The University of Hong Kong

MEDICAL FACULTY NEWS

FEATURE ARTICLE
Department of Medicine

DEAN'S MESSAGE
"Learning through discovery"

EXCITING NEWS
Topping-out Ceremony of the New Medical Complex

MESSAGE TO HKU Medical Faculty
from Professor Lieh-Mak

A bulletin to keep alumni and friends in touch and up to date.
The Department of Medicine has 34 full time academic staff (+ 4 RAP, 3 PDF and about 100 research assistants/fellows) and 14 Divisions. These are Cardiology, Clinical Pharmacology, Dermatology, Endocrinology and Metabolism, Family Medicine, Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Geriatric Medicine, Haematology and Oncology, Medical Physics, Molecular Medicine, Nephrology, Neurology, Respiratory Medicine and Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology.

Our core research laboratory facilities focus on four areas (molecular medicine, immunology, cell biology and medical physics) and we have additional subspecialty laboratories. We perform both basic and clinical research. In 2000, the Department published over 300 full papers in peer-reviewed journals, and currently has over 20 national and 40 international ongoing collaborative research projects. Further, members of the Department are amongst founders of two centres of excellence - the Centre of Alimentary Research and Education and The Institute of Cardiovascular Science and Medicine.

With a change of Headship since March 2001, three new Committees have been formed to streamline Department administration, namely Undergraduate Committee, Research and Postgraduate Committee and Human Resources Committee. Our vision remains the same as before, namely, to attain the highest standards in teaching, research and clinical service in medicine so as to become a centre of excellence regionally and internationally.

Major research areas include:
• Interventional cardiology, innovative diagnostic and treatment methods of cardiac arrhythmias;
• Large animal cardiovascular research;
• Hypertension and heart failure management;
• Laser treatment of skin disorders;
• Neuroendocrinology;
• Diabetes, thyroid and lipid disorders;
• Screening for hypercholesterolaemia and depression in the community and falls in the elderly;
• The pathophysiology, epidemiology and therapy of peptic ulcers and gut motility disorders;
The Department of Medicine provides a full range of general medical and subspecialty clinical services. There are 50 HA medical staff at consultant, senior medical officer and medical officer levels, 22 house physicians and 280 nurses. There are 380 beds treating an average of 800 in-patients per week. Additionally, over 3,000 patients attend 80 specialist out-patients clinics per week. The Department is also a major force in running a number of medical centres including the Asthma, Bone Marrow Transplant, Diabetes and Osteoporosis Centres.
Dean's Message

One hundred days into the deanship honeymoon, I heard that I had been named the “Genome Dean”. I must say I quite like the flattery, more so because all my research colleagues know that I am genome ignorant. Genomics is certainly one major direction of research that the Faculty is forging ahead with great pride: human genomics is being waged under the Professor Vivian Chan - Professor Katherine Cheah alliance and very much supported by the University, while our HKU-Pasteur colleagues are working on microbial genomics. You might also have heard from Mr Francis Ho during the Faculty Research Retreat that the Innovation and Technology Fund is giving out money in terms of millions to applied genomics. Let us go for it! And do not forget what most of you said in the Retreat: proactive collaboration. Yes indeed, to go forward at all is to go forward together.

Sure enough, we are all facing the budget cut. The thing to do is for us to lose some subcutaneous fat and turn this into muscle bulk. Let us regard this as an opportunity to reorganize and consolidate ourselves. The Vice Chancellor wants us to do this anyway, and rightly so. And the departmental and faculty development plans that you have recently put together are simply loftly. We will get there, one way or another.

This medical school is leading the way in this part of the world in education reform with our new curriculum. The Asian Medical Education Association put together by Professor Grace Tang has helped Asian medical schools to explore a new frontier in education. There is little doubt that this Faculty has done the right thing by switching our emphasis from didactic teaching to life-long learning and integrated teaching. Great teachers leave behind a couple of simple facts, powerful teachers one or two fundamental truths, memorable teachers help students to learn by discovering knowledge for themselves.

“Learning through discovery” - we might even want to use this as a slogan!

Message of the New Dean, Professor SK Lam (林兆麟)

Congratulations to......

Professor Cho Chi-hin (周之輝), for being promoted to Personal Professor in the Department of Pharmacology

Professor Fan Sheng-tat (范士達), Sun Chieh Yeh Chair in Hepatobiliary Surgery, for being conferred the Distinguished Research Achievement Award 2000-2001

Dr B Hawkins, Honorary Associate Professor in the Department of Pathology, for being awarded the degree of Doctor of Science by the Western Australia University

Professor Anthony Hedley (何東杰), Chair of Community Medicine, for being re-appointed by the Chief Executive of the HK SAR Government as Member of the Advisory Council on the Environment, for the period January 1, 2001 to December 31, 2001

Dr Ho Shu-leong (何兆辰), Lecturer in the Department of Medicine

Professor Mary SM IP (莫秀文), for being promoted to Personal Professor in the Department of Medicine

Professor Lai Ching-lung (黎景隆), Reader of the Department of Medicine, for being selected as one of the recipients of the Outstanding Researcher Award 2000-2001 of the University

Professor Lai Kar-nong (黎嘉榮), Chair of Nephrology in the Department of Medicine, for being selected as one of the recipients of the Outstanding Researcher Award 2000-2001 of the University

Professor Lam Tai-hing (林大銘), Head of the Department of Community Medicine, for being promoted to Personal Professor in the Department, for being appointed as a University Teaching Fellow in recognition of the excellence as a teacher by the Selection Panel; and for being conferred the Outstanding Research Student Supervisor Award 2000-2001

Professor CS Lau (劉國興), for being promoted to Reader in the Department of Medicine

Professor Lau Yu-long (盧宇龍), Chair of Paediatrics, for being invited to be one of the members of the 6th Editorial Board of The Chinese Journal of Pediatrics in China

Professor Peter WH Lee (李永洪), Reader of the Department of Psychiatry, for being appointed as a University Teaching Fellow in recognition of the excellence as a teacher by the Selection Panel

Dr Leung Suet-yee (梁雪兒), Lecturer of the Department of Pathology, for being selected as one of the recipients of the Outstanding Young Researcher Award 2000-2001 of the University

Professor Keith DK Luk (盧景雄), for being promoted to Personal Professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

Professor Gopesh Srivastava for being promoted to Reader in the Department of Pathology

Professor Wong Tak-ming (黃錦明), Head of the Department of Physiology, for being selected as one of the recipients of the Outstanding Researcher Award 2000-2001 of the University

Dr Susan SY Yung (楊秀英) for being promoted to Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine
Donations

Dr Cheng Yu-tung (鍾玉堂) has donated HK$735,682 to the Faculty of Medicine in support of the Dr Cheng Yu Tung Fellowships for the academic year 2000/2001.

Fujisawa Hong Kong Limited has donated a sum of HK$80,000 to the Centre for the Study of Liver Disease to support research work for hepatobiliary and pancreatic diseases.

Dr Wong Bing-lai (黃炳業) and his sons Messrs Wong Tat-chang Abraham (黃達成), Wong Tat-kee David (黃達基) and Wong Tat-sum Samuel (黃達誠) have donated a sum of HK$500,000 to the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery for establishing the Dr Wong Bing Lai Research and Development Fund.

Lady Ivy Wu (吳婉薇) has donated HK$768,396 to the Faculty of Medicine in support of the Mrs Ivy Wu Fellowships Scheme for the academic year 2000/2001.

Editorial by Dr Louis WC Chow (周潤發)

The Faculty of Medicine makes new progress. We have Professor SK Lam as our new Dean. Our New Medical Complex is at its final phase of construction and we are getting ready to move in. However, we are also facing the budget cut and challenges from within and without the University, perhaps more than ever. Certainly this is an exciting time. Our Faculty has been established for over 110 years. We have our strength and tradition in dealing with problems and most of the time we are successful. But let us not be carried away by our past successes. In the Dean’s message, Professor Lam motivates us to consolidate and collaborate proactively. Professor Lieh-Mak pointed out succinctly in her message that no governance would function unless there is integrity and trust. Taking these into consideration, let us, teachers and students alike, continue to strive for excellence and overcome obstacles in a spirit of unity and trust.
Recent Postgraduate Events

The 5th Research Postgraduate Symposium Award Presentation Ceremony:

Following the successful completion of the 5th Research Postgraduate Symposium, which involved 64 postgraduate students presenting their research projects, two MPhil and two PhD students, namely, Misses Queenie Wong Nga Yi (黃蘊怡), Zelda Cheung Hiu Yee (鍾慧儀), Filly Cheung (鍾慧儀) and Mr Alan Wan Kai Sun (關嘉明) were selected by the panel of adjudicators, after a second round of competition, to be awarded the Certificates of Merit. The Certificates were presented to them by the then-Dean, Professor Grace WK Tang (陳美儀), at the ceremony on January 30, 2001, in recognition of their outstanding presentations and good work.

Li Ka Shing Prizes:

Congratulations to Dr Alan Chiang Kwok Shing (梁國強) and Ms Annie Chan Suk Yee (陳淑儀) of the Department of Pathology for being awarded the Li Ka Shing Prizes. The prizes, in the form of gold medals, are 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, Education, Law and Social Sciences; and group B consists of PhD and MPhil graduates in the Faculties of Dentistry, Engineering, Medicine and Science.

Faculty Banquet for Donors

In recognition of the generosity of our donors, a banquet for donors took place in the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine on February 16, 2001. The programme began with the delivery of a welcoming speech by the then-Dean, Professor Grace WK Tang, who was joined by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ian Davies (戴和理), for proposing a toast. Our guests were impressed by the excellent musical performances by our MBBS students; and the interesting presentations on infectious diseases, genetics and genomes delivered by the Scientific Directors, Professors A Danchin and KY Yuen (袁鏡義), of the HKU-Pasteur Research Centre. The Banquet was well-attended by about a hundred benefactors who found the evening most enjoyable.

Centre for the Study of Liver Disease 2nd Annual Scientific Meeting

The Centre for the Study of Liver Disease (CSLD) conducted its 2nd Annual Scientific Meeting on 17 and 18 February, 2001 in Conrad International Hotel. The meeting was well attended with approximately 170 participants. In the meeting, members of CSLD presented their research results which demonstrated the level of performance of their studies. The overall feedback from the audience was pleasing and encouraging. Professor Willis C. Maldeney from the University of Texas was invited to be the guest speaker and external assessor of the Centre’s achievements.

Apart from the Annual Scientific Meeting, a press conference was held on 18 February, 2001, during which Professor CM Lo (羅智強), Professor CL La (梁家俊), Dr Irene OL Ng (吳汶鈴), Dr MF Yuen (袁慧玲) and Dr ST Cheung (謝光慶) gave presentations on their research results. The conference was covered by the major electronic media and news agencies in Hong Kong. Having received inquiries from the public and patients in respect of the Centre’s research results, the press conference succeeded in arousing the community’s attention to the new and potential therapies of liver diseases.

The favourable response of the guests and participants, as well as the keen interest of the public in the treatments of liver diseases, will no doubt provide members of CSLD with a positive mission and vision to strive for breakthroughs in the research of liver diseases.

Conference on Hong Kong’s Health Care Reform

The Conference on Hong Kong’s Health Care Reform was held on March 10, 2001 in the Lecture Theatre of the University’s Graduate House. The Conference started with a welcoming address from Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor SP Chow (許仕仁), and Dr EK Yeoh (黃日生), Secretary for Health and Welfare, was the highlight of the function. The afternoon session consisted of a discussion forum held with Dr Gabriel Leung (梁傑輝), Professor SP Chow and Mr Joseph Lee (李家輝), former Deputy Commissioner of the Census and Statistics Department, Dr Leong Che Hung (梁智輝), President of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine and Dr KW Ng (吳培偉), Head of the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science.
The ribbon-cutting ceremony by Professors JA Spinks and SK Lam delivered plenary speeches. There were 25 presentations on various international journals in medical education were invited to Technology. Prominent scholars and editors of renowned Symposium were "Curriculum Reform and Development", Century on June 21 & 22, 2001. The major themes of the Association as members. Our Faculty serves as the Secretariat. will be extended to other Asian medical schools to join the AMEA, an institution-based association of Asian medical schools, was officially inaugurated on June 21, 2001 in the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine. The Inaugural Ceremony was officiated by Professor JA Spinks (Handled), President of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine and Dr Lee Kin Lung (Bronze), President of the Medical Council of Hong Kong, also attended the Inaugural Ceremony.

There are 26 founding members in the Association comprising medical schools from Hong Kong, Mainland China, Taiwan, Singapore, Korea and the Philippines. Invitations will be extended to other Asian medical schools to join the Association as members. Our Faculty serves as the Secretariat.

The celebration continued with an Inaugural Symposium entitled "Asian Medical Education in the 21st Century" on June 21 & 22, 2001. The major themes of the Symposium were "Curriculum Reform and Development", "Teaching, Learning and Research" and "Education and Information Technology". Prominent scholars and editors of renowned international journals in medical education were invited to deliver plenary speeches. There were 25 presentations on various topics of medical education by medical educators from different Asian medical schools. The Symposium had attracted more than 170 representatives of 44 medical Asia schools from 12 countries and territories.

Recent Events

Faculty Banquet for Honorary Teachers

Banquets for Honorary teachers were held on March 7 and 8, 2001 at Loke Yew Hall. The teachers were given a warm welcome and an expression of gratitude by the Dean, Professor SK Lam. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ian Davies and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor CF Lee (Honorary teacher), were invited to propose a toast to our Honorary teachers. To serve as a tribute to the teachers, our MBBS students presented exceptional musical performances on both Chinese and Western instruments, which won a big round of applause. The evening’s highlight was Dr David Fang’s sharing of sweet words and proposing a toast to the Faculty.

To our Honorary teachers, the banquet not only provided a chance to recall their memories of the good old days, but also added yet another piece of unforgettable memory.

Faculty Research Retreat

A Faculty Research Retreat was held on June 2-3, 2001 at the Gold Coast Hotel. This strategically exciting and socially entertaining event was attended by 121 delegates from all the departments of the Faculty, and also by 12 members of clinical departments of Queen Mary Hospital. The organization by Professor Paul Tam (Bronze), Associate Dean (Research) funded by a generous donation secured by the Dean, was supported not only by the Faculty staff but also by the management experts from The Hong Kong Medical Association who acted as honorary consultants for the events.

Professor CF Lee, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) officiated the event. There were four exercises for the 12 groups of participants, namely "The present: an overview of current research culture", "The future: research achievements of the Faculty in 2000", "How do we get there: key issues to be addressed", and "Drafting an action blueprint: a realistic action plan for implementation". Participants were invited to bid for the research awards which were funded by the Faculty and the generous donations from the Departments of Medicine and Surgery. Altogether 13 research projects were drafted by some of the delegates. The projects headed by Dr George Tse (Gold) and Dr NG Patil were awarded the three cash prizes.

Three internationally renowned medical research strategists also provided the following stimulating and inspiring presentations: "Genomics and the transition to integrative research: interdisciplinary co-operation and strategic planning" by Professor John Mattick of The University of Queensland; "A competitive research culture for the 21st century medical school" by Dr Berrie Breder of University of British Columbia; and "Supporting high-throughput biotechnologies in today’s research environment" by Dr Clayton Naeve, Director of Hartwell Centre for Bioinformatics and Biotechnology, St Jude Children’s Research Hospital.
MICRO COSMOGRAPHIA ACADEMICA REVISITED

Professor Felice LIEH-MAK, Head and Chair Professor of the Department of Psychiatry

Microcosmographia Academica, the small world of academia, was written by F.M. Cornford, a Cambridge academic. It was first published in 1908. The slim volume consists of 24 pages in medium sized font. Microcosmographia went on to become a classic referred to not only by academics but also by government departments and senior management in industry. Because the contents have their roots in human nature and not in historical situations their relevance cannot be out of date.

Developmental Phases

Microcosmographia described three developmental phases of the academic:
1) Youth is characterized by being oppressed, feeling angry and becoming increasingly disagreeable.
2) Middle age Skulls in a sence of complacency and in turn he becomes an oppressor who sees more reasons why things should not be done.
3) In old age the academic acquires power and an accretion of peculiarities. Below will be a multitude of young men in a hurry to get him out of the way.

These are dark and cynical view of academics but not necessarily inevitable. To illustrate this point we can look at the profiles of the most prominent academic researchers, the Nobel laureates. A survey of the Nobel laureates in chemistry, economic sciences, physics, physiology or medicine in the past decade proved the following commonalities: inspired or guided by excellent teachers, enjoyment of teaching, creative team members, held management posts and catholic interests. All the laureates surveyed cultivated a variety of interests outside the area of their expertise. Their intellectual curiosity and enthusiasm led to pursuing activities like mountain climbing, poetry writing and composition of music. Taking up a multiplicity of rules does not necessarily translate into being awarded the Nobel Prize but it certainly makes life more interesting.

The Motley Crowd

Cornford gave a delightful description of the various parties in academic politics. On closer scrutiny these parties are in fact different personalities. The conservative liberals are broadminded people who want something to be done. These are things not previously done in the university like dismantling departmental barriers and introduction of problem-based learning. Liberal conservatives are equally broadminded persons who want something to be done. That something is to roll back reforms made by a previous vice-chancellor. The non-placets are quiet individuals with no opinion. However, they are magnificent contortionists who are capable of sitting on the fence with their ears on the ground while lifting a finger to the wind. The adullamites know exactly what is to be done and can get the money for it. They are not seen in the Senior Common Room or at Senate meetings but can be often spotted at the Hong Kong Club or the Mandarin Hotel Coffee Shop. The young men in a hurry are idealistic, narrow-minded and brash. They tend to speak out of turn, to never be convinced for so long that it is now time to do something. Unfortunately most of the vision and mission statements that are currently produced are contrived, bland and uninspiring.

The collegial approach is the oldest from a historical prospective. The central feature is the idea of a group of scholars who work together to their mutual advantage within a self-governing collective. It carries with it associations of consensus decision making, cohesion, a limited hierarchy of seniority and expertise. But with the pressure to achieve improved efficiency and increased specialization collegiality has become more symbolic than real.

Based on the premise that each member of the university is a rational and responsible adult and can therefore be left to their own devices has led to attempts at benign neglect. In institutions where this has been practised a state of anarchy had arisen with the resultant backlash of greater control and micromanagement.

Nothing can be more unifying than the existence of an external enemy or competitor. In this context the University Grants Committee, the Financial Secretary or indeed another university has often been used as the bogeyman. At best this is a short-term approach. Even then it cannot be made to work unless the sense of danger is intimately felt by each and every member.

The “air conditioned” approach is an evocative epithet that was recently applied to Singapore by the journalist C. George. Just as the air conditioner allows control of temperature for optimum comfort, total system control in an institution allows for material comfort. In a university this can translate into better equipment, generous salaries and fringe benefits but less autonomy. At times of economic growth this can be a possible solution. But inevitably a point will come when resources cannot meet rising expectations.

When an organization is large rules are employed to enable individuals to work together. In the past decades a plethora of legislations, guidelines, protocols or standing orders were churned out. Unfortunately rules when carried to its logical conclusions are conducive to the growth of bureaucracy. In addition rules are often not enforced, ignored or interpreted arbitrarily. The wisdom of making a few rules, making them known to everyone and enforcing them consistently does not exist.

Sundry groups can rally around a shared vision and mission. In 1970 Burton Clark published a marvellous study on legend building by elite private colleges in the USA. He described the constant efforts exerted on perpetuating a belief in the institutions’ uniqueness and special importance, the architecture and the beauty of its campus, its rituals, grand history and distinguished alumni. Unfortunately most of the vision and mission statements that are currently produced are contrived, bland and uninspiring.

Finally we go back to Comford’s cynical view, “Nothing is ever done until everyone is convinced that it should be done and has been convinced for so long that it is now time to do something. Are you not aware that conviction has never been produced by an appeal to reason which only make people uncomfortable? If you want to move them, you must address your arguments to prejudice and the political motive.” When all else fail it may be time to have a dictator.
Dealing with Change

Pessimism characterized Cornford's view on change in the university. He wrote, "There is only one argument for doing something; the rest are arguments for doing nothing." His juridical view is by no means unjustified. Nature itself abhors change; living things are built to maintain homeostasis and inorganic matter to sustain a steady state.

One particular branch that is suitable to the academic temperament is the suspension of judgment. Academics pride themselves on being able to look at issues from different angles. There is a desire to be judicious and to refrain from plunging into reckless courses of action. But in doing so we forget that doing nothing has just as many consequences as doing something.

The principle of the wedge was a frequent argument used against having student representatives in Council. "Before you know it students will be running the university." By positing the argument in this manner academics forget that students influence universities in powerful ways by choosing not to enroll especially when they have a wide range of choices not only locally but overseas.

When the reform of the medical curriculum was proposed opponents to change used the dangerous precedent argument. Everything done for the first time carries risks. It is better to see more universities do it first. As with many other efforts to bring about changes curriculum reform was faced with the fair trial obstacle. Fair trial when combined with the gradualist approach usually render any change a long-drawn-out process. For trial means giving any new initiatives a whole cycle of 3 years for non-medical courses and five years for medicine. Adding another 2 years for studying the effects of the changes means a total of 5-7 years before additional changes can be introduced.

The financial cycle serves as a perfect foil for the unripe time argument. In times of financial downturns the time is not right because of budgetary constraints. When the economy is buoyant the time is not right to rock the boat because everyone is happy and content.

Universities make decisions through committees and consultation. This process inevitably takes time which engenders circularity. Just when changes are to be implemented the old arguments will be rehashed by senior academics because they have forgotten what went on before and by the young men in a hurry who are unaware of what went on before. A review of universities in OECD countries showed that changes were effected by external forces, a critical mass from within the university and leadership. External factors in the USA were mainly market forces and innovative technology. Changes in Europe were mostly from within the university and leadership. External factors in the USA were mainly market forces and innovative technology. Changes in Europe were mostly from within the university and leadership.

This is the paradox of reductionism; the more restricted the scale the more complex it becomes. Whereas when the issues are broad and deal with general principles the conflicts are limited. Unfortunately politics cannot remain broad-brush. Any political decision will also have to deal with details; otherwise nothing can be implemented.

Farewell

Cornford closed his book with the following words, "There is another world within this microcosm - a silent, reasonable world to which you can return." But in an era of intense competition and rapid changes there is no such reasonable world to return to. In the final analysis regardless of the structure of any university, notwithstanding the different systems of governance nothing will function optimally unless there is integrity which forms the bedrock of trust.

(This article is adapted from the Valedictory Lecture entitled "Microcosmographia Academica Revisited" delivered by Professor Ian Davies on April 9, 2001 at Queen Mary Hospital.)
Associate Deans' Messages

Professor PC Ho, Associate Dean (Clinical Affairs)

As a medical faculty, our clinical teachers must provide a quality clinical service if we want to achieve our goals of advancement of learning, teaching and research in medical and health sciences. One of my main roles as the Associate Dean in Clinical Services is to facilitate and enhance the co-operation of our Faculty with the Hospital Authority and our teaching hospitals. A good working relationship with the Hospital Authority and the teaching hospitals will benefit all parties. We should collaborate with the Hospital Authority staff and get their support and assistance for the planning. My vision is to facilitate and enhance the use of IT within the Faculty. We are increasingly relying on e-mail for internal as well as international communications with our colleagues. Information technology has become an integral part of our society. As Associate Dean of Information Technology and Planning, my vision is to facilitate and enhance the using of IT within the Faculty. A good database is important for a faculty of our size. Research interest of colleagues should be gathered and resources required. The importance of research cannot be overstated. The Dean, in his campaign, stated that "Research activities and achievement must ... take paramount consideration." It is therefore fitting that one of the first major events to be organised by the new Dean’s group was the Faculty Research Retreat on 2-3 June 2001. A consensus on the vision, mission, and the research direction of focused, programme-based collaborative research now allows us to plan, with confidence, for the "good times" ahead.

Professor Mary SM Ip, Associate Dean (Education & Students Affairs)

In the traditional sense, teachers "teach" and students "learn", but the key to education is "twain shall meet", and to ensure that this happens is where the challenge lies. The mammoth task of launching a new medical curriculum, which will not be "new" soon as the first batch of students graduate in 2002, has been achieved through the efforts of the entire Faculty, and it is now time to consolidate our work in response to evaluation and monitoring. We hope to further streamline delivery of the ever expanding knowledge base, enhance capability of critical thinking and bioethical decision-making, fine-tune assessment methods and improve teaching evaluation. In short, the medical curriculum is subject to constant reflections and scrutiny, so we will always be "in business".

Education is the prime mission of our university. The curriculum reform has refreshed our commitment to education. To fulfill the mission of nurturing the doctors of tomorrow, it is vital that teachers, amongst many competing priorities, and students, under the stress of a demanding curriculum, strive together and find fun and fulfillment along the way. If this is our common goal, we cannot fail to succeed.

Professor Raymond HS Liang, Associate Dean (External Affairs & Fund Raising)

Our Faculty has the mission to provide an environment conducive to the advancement of learning, teaching and research in the art and science of medicine and health. In order to excel and to develop ourselves further, it is inevitable that we have to rely increasing on extra funding outside the Government. We must aim to enhance excellence by securing the necessary resources required. It is vital that this world-class institution continues to be in the prime position to meet the enormous demands and challenges ahead and make significant contributions as it has in the past century. It is also our objective to share our achievements and findings with the community and create opportunities for the interface between town and gown. There is a great need for us to reach out to the local and regional communities, promoting our Faculty by increasing the level of public understanding of our mission and work. This is accomplished through networking of alumni, friends, corporate sector and the community at large. We aim to firmly root our Faculty in the community so that is identified as "The Medical School" of the community.

Professor Ricky YK Man, Associate Dean (Information Technology & Planning Affairs)

Our students are getting lecture schedules, handouts and lecture materials from the Internet. We are increasingly relying on e-mail for internal as well as international communications with our colleagues. Information technology has become an integral part of our society. As Associate Dean of Information Technology and Planning, my vision is to facilitate and enhance the using of IT within the Faculty. A good database is important for a faculty of our size. Research interest of colleagues should be gathered and updated. This information will be available through our web site. We are also planning to use electronic submission to speed up applications. This will enable us to track the different stages of the process as well as to reduce paper waste. Another area is the major equipment available and services to support research in various departments. This will facilitate members of the Faculty of Medicine to have easy access to the wealth of state-of-the-art equipment in our faculty. This will also serve to promote and enhance collaborations. Ultimately we hope to achieve better efficiency in teaching, research and administration through e-management.

Professor Paul KH Tam, Associate Dean (Research Affairs)

The Faculty, with the University's support in funding, is poised to take a quantum leap in developing genomic research. In addition to basic, clinical and community research, there will be great research opportunities in a wide range of areas, such as Chinese Medicine, applied biotechnology, information technology, and medical education. It is also our objective to share our achievements and findings with the community and create opportunities for the interface between town and gown. There is a great need for us to reach out to the local and regional communities, promoting our Faculty by increasing the level of public understanding of our mission and work. This is accomplished through networking of alumni, friends, corporate sector and the community at large. We aim to firmly root our Faculty in the community so that is identified as "The Medical School" of the community.

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Assistant Deanship

Congratulations to the following Faculty members who have taken up Assistant Deanship on May 4, 2001 for one year. Together with the Associate Deans, they form a group of managers to assist in the administration of the Faculty and instill a sense of ownership among teachers. By expanding the Dean’s Office and sharing the work among the Faculty members, the process of administration will become more efficient and effective.

Clinical Affairs

- Dr PL Ho (Microbiology)
- Professor CM Lo (Surgery)
- Dr KCB Tan (Medicine)
- Dr NG Patil (Surgery)
- Dr ART Cheung (Pathology)
- Professor HYS Ngan (Oto & Oyn)
- Dr SSC Chan (Medicine)
- Dr DF Lo (Medicine)
- Dr HHL Chan (Medicine)
- Dr CKT Tsang (Medicine)
- Dr RTP Poon (Surgery)
- Dr J Paris (Microbiology)
- Dr MH Shan (Biochemistry)

Education & Student Affairs

- Dr ART Cheung (Pathology)
- Professor HYS Ngan (Oto & Oyn)
- Dr SSC Chan (Medicine)
- Dr DF Lo (Medicine)
- Dr HHL Chan (Medicine)
- Dr CKT Tsang (Medicine)
- Dr RTP Poon (Surgery)
- Dr J Paris (Microbiology)
- Dr MH Shan (Biochemistry)

External Affairs & Fund-Raising

- Dr HH Chan (Medicine)
- Dr SSC Chan (Nursing Studies)
- Dr ART Tang (Medicine)
- Dr WP Tam (Medicine)

Information Technology & Planning

- Dr CS Lau (Medicine)
- Dr TY Ng (Oto & Oyn)
- Dr JS Chan (Medicine)

Research Affairs

- Dr ANY Cheung
- Dr NG Patil (Surgery)

Life Beyond Sassoon Road

by Ada TL Ng Tai Lin (林泰琳) MBBS

“All study and no play makes Jack a dull boy.” All along, medical students have been stereotyped as hardworking, studious, unexciting cocoons, forever locked up in a library, far away from the real world. But is this the only picture?

Recently, five medical students, all with a common love of music, came together to form a quintet. There were three violinists, one cellist and one violist. I was the violist. We practise once a week. When we were invited to perform at the Donor’s Banquet, we were deeply honoured that the Faculty had sufficient faith in a bunch of untrained medical students. The performance was held at The Hong Kong Academy of Medicine. We were very scared. But once the music flowed, it was Heaven! We performed Canon in D by Pachelbel. The enthusiastic applause we received at the end of the performance was a real morale booster.

Our next chance came soon afterwards! The Faculty invited us to perform at the Banquets for Honorary teachers at the Loke Yew Hall. We chose Spring - an Allegro from Vivaldi’s renowned ‘The Four Seasons’. The efforts we put in were not wasted. Sweet music filled the Loke Yew Hall. Wine flowed. Service was impeccable. The food was good and the prevailing mood was one of enjoyment! We gained another bonus from the presentation and speeches given by the VIPs.

The Annual Conference of the East Asian Medical Students’ Association

by David C Lung (林崇烈) MBBS II

In late-February, 2001, the Asian Medical Students’ Association organized the annual East Asian Medical Students’ Conference in Tokyo, Japan. The theme for the conference was to investigate death in Asia.

As Hong Kong delegates, two HKU medical students and I set off to Tokyo on February 23 to attend the 5-day programme. In the conference, we looked into the different issues surrounding death in Asia from an internationally wide scope. Through workshops, lectures and fieldwork, we began to evaluate and rethink about a doctor’s role in dealing with death.

Most unforgettable was the drama performed by HKU medical students in the Conference in Tokyo, Japan. The theme for the conference was to investigate death in Asia.

In the conference, we looked into the different issues surrounding death in Asia from an internationally wide scope. Through workshops, lectures and fieldwork, we began to evaluate and rethink about a doctor’s role in dealing with death. Most unforgettable was the drama performed by HKU medical students in the Conference in Tokyo, Japan.

Suicide is a real morale booster.

Mentorship Programme

by Emmy YM Li (李雨美) MBBS II

To me, the mentorship programme is a truly amazing experience. My mentor, Mr Tony Yen, is a Draftsman. Although most of the issues relating to his job are not my major concerns as a medical student, I have learned from him a lot about how the government works, the Legislative Council operates as well as the significance of the rule of law, not to say the more abstract inspirations on life.

Before meeting Tony, I know little about the legal profession other than a few lines from the ‘LA Law’. But now, I am able to talk about the Fa-Lun-Kong incident, or the more recent law on copyright, as if I am a LLB student!

Sometimes, other mentors, or mentees joined our gathering making the conversation even more interesting. I believe that a good mentoring relationship encompasses mutual respect, support, trust, sharing and understanding.

Assistant Deanship • Students’ Column

Assistant Deanship       • Students’ Column

Assistant Deanship

Assistant Deanship
Welcome

Ms Julia LF Chan, Medical Librarian. I joined the University of Hong Kong Libraries in 1984 and became the Dental Librarian from 1989-1994. From 1995, I worked in the Main Library as Reader Services Librarian, and Collection Development Librarian from 1997. While working in the Main Library, I was also involved in coordinating library services and collection development in the branches, including the Medical Library. As the new Medical Librarian, I will further enhance both print and digital resources, explore new frontiers, and provide "the best way to the best information" in support of educational curricula, research, and patient care.

Dr. Chen Wai-Hong, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine. I received my medical education from the Faculty of Medicine, HKU. After completing my basic physician training and cardiology fellowship at Queen Mary Hospital, I obtained further training in interventional cardiology at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School. My research interests include acute coronary syndromes, percutaneous revascularization of obstructive arterial diseases, and antithrombotic therapy.

Departure

Dr Lan Hui-yao, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine. After completing my basic physician training and cardiology fellowship at Queen Mary Hospital, I obtained further training in interventional cardiology at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School. My research interests include acute coronary syndromes, percutaneous revascularization of obstructive arterial diseases, and antithrombotic therapy.

Forthcoming Events

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tr>
<td>Infections Disease Course 3</td>
<td>July 14-15, 2001</td>
<td>Li Shu Fan Lecture Theatre, Sassoon Road</td>
<td>Tel: 2855 4802 Fax: 2855 1241 Website: <a href="http://www.hku.hk/milpage">http://www.hku.hk/milpage</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>University Programme 2001</td>
<td>July 28-29, 2001</td>
<td>Sheraton Hong Kong-Hotel</td>
<td>Tel: 2835 9738 Fax: 2834 0156</td>
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<td>Departmental Research Day</td>
<td>August 18, 2001</td>
<td>Orthopaedic Study Hospital</td>
<td>Tel: 2804 0335</td>
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<tr>
<td>Symposium on Medical Statistics</td>
<td>September 15, 2001</td>
<td>HKU, Clinical Building, Queen Mary Hospital</td>
<td>Tel: 2855 4664</td>
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<td>6th James Gibson Visiting Professorship Lecture by Professor Andrew</td>
<td>October 20, 2001</td>
<td>Lecturer Theatre, Pathology Building, Queen Mary Hospital</td>
<td>Tel: 2855 4871</td>
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<td>1st Scientific Meeting, Cancer Research Centre, Faculty of Medicine,</td>
<td>November 17, 2001</td>
<td>Graduate House, HKU Main Campus</td>
<td>Tel: 2855 4052</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orthopaedic Surgery in Oct 2000 and work for the Division of</td>
<td>S.C. Fong Visiting</td>
<td>Department of Orthopaedic Surgery</td>
<td>Tel: 2855 4327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paediatric Surgery. My research interest lies in the</td>
<td>Professor Hiroaki Fukada</td>
<td>Department of Orthopaedic Surgery</td>
<td>Tel: 2855 4327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Scientific Meeting, Cancer Research Centre, Faculty of Medicine,</td>
<td>November 12-17, 2001</td>
<td>Medical Complex, Sassoon Road</td>
<td>Tel: 2855 4912</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Scientific Meeting, Cancer Research Centre, Faculty of Medicine,</td>
<td>November 24-25, 2001</td>
<td>Graduate House, HKU Main Campus</td>
<td>Tel: 2855 4912</td>
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Dr Steve Lin, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery. I joined the Department of Surgery in Oct 2000 and work for the Division of Paediatric Surgery. My research interest lies in the immunobiology of dendritic cells, a potent antigen-presenting cell. Ongoing researches are: (1) the use of dendritic cell for cancer immunotherapy and development of cancer vaccines; (2) pathophysiological role of dendritic cells in viral infection, and (3) exploring dendritic cell for the induction of immunological tolerance, especially in transplantation settings.

Dr Deryn BN Wong, Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry. With my previous PhD research experiences in Virginia on gene function and characterization, and prior supervision of postgraduate medical students and a Harvard medical doctoral fellow on tumor epigenetics and transcriptomics, I am now investigating with my postgraduate students on gene regulation and molecular oncology. In collaboration with former and current colleagues, I have been researching on epigenomics, transcriptional regulation and profiling of cancer genes in the development of neoplasms and metastases.

Dr Gurpal Sandhu, Associate Professor, Department of Nursing Studies

Dr Joseph WW Tam, Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry