. Dr Yeo entered HKU in September 1920, after matriculated from the Anglo-Chinese School in Penang. He was a resident at May Hall during his undergraduate years. After completing his studies in May 1925, Dr Yeo became a House Surgeon at the Government Civil Hospital. He obtained his doctorate in 1931 and later studied public health in Cambridge. Dr Yeo was the Director of the Medical and Health Department from 1952 to 1958, and led the development of Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Honours by the HKSAR

Dr Chow Chun Bong (周鎮邦) (MBBS 1974), has been awarded the Bronze Bauhinia Star by the HKSAR Government.

Dr Lee Ka Yan (李家仁) (MBBS 1976) has been awarded the Medal of Honour by the HKSAR Government.

Dr Gordon Low has been honoured Member of the Order of Australia

Dr Gordon Low (羅安鼎) (MBBS 1956) has been made Member of the Order of Australia in The Queen's Honours List in Australia this year. This is a highly prestigious honour, and the citation reads: "for service to medicine and to international relations through the establishment of Project China." Dr Low entered the University of Hong Kong in 1950 on a King Edward VII Scholarship. He graduated with distinctions and prizes in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Surgery. He is a Fellow of both the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. He has been the Founding Chairman of the University of Hong Kong Medical Alumni Association Victoria Chapter and a Founding Committee Member of the Hong Kong University Alumni Association. He has been practising general surgery in Melbourne for many years. Notably, Dr Low is the Founder and Coordinator of Project China, one of the outreach programmes of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, through which academic and clinical exchanges between surgeons from China and those from Australia or New Zealand have been made possible. The working appointments in this Project promote the exchange of surgical expertise. Since its inception, 35 Chinese surgeons have visited Australia, and 70 Australian / New Zealand surgeons have visited China. The scheme is supported by private donations, a substantial portion of which comes from Hong Kong. Dr Low acknowledges the invaluable support from the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and his wife Rosie contribution to the achievements of this Project.



Updates on the University of Hong Kong Medical Alumni Association (HKUMAA)

Alumni Chamber

The fund-raising campaign for the Alumni Chamber at the Medical Faculty building is still ongoing. With your generous support, the HKUMAA have raised HK\$900,000 to date. The fitting-out process is proceeding well and the venue should be ready for re-union gatherings early next year. HKUMAA pleads for your continued support so that we can reach our target of HK\$1 million soon. For further information regarding the fund-raising campaign and the venue please contact Ms Carmen Choy (Tel: 2819-2857) at the Medical Faculty Office.

HKUMAA Membership Card and Parking Privilege

Membership Cards have been mailed to members of HKUMAA in October 2003. With this card members can enjoy free parking for a maximum of 3 consecutive hours per day at the Faculty complex on Sassoon Road (from now to June 30, 2004). HKUMAA members please write your name and Membership Number on the back of the parking ticket and present it with your Membership Card at the identified locations to arrange for free parking. For details please refer to the HKUMAA website.

HKUMAA Website: <http://www.hku.hk/facmed/alumni/index.htm>

Congratulations

Professor SK Lam (林兆鑫), has become the first appointed Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

Professor IOL Ng (呂愛蓮), has been promoted to Professor in the grade of Reader (clinical) in the Department of Pathology.

Dr SYW Shiu (邵源永), has been promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Physiology.

Professor Paul KH Tam (譚廣亨), Chair of Paediatric Surgery, has been appointed Acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor for one year until August 31, 2004.

Professor GSW Tsao (曹世華), has been promoted to Professor in the grade of Reader (non-clinical) in the Department of Anatomy

Achievements

Professor AJ Hedley, Chair Professor of Community Medicine, has been appointed a Consultant of the Public Health and Air Pollution in Asia (PAPA) International Scientific Oversight Committee (ISOC) of the Health Effects Institute, Boston, USA.

Professor TH Lam (林大慶), Head of the Department of Community Medicine, has been appointed a member of the Research Council, Health and Health Services Research Fund and the Research Fund for the Control of Infectious Diseases of the Hong Kong Health, Welfare and Food Bureau.

Professor John Wong (黃健靈) has been conferred the Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Radio Television Hong Kong and MingPao News jointly organized the Outstanding Award for Anti-SARS Hero (抗SARS傑出獎).

Professor KY Yuen (袁國勇), Head of the Department of Microbiology, was honoured in the Medical Group, and the Faculty of Medicine was honoured in the Corporation Category.

Awards for Excellence in Teaching and Research 2003 of the University of Hong Kong

- **Dr TP Lam (林大邦)**, Associate Professor of the Family Medicine Unit, Department of Medicine, has been awarded the University Teaching Fellow 2002-2003.
- **Professor YL Lau (劉宇隆)**, Head of the Department of Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine and **Professor KY Yuen (袁國勇)**, Head of the Department of Microbiology have been honoured with Outstanding Researcher Awards 2002-2003.
- **Dr RTP Poon (潘冬平)**, Associate Professor of the Department of Surgery and **Dr HF Tse (謝鴻發)**, Associate Professor of the Department of Medicine have been honoured Outstanding Young Researcher Awards 2002-2003.

Publications from the Faculty of Medicine, HKU

Journal of Clinical Investigation	The Fat-derived Hormone Adiponectin Alleviates Alcoholic and Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Diseases in Mice. <i>Journal of Clinical Investigation</i> . 2003; Aimin Xu, Yu Wang, Hussila Keshaw, Lance Yi Xu, Karen SL Lam, Garth JS Cooper.
Lancet	Angiogenesis in Ischaemic Myocardium by Intramyocardial Autologous Bone Marrow Mononuclear Cell Implantation. <i>Lancet</i> . 2003; HF Tse, YL Kwong, CP Lau.

Hello and Goodbye

Dr Caroline YY Chui (徐英瑜) joined the Department of Nursing Studies as Assistant Professor in November 2003. Her professional qualifications include both psychiatric and general nursing. She obtained her BN from the La Trobe University, MN (Nurse Education) from the University of Sydney and her PhD from the University of Technology, Sydney. She had clinical nursing experience in Hong Kong and Australia including medical, surgical, gynaecological, oncology, psychogeriatric and aged care and her teaching career started in 1991. Her research interests include palliative care, mental health and nursing education.



Dr Wilson YP Ching (程翼鵬) joined the Departments of Pathology and Biochemistry in August 2003 as Research Assistant Professor. He graduated from Imperial College (BSc) and Dundee University (PhD) in UK. His first postdoctoral training was in the Department of Biochemistry, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (1997-2000) and then he relocated to the Institute of Molecular Biology, HKU. Dr Ching's main research interest is in the studying of small G-protein signaling involved in cell differentiation and cancers.



Retirement

Professor John CY Leong (梁智仁), Chair Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Head of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery.

Professor Htut Saing (申陶), Chair Professor of Paediatric Surgery, Department of Surgery.

Departure

Ms KK Law (羅桂琮), Teaching Consultant, Department of Nursing Studies

Dr Adrian YY Wu (鄺揚源), Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine

Dr Karmin O (柯嘉敏), Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology

Donations

Dr Stanley Ho has donated HK\$3,000,000 for the development of a "Stem Cell and Tissue Engineering Laboratory" in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery under Professor John CY Leong.

Mathys (Hong Kong) Ltd has donated HK\$723,400 to the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery for the establishment and operation of the AO International Spine Reference Centre.

Donors Who Have Supported the Faculty SARS Fund:

UBS SARS Research Foundation	\$ 5,500,000	Rotary Club of Kowloon East	\$ 155,600
Mr Lau Siu-chuen	\$ 1,000,000	Mr Royer Tam	\$ 100,000
The Chinese General Chamber of Commerce	\$ 1,000,000	Mr Norman CS Yip	\$ 100,000
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Professor Ho PC	Dr Lau SY, Allan	Professor Man YK, Ricky	Dr Tse Tak Fu	Professor Yu YH, Richard

Lau Wing Kai Memorial Prize

Lau Wing Kai Memorial Prize, which is in memory of the first male nurse in public sector died of the fatal SARS virus infected at work, was established by the Department of Nursing Studies. Three Prizes shall be awarded annually to the outstanding first-year students who have achieved the best overall performance in Bachelor of Nursing (Full-time), Bachelor of Nursing (Part-time) and Master of Nursing Programmes respectively. With the generous donations from members of the University and the general public, a collective sum of approximately \$180,000 has been raised for the prize fund.

The Department of Nursing Studies is grateful for the donors' support and pleads for continuous contribution. Donations can be made by sending in a crossed cheque (made payable to "HKU-Lau Wing Kai Scholarship") or banking into Bank of East Asia (A/C No. 015-176-25-00620-2).

Forthcoming Events

52nd AJS McFadzean Lecture by Professor LR Caplan

Date : December 1, 2003
Venue : Lecture Room 403, Professorial Block, Queen Mary Hospital
Information : Miss I Lam, Administration Manager,
Department of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong
Tel: 2855 4449

Seventh James Gibson Lecture by Professor Neil D Theise

Date : December 2, 2003
Venue : Lecture Theatre 1, Cheung Kung Hai Conference Centre,
G/F, Academic & Administration Block, Faculty of Medicine
Building, The University of Hong Kong
Information : Mr Raymond Ho
Department of Pathology, The University of Hong Kong
Tel: 2855 4875 Fax: 2872 5197

Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) - Student Course

Date : December 5-7, 2003
Venue : The Jockey Club Skills Development Centre, Department of
Surgery, University of Hong Kong Medical Centre,
Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong
Information : Course Administrator
Tel: 2855 4885 / 4886 Fax: 2819 3416
Email: qmhsdc@hkucc.hku.hk

Hong Kong Stroke Symposium and Workshop 2003

Date : December 6-7, 2003
Venue : Auditorium & Lecture Rooms, 2 Village Road, Happy Valley
Information : Miss Joanne Hui
Department of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong
Tel: 2855 3315

Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support Program (PHTLS) - Provider Course

Date : December 6 & 13, 2003
Venue : Hong Kong St John Ambulance Association, 2 MacDonnell
Road, St John Tower, Hong Kong
Information : Course Administrator
Tel: 2530 8016

Hong Kong - Taiwan Joint Physiology Symposium 2003

Date : December 8-9, 2003
Venue : Lecture Theatre 4, Cheung Kung Hai Conference
Centre, G/F, Academic & Administration Block,
Faculty of Medicine Building, The University of Hong Kong
Information : Dr HP Sheng / Professor F Tang
Department of Physiology, The University of Hong Kong
Tel: 2819 9162 Fax: 2855 9730

Centre for the Study of Liver Disease - 5th Annual Scientific Meeting

Date : January 3, 2004
Venue : Chatham Room, Level 7, Conrad Hong Kong, Pacific Place,
88 Queensway, Hong Kong
Information : Miss Irene Chan
Department of Surgery, The University of Hong Kong
Tel: 2855 3995 Fax: 2816 5284
Email: iskchan@hku.hk

Hong Kong Surgical Forum (HKSF) - Winter 2004

Date : January 9-10, 2004
Venue : 5th Floor Lecture Theatre, Professorial Block,
Queen Mary Hospital, Pokfulam, Hong Kong
Information : Forum Secretary
Tel: 2855 4885 Fax: 2819 3416
Email: hksf@hku.hk

Commissioned Training Programme: Microsurgical Anatomy and Approach to Vertebral Artery and Posterior Cerebral Circulation

Date : January 16-18, 2004
Venue : Queen Mary Hospital
Information : Dr Fan Yiu Wah, Department of Surgery, University of
Hong Kong Medical Centre, Queen Mary Hospital,
Pokfulam, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2855 3368 Fax: (852) 2818 4350

9th Medical Research Conference (9th MRC)

Date : February 7-8, 2004
Venue : Cheung Kung Hai Conference Centre, G/F,
Academic & Administration Block, Faculty of Medicine
Building, HKU
Information : <http://www.hku.hk/medicine/events/mrc/>

Croucher Foundation Advanced Study Institute Course

Date : February 10-14, 2004
Venue : The Jockey Club Skills Development Centre,
Department of Surgery, University of Hong Kong Medical
Centre, Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong
Information : Mr Lobo Yau
Tel: 2855 4885 / 4886 Fax: 2819 3416
Email: qmhsdc@hkucc.hku.hk

Commissioned Training Programme: Microsurgical Anatomy and Approach to Petro-clival Tumor

Date : March 5-7, 2004
Venue : Queen Mary Hospital
Information : Dr Fan Yiu Wah, Department of Surgery, University of
Hong Kong Medical Centre, Queen Mary Hospital,
Pokfulam, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2855 3368 Fax: (852) 2818 4350

Spinal Cord Regeneration and Rehabilitation Symposium

Date : April 19, 2004
Venue : MacLehose Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Sha Wan Drive
Information : Dr Wong Yat Wa
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery,
The University of Hong Kong
Tel: 2855 4654 Fax: 2817 4392

The First Hong Kong International Orthopaedic Forum

Date : April 24-25, 2004
Venue : Faculty of Medicine Building
Information : Dr Frankie Leung / Professor KDK Luk
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery,
The University of Hong Kong
Tel: 2855 4654 Fax: 2817 4392

AO Regional Advance Spine Course

Date : April 25-28, 2004
Venue : Faculty of Medicine Building
Information : Dr Kenneth MC Cheung
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery,
The University of Hong Kong
Tel: 2855 4654 Fax: 2817 4392



Faculty of Medicine The University of Hong Kong

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