SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES: ready for scientific discovery in the 21st century

DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY CELEBRATES 90 YEARS
Happy Chinese New Year!

LI KA SHING FACULTY OF MEDICINE
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

香港大學李嘉誠醫學院
CORRECTIONS

In the feature article “Growing with the Times” (Volume 20, Issue 2, page 7), the name of the Hospital Chief Executive of Queen Mary Hospital should be Dr Luk Che-chung (陸志聰), not Dr Luk Chi-chung.
For a zebrafish researcher making a living out of embryos of microscopic size, taking up the Associate Deanship in Human Capital is like a tiny pond fish swimming into a vast ocean. Worries of uncertainties and vulnerabilities, excitement of meeting new friends and the fun of working in the decanal team often intertwine, making adrenaline rushes almost a daily happening.

People are the most valuable assets that define a successful faculty and job satisfaction is the key motivation for academic pursuit and perseverance. The Faculty acknowledges diversity in talents and will clearly differentiate roles so that staff can pursue distinct goals in academic research, teaching and clinical practice. Their accomplishments have to be appropriately acknowledged and rewarded. The benchmark for assessing research output is generally well defined in our academic community. However, evaluating excellence in teaching has always been challenging. Nonetheless, it remains crucial for the Faculty to identify and reward exceptional teachers. In that respect, clear and transparent guidelines, based on both teaching load and quality, are being laid out to evaluate the performance of staff in the Faculty.

The Faculty is also on the lookout for talented people from all disciplines who are dedicated to academic research and education. Recently, a reputable academic search firm has been assigned to reach out and share our vision and core values with accomplished professionals from all around the world and to give them the best opportunities to work in the Faculty. Cross-breeding of expertise and experience will certainly generate new ideas, paradigm shifts and crucial turns in research and education. In addition, an environment conducive for academic development is key to nurturing young talents, bringing out the best in our staff. Over the years, academic exchange programs between visitors, students and staff have provided a stimulating environment for young people to take steps towards their goals. Both the new initiatives as well as the existing strength have placed us in a unique position as the regional and international hub for talents who wish to live their dreams.

Professor Anskar Leung Yu-hung
Associate Dean (Human Capital)
The admission results for the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery programme, the Bachelor of Pharmacy programme and the Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences programme were highly satisfactory. The average HKDSE scores (counting 4 core and 2 elective subjects) of students admitted to the three programmes were ranked first, fifth, and ninth, respectively, among all HKU programmes.

Postgraduate Education

The Faculty currently offers 16 taught postgraduate programmes.

The Faculty successfully admitted 169 Research Postgraduate (RPg) students in 2015-16. Six of our new PhD students have been awarded Hong Kong PhD Fellowships by the Research Grants Council (RGC) and 9 have been awarded University Postgraduate Fellowships.

One MPhil and one PhD student won the Li Ka Shing Prize. One MPhil and one PhD student received the Outstanding Research Postgraduate Student Awards.

Nine RPg students gained admittance to exchange programmes (out-going) at renowned universities overseas, including University College London and King’s College London (UK), Harvard Medical School and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (USA), Karolinska Institutet (Sweden) and University of Toronto (Canada).

The Faculty admitted two students to the HKU / King’s College London Joint PhD Programme, one student to the HKU / University of Toronto Joint Education Placement Programme and one student to the MBBS / PhD combined programme.

Research Grants

Research grants awarded to Faculty members totaled over HK$ 245.94 million.

Results of the Health and Medical Research Fund 2014 exercise have yet been announced.

Research Output

The Faculty’s refereed research output saw 2,324 items produced in 2014-15, accounting for 40% of the University’s total of 5,833 refereed items. Output included important publications in Nature, Science, The Lancet Infectious Diseases and Cell Metabolism.

According to ISI Essential Science Indicators, Faculty members published 223 Highly Cited Papers, which accounted for 41% of the 544 papers from HKU.

Public Education

Projects Number

Public lectures / Symposia / Forums 49
Media interviews and press conferences 53
Health programmes on television and radio 65
Regular newspaper columns 101
Media coverage generated 2,295
SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES: ready for scientific discovery in the 21st century

The pre-clinical sciences at HKU have been united under the umbrella of the new School of Biomedical Sciences, a move that positions the Faculty to better target its considerable strengths towards the exciting possibilities opening up in modern medical science.

The School unites the three former departments of anatomy, biochemistry and physiology with the goal of breaking down barriers and increasing collaborations in both research and education.

Its establishment in July 2015 comes three years after the launch of the popular Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences (BBmS) programme, which is attracting high-calibre students who are being trained to use interdisciplinary research to make breakthroughs and contribute to the development of the region’s healthcare industry.

It also comes in the wake of very good results for the pre-clinical sciences during last year’s Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) by the University Grants Committee, when HKU came top in Hong Kong in this field.

The Dean, Professor Gabriel M Leung (梁卓偉), who also carries the role as Interim Director of the School and Chairman of its Executive Committee, said the idea of a School had first been mooted 30 years ago and again a few years later. The decision to go ahead was made now because both the pre-clinical sciences in the Faculty and the scientific argument had aligned in its favour.

“We are coming from a period of strength after the recent RAE. We also have the flagship BBmS which is among the top 10 programmes in the entire University for the high quality of students it attracts,” he said.

// The overall trend and direction of big science is moving that way and we are trying to stay one step ahead of the game. //
“There is also a very persuasive case on the merits of the science as to why in this day and age it no longer makes very much sense to adhere to old departmental disciplinary labels, especially when you are talking about research and discovery. The overall trend and direction of big science is moving that way and we are trying to stay one step ahead of the game.”

“It has taken nearly two decades but all the stars have lined up and that’s why it’s such an exciting venture. From both the governance and scientific sides, there are strong and robust reasons to have this School now.”

CONSIDER CANCER

To understand why it makes scientific sense to amalgamate anatomy, biochemistry and physiology under one roof, it helps to consider the problem of cancer.

The Chair Professor of Biochemistry, Professor Kathryn Cheah Song-eng (謝賞恩), who has been with the Faculty for more than three decades and is a strong advocate for the School, pointed out that while cancer was a disease commonly associated with adulthood, it was also related to early development and stem cells. “In a sense, it is two sides of the same coin because cancer is the regulatory systems of development gone haywire,” she explained.

“Nowadays there isn’t a traditional anatomist any more, or a traditional physiologist. We’re all molecular biomedical people to some degree. Some of us work at cell level, some down to molecule level, some at the whole organism level. But in every paper that you see in important journals, you have aspects of biochemistry, cell biology and structural biology. And if you make a mouse model and need to know how the whole animal works, it’s a type of physiology. The boundaries between the disciplines are blurring,” she said.

“With a big problem like cancer, you need bright young people who can tackle different problems from different aspects, which is impossible for one person. If you have people of diverse expertise working next door to each other, they get more chance to talk and come up with ideas, and to see that maybe they can collaborate to tackle difficult problems. That’s what would take the research output to the next level of excellence.”
THE BENEFITS OF SCALE

In fact, members of the School have already been very successful in initiating interdisciplinary research, in such competitive exercises as the Area of Excellence and Theme-based Research Schemes in Hong Kong, Natural Science Foundation of China grants and State Key Laboratory of Mainland China designation. By establishing the School of Biomedical Sciences, the Faculty is building on these seeds of success and pushing the capabilities to the next stage.

First, there is now strength in numbers. Instead of 10 to 14 professoriate staff in each department, there are nearly 50 of them in the School (including positions for five new recruits), whose duties will be streamlined across teaching and research so they can make the most efficient use of their time and expertise.

Second, teaching duties and good practices can be shared across the eight undergraduate programmes served by the School: the BBiMS, Medicine and Surgery (MBBS), Pharmacy, Nursing and Chinese Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine, as well as the Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Biochemistry and courses for Dentistry and Biomedical Engineering. Previously, the old departments taught all of these courses separately, even if they touched on similar content. Postgraduate programmes will benefit from this streamlining, too.

Associate Professor Dr Julian Tanner, who has been developing innovations in teaching pre-clinical sciences and also cross-disciplinary research, said, “The separation of these subjects into different departments was actually quite artificial because everything we do overlaps. A lot of people in anatomy use very similar research methods to what we do in biochemistry, for example, and vice versa.”

“Both for good research and good teaching and education, people in different disciplines need to come together – this is where the best results are happening for all sides of scholarship.”

The move also makes it possible to promote inter-professional education in the Faculty. “We will be able to integrate undergraduate courses currently taught separately to Nursing and Chinese Medicine students, and to similarly reorganise courses for Medical and Pharmacy students,” said Professor Chan Ying-shing (陳應城), Deputy Director of the School. In practice, students from different disciplines could attend the same lecture then break up into tutorial groups to discuss how the content could be applied to their professional field.

All of this will have an important impact on the efficient use of academics’ time. People with similar areas of expertise could share teaching duties, or those with very specialised knowledge could be concentrated in advanced courses, to leave more time for research or pedagogical development. “Role differentiation is the way forward,” Professor Chan said.

We will be able to integrate undergraduate courses currently taught separately to Nursing and Chinese Medicine students, and to similarly reorganise courses for Medical and Pharmacy students.
A third benefit of the School is the rationalisation of space and facilities. **Professor George Tsao Sai-wah** (曹世華), who is in charge of the Faculty's core shared facilities, well understands the importance of scale in these matters. “We can make better use of space and resources and be more efficient by sharing things like common rooms. Also, the equipment we use today is very sophisticated and expensive. A single researcher often cannot afford to purchase it on his or her own,” he said.

**RESEARCH DIRECTIONS**

Professor Tsao is also the Convenor of the Cell Signalling and Integrative Biology Research Cluster, one of the two new research clusters in the School that have been made broad enough to draw in a critical mass of expertise from each of the three previous disciplines. With more efficient use of time and resources, and this strategic direction of clusters, research is undoubtedly benefiting from the merger.

Professor Tsao’s research cluster is applying interdisciplinary research strategies spanning from genetic, molecular and cellular levels to functioning systems and organism behaviour, focusing on cancer and neuroscience, and to a lesser extent virology.

The other cluster is Developmental and Stem Cell Biology, with **Professor Sham Mai-har** (岑美霞) as the Convenor. Its members are studying the molecular mechanisms underpinning the processes of stem cell self-renewal and differentiation; development; diseases; and tissue regeneration, with particular regards to development, neurocrest disorder, ageing, intercellular transport and stem cells.

While these clusters reflect current strengths in the School, Professor Sham noted that what mattered most was what was to come.

“I would like to boldly say that the School is about the future rather than what we are good at now. The Dean wants us to have all 4* researchers or at least a 4* School (4* is the highest classification in the RAE), and many of us share that ambition. We have a vision and it is up to us to realise it,” she said.

“In our two research clusters, quite a few of us have been working together for some time. We have various works and research groups up and running. The challenge will be to recruit people who have the know-how to take us to the next level.”
GET UP AND GO

Getting the right people will take a little time. Professor Gabriel M Leung expected the School’s inaugurate director and five new academics to be in place within six to 12 months. Given the length of time it has taken to establish the School, this waiting time is minimal. Apart from the periodic debates over the past two decades, there has also been a year-long consultation with a wide range of stakeholders within the Faculty.

Both Professor Tsao and Professor Sham said they were ready to proceed. “We have dealt with most of the practicalities of setting up the School and I think we are ready to take the initiative now so there is a bottom-up rather than top-down direction,” Professor Tsao said.

It is that kind of get-up-and-go that will take the School forward and sustain its competitiveness.

Professor Leung summed it up: “In science, you never complete a job and you’re only as good as your next big discovery. But we are really growing from strengths both in research and education, and it’s a very pleasing phase of development. The School has certainly begun life in full health and I look forward to it growing and developing and moving to the top tier of the world’s great biomedical schools.”

FROM BEDSIDE TO BENCH

For an experienced academic like Professor Danny Chan (陳振勝), the new School of Biomedical Sciences means better quality in teaching and more time for research.

Being able to organise teaching among the School’s 40-odd academics, rather than a dozen or so members in each previous department, has meant they can allocate their expertise more efficiently. “We all have specialised expertise and the quality of teaching can be maximised from this perspective. I have already gained from a more focused approach in both the MBBS and BSc (Biochemistry) curricula. And by concentrating teaching within specific periods, it allows us longer periods of uninterrupted research,” he said.

Professor Chan would like to see the School build a critical mass of principal investigators and approach research in a way that capitalises on interdisciplinary collaboration, by bringing in clinical colleagues with specific clinical problems that need addressing and adapting basic research questions around these needs. It was more difficult to do things the other way around asking clinicians to adapt to basic research requirements because they were bound by clinical duties and limited to their own patient groups.

“I can offer a model from the success of adapting my own research in skeletal biology to the spine, which is the strength of the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology. I plan to pilot some ‘think tank’ sessions between clinicians and basic scientists in the School,” he said.
TALENT-SPOTTING POTENTIAL

Assistant Professor Dr Stephanie Ma Kwai-ye\n(馬桂宜), who recently won the Croucher Innovation Award, used to have some explaining to do about her research when she tried to recruit research postgraduate (RPG) students. Her focus is cancer stem cells, so what was she doing in the Department of Anatomy?

“Some potential RPG students were misled by my departmental affiliation and thought my work was related to anatomical research,” she said. “Now it’s easier to attract top-notch postgraduate students under the School’s name.”

The School also provided enhanced opportunities to interact with BBmes and BSc (Biochemistry) undergraduates, who were all potential RPG students, she said.

And since her research interest requires collaborating with experts in such fields as bioinformatics, disease modelling and lineage tracing in mice, breaking down previous departmental barriers could only be a good thing.

Overall, Dr Ma said with the efficient use of space, equipment and resources under the School, and a more porous approach to research across disciplines, there will be more room for research collaborations to materialise.

TEACHING INNOVATIONS

The spirit of creating new things that underpins the establishment of the School of Biomedical Sciences is also present in its pedagogy.

Dr Julian Tanner has received Teaching Development Grants to explore two innovations, one of which could have implications beyond the School and the Faculty.

The two-stage examination draws on findings elsewhere that examining students in groups can be effective in embedding knowledge, rather than just testing them individually. “The first stage is the usual examination, but in the second stage the students have to collaborate and communicate. It’s been found that students who did this had acquired much better knowledge and skills one or two months after the exam,” he said.

The second innovation is a group project that mimics a journal review. Students work in teams to write a research article that gets peer-reviewed by their classmates. It gives them a chance to give and receive feedback and for Dr Tanner, as editor, to assess their work.

“The great thing about the School is there are a lot of people thinking about teaching. It’s an opportunity for us to all work together across divisions and share best practices that we are developing,” he said.

Dr Tanner has also co-authored a textbook for advanced courses, Essentials of Chemical Biology – Structure and Dynamics of Biological Macromolecules, which is at the interface of chemistry and biochemistry, thus producing a concrete example of the interdisciplinary approaches being promoted in the School.
The Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology celebrated its 90th anniversary on November 14 and 15, 2015. The Department was established in 1925 when the first Chair Professor was appointed. To commemorate this anniversary occasion, the Department held a Scientific Symposium entitled “Past, Present and Future of Obstetrics and Gynaecology”, which was attended by over 200 delegates. During the Symposium, the speakers reviewed past achievements and present excellence and looked into future developments of the Department in various subspecialties and special skill areas. Plenary speakers included Professor Grace Tang Wai-king (鄧惠瓊), Professor John Shepherd, Professor Christina Wang Chung-lun (汪重輪) and Professor Ho Pak-chung (何柏松). The Daphne Chun Lecture was delivered by Professor Knox Ritchie. A celebration banquet took place at the Loke Yew Hall on November 14, 2015, with the participation of over 150 guests as well as current and past staff members. The banquet was officiated by the Dean, Professor Gabriel M Leung (梁卓偉), who presented tributes to the past and present heads of the Department including Professor Ma Ho-kei (馬鍾可璣), Professor Ho Pak-chung, and Professor Hextan Ngan Yuen-sheung (顏婉嫦), for their enormous contributions to the Department, the University and the specialty of obstetrics and gynaecology throughout the past decades. This was a memorable event where friends, colleagues, donors and collaborators of the Department reunited and enjoyed the science and fraternity that all shared during the Symposium and the social gathering.
Two top performers in the Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences (BBmS) programme have taken up the opportunity to spend their third year at The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies at The University of Edinburgh, where the Faculty has a special agreement on articulation to a veterinary degree.

Senior students with outstanding academic results can apply to spend one year at The Royal Dick, where they study the first year of a graduate-level Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine & Surgery (BVM&S). They then complete their fourth year of the BBmS at HKU and have the option to continue on to the remaining three years of the veterinary degree, after which they would receive a BVM&S – two degrees in seven years.

The attachment programme was announced in late 2013 when Miss Tse Hei-long was in her first year, and it immediately caught her eye. She applied and was accepted into the programme this academic year.

"I’ve always loved animals and the programme prepares me not only for a potential career as a vet, but with the knowledge and insight to pursue a research path. It is also training me to learn and work under pressure," she said.

Studies were intense in the veterinary programme, said her fellow classmate Miss Eliana Mary S Suarez, who also went to The Royal Dick in the same year.

"Vet school is remarkably different to what I imagined. During our first month here, we were going to practical after practical then lectures, and all of a sudden it’s examination time. It is all happening so fast. The teaching staff have been very accommodating because they understand the amount of material we have to go through in such a short period of time," Mary said.

Their BBmS studies had been a great advantage, especially the anatomy classes that had exposed them to human anatomy, said Hei-long. However, coming from Hong Kong’s concrete jungle is somewhat of a drawback.

“We have to deal with a lot of large animals, including horses and cattle, and it can be intimidating. Sadly, we do not have the opportunity to familiarise ourselves with these types of animals in Hong Kong,” she said.

Both students said the year in Edinburgh would provide them with valuable options for the future. Mary hopes to pursue a veterinary career, while Hei-long, who received a scholarship to study at The Royal Dick, is still considering veterinary practice as well as research.

“I have always been interested in diseases and their effect, treatment and especially their causes, and the Biomedical Sciences programme, with its focus on ‘how this happens’, is equipping me with the skills to explore deeper into such issues," Hei-long said.
The HKU Phase 1 Clinical Trials Centre has celebrated its first birthday. On July 24, 2015, Dr Ko Wing-man (高永文) and Professor Sophia Chan Siu-chee (陳肇始), Secretary and Under Secretary for Food and Health, respectively, visited the Centre together with representatives from the Food and Health Bureau, Department of Health and Hospital Authority. On November 20 and 21, clinical trial experts from around the world joined the 2nd International Conference on Phase 1 and Early Phase Clinical Trials (ICPOEP 2015) organised by the Centre held at Hyatt Regency Hong Kong, Tsim Sha Tsui.
The Department of Pathology organised a Croucher Summer Course in Cancer Biology 2015 from August 10 to 13, 2015, followed by the Croucher Symposium in Cancer Biology 2015 the following day. Seven world-renowned speakers, Professor James Allison, Professor Frederick Alt, Professor Kang Yibin (康毅濱), Professor Scott Lowe, Professor Mak Tak-wah (麥德華), Professor Padmanee Sharma and Professor Patrick Tan, spoke at both the Summer Course and the Symposium. Officiated by the President and Vice-Chancellor of HKU, Professor Peter Mathieson, and the Dean, Professor Gabriel M Leung (梁卓偉), the Symposium attracted more than 200 attendees from different institutes in Hong Kong, while the Summer Course involved participants from 12 countries and five continents, selected on a competitive basis from their research work. The generous support from the Croucher Foundation was acknowledged.

DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY
PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES 2015/2016

To arouse awareness and promote knowledge of common eye diseases the Department of Ophthalmology has launched a public lecture series titled “大開眼界 - 眼疾認知講座系列” at the Hong Kong Central Library in Causeway Bay. The series feature talks on common eye disorders and their treatment, from management of cataracts to the most advanced treatment options for glaucoma. Commenced in August 2015, the talks are held monthly on selected Sunday mornings, and will continue until the summer of 2016. For more details, please visit www.eyeinst.hku.hk/pels.htm.

CROUCHER SUMMER COURSE AND SYMPOSIUM 2015

The Department of Pathology organised a Croucher Summer Course in Cancer Biology 2015 from August 10 to 13, 2015, followed by the Croucher Symposium in Cancer Biology 2015 the following day. Seven world-renowned speakers, Professor James Allison, Professor Frederick Alt, Professor Kang Yibin (康毅濱), Professor Scott Lowe, Professor Mak Tak-wah (麥德華), Professor Padmanee Sharma and Professor Patrick Tan, spoke at both the Summer Course and the Symposium. Officiated by the President and Vice-Chancellor of HKU, Professor Peter Mathieson, and the Dean, Professor Gabriel M Leung (梁卓偉), the Symposium attracted more than 200 attendees from different institutes in Hong Kong, while the Summer Course involved participants from 12 countries and five continents, selected on a competitive basis from their research work. The generous support from the Croucher Foundation was acknowledged.

PLAQUES UNVEILED FOR TWO WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION UNITS

Following the designation of the School of Public Health as a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre (WHO CC) for Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Control for four years from December 10, 2014, the School hosted ceremonies to unveil the plaques of the WHO CC and the WHO H5 Reference Laboratory on August 13, 2015. The ceremonies were officiated by Dr Margaret Chan Fung Fu-chun (陳馮富珍), Director-General of the WHO; Dr Constance Chan Hon-yee (陳漢儀), Director of Health; and Dr Leung Siu-fai (梁肇輝), Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation. During the ceremonies, Professor Gabriel M Leung (梁卓偉), the Dean and Co-Director of the WHO CC, thanked Dr Margaret Chan for visiting HKU. He said: “HKU School of Public Health has been at the forefront of research in emerging infectious diseases and we look forward to contributing further to the work of the WHO in the control and prevention of communicable diseases and in enhancing global public health.” A luncheon was hosted in honour of Dr Margaret Chan by Professor Peter Mathieson, the President and Vice-Chancellor of HKU, at the University Lodge.
HONG KONG DISTINGUISHED LECTURE 2015 BY PROFESSOR CHOW SHEW-PING

The Hong Kong Distinguished Lecture 2015, hosted by the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, was held on September 4, 2015. Professor Chow Shew-ping (周肇平) gave the distinguished lecture titled “Academia and Beyond”, the second instalment of the Distinguished Lecture series. Guests included Dr Ko Wing-man (高永文), and Professor Sophia Chan Siu-chee (陳肇始), Secretary and Under Secretary for Food and Health, respectively; Dr York Chow Yat-ngok (周一嶽), Chairperson of the Equal Opportunities Commission; Dr Leong Che-hung (梁智鴻), Professor Peter Mathieson, the President and Vice-Chancellor of HKU, and Professor Gabriel M Leung (梁卓偉), the Dean.

LECTURE BY DAME BARBARA STOCKING HOSTED BY WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION COLLABORATING CENTRE

The World Health Organization Collaborating Centre (WHO CC) for Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Control under the School of Public Health, hosted an academic lecture entitled “All you ever wanted to know about Ebola” by Dame Barbara Stocking on September 7, 2015. Approximately 200 colleagues and students, including Professor Peter Mathieson, President and Vice-Chancellor of HKU, and leading experts of the medical sector attended the lecture. Dame Barbara was appointed Chair of the Independent Panel to assess WHO’s response in the Ebola outbreak. In the lecture, she shared her observations during her visits to the Republic of Guinea and Brazzaville, the Republic of the Congo, two of the most heavily affected countries during the recent Ebola outbreak. She also warned that the crisis was not yet over in some regions of West Africa, especially in Guinea.
HONG KONG SURGICAL FORUM AND
SHENZHEN SURGICAL FORUM

The Department of Surgery and the China-Hong Kong Chapter of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) joined hands to co-organise the Hong Kong Surgical Forum, held on October 10, 2015, with the theme “General Surgery”. Professor Carlos A Pellegrini, The Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair of Surgery at the University of Washington and former president of the ACS, was invited to give the GB Ong Lecture. The Shenzhen Surgical Forum took place at the HKU-Shenzhen Hospital on October 11, 2015 with the same theme. Leading experts from the USA, Germany, Mainland China and Hong Kong shared their insights at both events.

PROFESSOR KENNETH CHEUNG MAN-CHEE
FOCUSES ON BACK PAIN IN ENDOVED
PROFESSORS PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

Professor Kenneth Cheung Man-chee (張文智), Clinical Professor and Head of the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, delivered a public lecture titled, “A pain in the backside? Understanding back problems from the young to the elderly” at the Rayson Huang Theatre of HKU on October 14, 2015. Professor Leung Suet-yi (梁雪兒), Associate Dean (Research), delivered the welcome address. This was the fourth lecture of the Endowed Professorships Public Lecture Series. It attracted more than 250 researchers, students from HKU, other tertiary institutions and secondary schools, HKU alumni and members of the general public.

HONG KONG PUBLIC HEALTH FORUM ON EXTRACTING
MEANING FROM DATA: COHORTS AND DEEP ANALYTICS

The School of Public Health hosted the 5th Hong Kong Public Health Forum on October 24, 2015, on the theme “Extracting Meaning from Data: Cohorts and Deep Analytics”. More than 200 participants including public health practitioners, healthcare leaders, policy advocates, academic scholars and government officials attended the event. The programme comprised two plenary sessions, “History of Southern Chinese Cohorts” and “Deep Analytics”, with sessional talks given by a dozen of scholars from the School. Two renowned overseas scholars, Professor Mika Ala-Korpela, Professor of Computational Medicine at the Institute of Health Sciences, University of Oulu, and at the School of Social and Community Medicine, University of Bristol; and Professor Chen Zhengming, Professor of Epidemiology, University of Oxford, attended the event as Keynote Speakers, while Professor Gabriel M Leung (梁卓偉), the Dean, delivered the closing remarks.
194TH CONGREGATION AND PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY

The Medical Faculty’s 194th Congregation and Prize Presentation Ceremony was held on November 21, 2015. For the first time, the Ceremony took place at the Grand Hall, Lee Shau Kee Lecture Centre, Centennial Campus, HKU. The Dean, Professor Gabriel M Leung (梁卓偉), delivered the State of the Faculty Address to provide an update on the achievements of the Faculty in the past academic year and its future plans. The Guests of Honour of the Ceremony were Mrs Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor (林鄭月娥), Chief Secretary for Administration; Professor Mak Tak-wah (麥德華), Director of the Campbell Family Institute for Breast Cancer Research, Ontario Cancer Institute, Princess Margaret Hospital; and Professor Sophia Chan Siu-chee (陳肇始), Under Secretary for Food and Health. A Special Issue has been published as supplement to cover the highlights of the Ceremony.

HKU INFORMATION DAY FOR UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

The HKU Information Day for Undergraduate Admissions was held on November 7, 2015. More than 7,500 visitors came to the Medical Campus on Sassoon Road. A rich plethora of interesting and informative activities were offered, including the popular admission talks by the Dean, Professor Gabriel M Leung (梁卓偉), programme introductions by teachers, consultation sessions, guided tours, clinical skills demonstrations, exhibitions and theme board displays that showcased the history and excellent achievements of the Faculty in research, education and clinical services. During the admission talks, the Dean shared some exciting news including the number of intake for the MBBS programme has increased to 235 for the academic year 2016-17, as well as the introduction of the new “Second Chance” scheme 「毅行醫路計劃」 The Scheme provides an additional route to professionals or degree holders in any discipline who had never studied medicine but would now like to pursue a career in the medical field. Throughout this entire event, many students of the Faculty volunteered to help prospective students and their families to understand better about the undergraduate programmes, campus life and the Faculty.
LEARNER WELLBEING: THE THEME FOR FRONTIERS IN MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCE EDUCATION 2015

The Faculty’s annual flagship event, “Frontiers in Medical and Health Sciences Education, HKU 2015”, organised by the newly inaugurated Bau Institute of Medical and Health Sciences Education, was held on November 27 and 28, 2015. With the theme of “Learner Wellbeing across the Continuum”, this year’s conference attracted nearly 400 participants from more than 10 countries. The event was officiated by Professor Ian Holliday, Vice-President and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) of HKU. He is a firm believer on the importance of supporting and enhancing student wellbeing, especially for future medical and healthcare professionals. Plenary session core themes included “Wellbeing and Outcomes”, “Learner Wellbeing in Asia: Experience and Issues”, “Promoting Wellbeing and Resilience”, “Students in Difficulty” and “Transition and Adaptation”. Seventeen experts from Mainland China, USA, UK, Australia, Southeast Asia and Hong Kong shared their insight on these issues.

These experts included Professor Ducksun Ahn (安德宣), Korea University, Korea; Professor Liselotte Dyrbye, Mayo Clinic, United States; Professor Matthew Gwee, National University of Singapore, Singapore; Professor Michael Kidd, Flinders University, Australia; Professor Wipada Kunaviktikul, Chiang Mai University, Thailand; Professor Jeanette Lancaster, University of Virginia, United States; Dr Hiroshi Nishigori (錦織宏), Kyoto University, Japan; Professor Trudie Roberts, University of Leeds, United Kingdom; Dr Tsai Shih-li (蔡詩力), National Taiwan University Hospital, Taiwan; Dr Yan Xu (徐岩), Sun Yat-sen University, Mainland China; and Dr Esther Lau Yuet-ying ( 劉月瑩), The Hong Kong Institute of Education, Hong Kong. They were joined by expert speakers from HKU, including Dr Albert Chau Wai-lap (周偉立), Dr Julie Chen Yun (陳 芸), Dr Angela Leung Yee-man (梁綺雯), Dr Eugenie Leung Yeuk-sin (梁若芊), Professor Niv Patil and Dr Michael Tse (謝家德).

WALK TO CARE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Most people know Mr Sin Shui-fuk (冼水福) as the first Hongkonger to have completed the four Deserts Race Series – four 250-kilometre races across deserts around the world. However, very few people know that Mr Sin has once suffered from Hepatitis B. While receiving treatment in the hospital, Mr Sin noticed that women would devote a lot of love and care towards their other halves, but in turn receive much less attention when they become sick, as he witnessed that himself when his wife was hospitalised. Mr Sin thinks that women and men should reciprocate in terms of the expression and sharing of love and care, especially during times of illness.

To raise public awareness on that, Mr Sin has decided to raise funds to support the Faculty to conduct research on ways to optimise well-being for cancer patients; and also in response to the United Nations “HeForShe” campaign to spread the gender balance message. His mission is to complete 1,000 kilometres in a series of races worldwide in one year’s time, starting this February.

To give support and follow his journey, please visit www.med.hku.hk/fundraising/Walk-to-Care/.
MEDICAL FACULTY NEWS

NEXT GENERATION

In mid-August 2015, students from HKU travelled to Singapore to participate in an exchange with students from the National University of Singapore (NUS) as part of the Asian Medical Students’ Exchange Programme (AMSEP), organised by the Asian Medical Students’ Association Hong Kong (AMSAHK). The tour included hospital visits, simulation scenarios and lectures, as well as visits to famous landmarks and cultural activities. Students experienced how Singaporean medical students balance their academic and social lives. One student reflected that it was an opportunity to “rethink what it truly means to be a medical student”, while another mentioned that “by embracing our similarities and differences, we get to learn from each other”.

This year’s highlight of Medical Outreachers, an NGO comprising HKU and The Chinese University of Hong Kong medical students, was the Uganda Medical Service Trip that took place in collaboration with Watoto International in the summer. The planning started more than two years ago with the guidance of medical professors from both schools. After extensive research and funding applications, a team of 30 medical student volunteers and doctors went to Kampala and Gulu Village to provide medical consultation in mobile daytime clinics, daytime care for HIV positive women and children, and psychological support for child soldiers of the civil war. Serving those who had experienced stigmatisation from AIDS and the terrors of war inspired the students to become better listeners and be more aware of the stories that each of us contain. It is hoped that the soft skills gained from such experiences will help the students become more compassionate doctors in the future.

To help children lead healthy lifestyles, Prime Care HKU organised a “Connect the Hearts” event in July 2015, which comprised two programmes for junior and senior primary school students. Through interactive games and talks, the children learned how to protect important organs such as their eyes, spine and teeth. Both children and volunteers enjoyed the time spent together.

MEDICAL OUTREACH EXTENDS TO UGANDA

MEDICAL STUDENTS LEARN FROM SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES IN SINGAPORE EXCHANGE

PRIME CARE FOSTERS CHILDREN’S HEALTHY HABITS
The Pharmacy Orientation Camp 2015 was held at the Jockey Club Sai Kung Outdoor Training Camp from August 25 to 27, 2015. In order for the freshmen to get to know each other, many exciting, challenging and team-building activities were offered, including chamber escape, campfire, water battle and city hunting. Past cabinet members of the Pharmacy Society were also invited to the Camp to share their university life experience with freshmen.

The Nursing Orientation Camp 2015 was held from August 23 to 25, 2015 at Po Leung Kuk Jockey Club Tai Tong Holiday Camp. This year’s theme was Hunger Games, in which tutors acted as the trainers and freshmen acted as tributes. The programme included games, a night walk, Ghost Hunting, and a camp fire. Ghost Hunting, one of the exciting highlights of the Camp, is a detective game integrated with rumoured ghost stories about HKU. A great amount of positive feedback were received from freshmen.

The Medic Orientation Camp 2015 was held at the YMCA Wu Kwai Sha Youth Village from August 18 to 20, 2015, which welcomed more than 200 freshmen from all five curricula. The camp provided a chance for them to establish inter- and intra-curriculum relationships and gave all participants a memorable experience and a stronger sense of belonging to the Faculty. In the following week, the MBBS Orientation Camp, organised by the Executive Committee of Medical Society, was held at the Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association Sydney Leong Holiday Lodge. In addition, MBBS freshmen learned more about the specific mode of learning in the HKU MBBS programme during the MBBS Academic Day, held two days later. Participants were divided into 15 small groups for mock problem-based learning sessions, with senior students involved as tutors and guides. For more coverage of this event, please visit: www.medsoc.hkusu.hku.hk/?p=644.
The Drug Usage Information Day was initiated by a group of Pharmacy undergraduates in 2013 to promote safer use of drugs and awareness of the pharmacy profession. The 4th Information Day took place on August 30, 2015, in Un Chau Estate, Cheung Sha Wan. The theme was on antibiotics, in particular the abuse of and resistance to these drugs. It was encouraging to see a large number of people bringing their medicines to the event, and were eager to know more on safe use of drugs from the future pharmacists. The Information Day attracted more than 700 participants.

The Biomedical Sciences Orientation Camp 2015 was held at the Jockey Club Cheung Chau Don Bosco Youth Centre from August 27 to 29, 2015, on a pirate theme. Freshmen got to know their peers through a series of challenging yet imaginative tasks. Throughout the Camp, members of the Executive Committee gave freshmen a warm welcome to boost their sense of belonging to both the Biomedical Sciences Society and the Faculty, and shed some light on their upcoming university life.

The Chinese Medicine Orientation Camp 2015 was held at the Salvation Army - Ma Wan Youth Camp from August 25 to 27, 2015. This was a great opportunity for the senior students to share their first-hand experience to freshmen. The freshmen could also make use of this Camp to get to know their classmates before the commencement of the new semester. Through many fun and interactive games and activities, freshmen had the chance to develop their communication, leadership, problem-solving and time management skills.
HEARTY FOCUS FOR HEALTH EXHIBITION 2015

The Health Exhibition is one of the largest annual events organised under the Medical Society, HKU Students’ Union. The theme for 2015 was “Stay Hearty, Stay Healthy”, focusing on cardiovascular diseases. Organised by medical and nursing students of HKU, the 29th exhibition aims to raise public awareness on cardiovascular health and equip the public with basic knowledge to empower them to take charge of their own health. The Organising Committee has arranged four large-scale exhibition sessions: the Opening Ceremony at Victoria Park, “Health Carnival” at Kowloon Park, “Performance Show” at Ma On Shan Plaza, and “HeART Festival” at Comix Home Base. The Opening Ceremony held on October 10, 2015 was attended by more than 300 guests, including Dr Ko Wing-man (高永文), Secretary for Food and Health and Dr Gilberto Leung Ka-kit (梁嘉傑), Assistant Dean (Student and Trainee Affairs). It was a very successful event with extensive media coverage.

APPLAUSE

Mr Law Chun-yiu (羅震耀), PhD candidate, Department of Pathology, was awarded Board of Education and Assessment Trainee Prize, 1st Runner up and Co-winner of Roche Scientific Display (Chemical Pathology) of Pathology Update 2015 Conference by the Royal College of Pathologists of Australia.

Miss Li Wing-yi (李穎怡), MPhil candidate, Department of Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, received the Award for Outstanding Research Postgraduate Student.

Dr Liang Qingning (梁青寧), PhD candidate, Department of Medicine, was awarded the Li Ka Shing Prize for the academic year 2013-2014.

Miss Jessica Lo Pui-ki (盧姵岐), MPhil candidate, Department of Pathology, was awarded the Li Ka Shing Prize for the academic year 2013-2014.

Miss Lo Kwai-ching (羅桂青), PhD candidate, School of Chinese Medicine, was awarded the Dragon Culture TCM Scholarship 2015 by Dragon Culture Charity Fund.

Dr Wang Weixin (王煒欣), PhD candidate, Department of Biochemistry (now School of Biomedical Sciences), received the Award for Outstanding Research Postgraduate Student.

Mr Wong Yun-sum (黃潤森), PhD candidate, Department of Pharmacology and Pharmacy, received the Scholarship for the 31st International Conference on Pharmacoepidemiology & Therapeutic Risk Management held in Boston, USA, in August 2015, and a Scholarship for the ISPE’s 9th Asian Conference on Pharmacoepidemiology held in Bangkok, Thailand, in November 2015.
HKUMAA 15TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & DINNER TALK BY PROFESSOR PETER MATHIESON

The HKU Medical Alumni Association (HKUMAA) held its 15th Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Exhibition Area of the Faculty on August 4, 2015. An election took place during the meeting. Dr Cindy Lai Kit-lim (黎潔廉) and Dr Kevin Lau Chung-hang (劉仲恒) were re-elected to the Executive Committee. The new Executive Committee is as follows:

**HKUMAA Executive Committee 2015-2016**

President  
Dr Kathleen So Pik-han (蘇碧嫺)

Vice-Presidents  
Dr Barbara Lam Cheung-cheung (藍章翔)  
Professor Keith Luk Dip-kei (陸瓞驥)

Honorary Secretary  
Dr Janice Tsang Wing-hang (曾詠恆)

Honorary Treasurer  
Dr Donald Li Kwok-tung (李國棟)

Members  
Dr Kingsley Chan Hau-ngai (陳厚毅)  
Dr Ko Wing-man (高永文)  
Dr Cindy Lai Kit-lim (黎潔廉)  
Dr Kevin Lau Chung-hang (劉仲恒)  
Dr Libby Lee Ha-yun (李夏茵)  
Dr Emmy Li Yuen-mei (李琬微)  
Dr Laurence Shek Siu-lam (石兆林)

Ex-officio  
Dean  
Professor Gabriel M Leung (梁卓偉)

Immediate Past President  
Professor Leung Nai-kong (梁乃江)

After the AGM, Professor Peter Mathieson, President and Vice-Chancellor of HKU and Patron of the HKUMAA, delivered a dinner talk entitled “Medicine in Rural Uganda”, in which he shared the current medical situation in the East African country, and encouraged medical professionals to lend a helping hand to developing countries. Nearly 80 alumni, members of the Faculty and friends enjoyed the occasion.

HKUMAA TAI TAM BARBECUE GATHERING

Since 2010, the HKUMAA has been organising regular outdoor gatherings for alumni, in particular for its younger members. This year, it held a barbeque gathering in Tai Tam on August 30, 2015. Nearly 70 alumni and medical students joined the event. Apart from the food, they enjoyed group games, trampolining, table tennis and water sports during an exhausting but fun afternoon.

HKUMAA SPORTS REUNION 2015

Over 25 medical alumni and family members from MBBS Anniversary Classes 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2010, together with regular football players from other classes, formed two teams to participate in a friendly football match organised by the HKUMAA at Stanley Ho Sports Centre on September 5, 2015. The event provided a great occasion for exercise, reunion and socialising among the alumni and their families.
OUTING TO SAI KUNG GEOPARK

This year’s HKUMAA outing took place in Sai Kung Geopark on December 6, 2015. Although rain and strong wind was forecasted prior to the event day, the event attracted more than 70 alumni and their family members and friends to attend. The weather turned out to be great clear sky, making the walk on the islands more pleasant and relaxing. Apart from seeing the magnificent geo-structures such as the hexagonal rock columns, sea arches, sea caves, sea stacks, Pineapple Bun rocks and more, all participants enjoyed a savory seafood lunch on the High Island.

UNDER SECRETARY GAVE TALK ON VOLUNTARY HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME

At the invitation of the HKU Nursing Alumni Association (HKUNAA) and the Nuriator (cabinet for session 2015) of the Nursing Society, Professor Sophia Chan Siu-chee (陳肇始), Under Secretary for Food and Health of the Government of the Hong Kong SAR, delivered a talk on the Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme on September 17, 2015. Both the alumni and nursing students had a better understanding of the Scheme promulgated by the Government, the challenges ahead and the way forward after public consultation. The alumni spent some wonderful moments with the nursing students at the reception and shared with them the historical milestones of HKUNAA. HKUNAA was delighted to work with the Nuriator for this meaningful event. They will collaborate again for the Mentorship Programme, with the aim to provide fun and support to students throughout the academic year.

HKUMAA PARTICIPATES AT HONG KONG MEDICAL ASSOCIATION SPORTS EVENTS

Two swimming teams representing the HKUMAA participated in the Hong Kong Medical Association Swimming Gala 2015 held on November 1, 2015 and the Hong Kong Medical Association Family Sports Day 2015 held on November 29. Both teams performed extremely well and won the first place in the invitation relays.
MBBS CLASS 1965 REUNION
Alumni of MBBS Class 1965 celebrated their 50th anniversary and visited the HKU Main Campus on October 31, 2015. The President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Mathieson, and the Dean, Professor Gabriel M Leung (梁卓偉), joined them at HKU Foundation Chamber in Hung Hing Ying Building for an informal gathering. To celebrate this special moment, the group has also organised a golden jubilee trip to Taiwan together.

MBBS CLASS 1975 REUNION
Alumni of MBBS Class 1975 celebrated their 40th anniversary on November 28, 2015. Nearly 90 alumni and their family members attended the reunion dinner held at The Hong Kong Jockey Club Happy Valley Racecourse.

MBBS CLASS 1995 REUNION
Alumni of MBBS Class 1995 celebrated their 20th anniversary at the HKU Loke Yew Hall on November 1, 2015. Nearly 100 people, including alumni and their families, and former teachers such as Professor Rosie Young Tse-tse (楊紫芝), Professor Fan Sheung-tat (范上達), Professor Yeung Chap-yung (楊執庸), Professor William Wei (韋霖) and Professor Chow Shew-ping (周肇平) attended the dinner. Many participants joined a homecoming visit to the Medical Campus and the Main Campus.
MBBS CLASS 2000 REUNION
Alumni of MBBS Class 2000 celebrated their 15th anniversary at Ocean Park on November 28, 2015. More than 120 alumni and their family members attended.

MBBS CLASS 2005 REUNION
Alumni of MBBS Class 2005 celebrated their 10th anniversary on September 19, 2015. Over 100 alumni and their families savoured a delicious dinner on a Saturday night.

MBBS CLASS 2015 GRADUATION DINNER
The graduation dinner for the MBBS Class 2015 took place on June 18, 2015. More than 140 graduates, Professor Gabriel M Leung (梁卓偉), the Dean; and many teachers attended.
CONGRATULATIONS

Dr Chau Ka-foon (周嘉歡) (MBBS 1985) was awarded the 6th Hong Kong Volunteer Award in recognition of her effort to raise public awareness on the importance of organ donation.

Dr Emmy Li Yuen-mei (李琬微) (MBBS 2004) was awarded the Hong Kong Ten Outstanding Young Persons Award 2015 by the Junior Chamber International Hong Kong in recognition of her outstanding achievements in career and community services.

Dr Chan Ngai-yin (陳藝賢) (MBBS 1992) was awarded the Hong Kong Humanity Award 2015 by Hong Kong Red Cross in recognition of his devotion to cardiac rehabilitation.

Dr Jacky Lam Wai-kei (林偉棋) (MBBS 2007)
Dr Stephanie Lau Hiu-yan (劉曉欣) (BNurs 2009, MPH 2011)

SHARING CORNER

Dr Wilson Chan Yau-ki (陳祐祈) (MBBS 2010, MPH 2015)
Ms Alina Cheung Hiu-yan (張曉欣) (BNurs 2009, MPH 2011)
CONGRATULATIONS

PROMOTIONS

**Dr Albert Chan Chi-yan** (陳智仁), previously Clinical Assistant Professor of Department of Surgery, has been appointed as Clinical Associate Professor.

**Dr Tommy Lam Tsan-yuk** (林讚育), previously Research Assistant Professor of the School of Public Health, has been appointed as Assistant Professor.

**Dr James Li Chun-bong** (李振邦), previously Research Assistant Professor of the Department of Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, has been appointed as Assistant Professor.

**Dr Amy Lo Cheuk-yin** (勞卓妍), previously Assistant Professor of the Department of Ophthalmology, has been appointed as Associate Professor.

**Dr Carmen Wong Chak-lui** (黃澤蕾), previously Research Assistant Professor of the Department of Pathology, has been appointed as Assistant Professor.

**Dr Dino Samartzis**, Assistant Professor of the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, has been awarded Top 10 Best Conference Papers – Recognition Award by Société Internationale de Chirurgie Orthopédique et de Traumatologie (SICOT) in September 2015.

**Dr Dino Samartzis**, Assistant Professor, **Ms Cora Bow Hing-yee** (鮑慶怡), Senior Research Assistant, **Dr Mak Kin-cheung** (麥建章), Clinical Assistant Professor, **Professor Keith Luk Dip-kei** (陸瓞驥), Chair Professor, and **Professor Kenneth Cheung Man-chee** (張文智), Clinical Professor of the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, have been awarded the First SICOT Oral Presentation Award by SICOT in September 2015.

**Dr Kendrick Co Shih** (施愷廸), Clinical Assistant Professor of the Department of Ophthalmology, has been awarded for the second time in a row the Dr Timothy Kai Ching Liu Memorial Fund Award: Certificate of Best Oral Presentation at the Hong Kong Ophthalmological Symposium in December 2015.

**Dr Ian Wong Yat-hin** (王逸軒), Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Ophthalmology, has been elected as a Distinguished Young Fellow of the College of Ophthalmologists of Hong Kong in September 2015.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS

**Professor Kenneth Cheung Man-chee** (張文智), Clinical Professor of the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, has been awarded FOCOS Humanitarian Award by The Foundation of Orthopaedics and Complex Spine (FOCOS) in July 2015.

**Dr Amy Lo Cheuk-yin** (勞卓妍), Associate Professor of the Department of Ophthalmology, has been awarded The Howard Medal – 1st Prize for Best Poster in July 2015.

**Dr Michael Ni Yuxuan** (倪宇軒), Clinical Assistant Professor of the School of Public Health, has been awarded The President’s Prize for Best Paper Presentation at the 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting by The Hong Kong College of Community Medicine (HKCCM) in September 2015. **Dr Dana Vackova**, Lecturer of the School of Public Health, has been awarded The College Prize for Poster Presentation at the same event.

**Professor Malik Peiris**, Director of the School of Public Health, has been appointed as one of the panel of advisors for the World Health Organization and the Republic of Korea’s Joint Mission for the MERS-CoV Outbreak and advisor to the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee concerning MERS-CoV in June 2015.

**Dr Dino Samartzis**, Assistant Professor of the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, has been awarded Top 10 Best Conference Papers – Recognition Award by Société Internationale de Chirurgie Orthopédique et de Traumatologie (SICOT) in September 2015.

**Dr Dino Samartzis**, Assistant Professor, **Ms Cora Bow Hing-yee** (鮑慶怡), Senior Research Assistant, **Dr Mak Kin-cheung** (麥建章), Clinical Assistant Professor, **Professor Keith Luk Dip-kei** (陸瓞驥), Chair Professor, and **Professor Kenneth Cheung Man-chee** (張文智), Clinical Professor of the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, have been awarded the First SICOT Oral Presentation Award by SICOT in September 2015.

**Dr Kendrick Co Shih** (施愷廸), Clinical Assistant Professor of the Department of Ophthalmology, has been awarded for the second time in a row the Dr Timothy Kai Ching Liu Memorial Fund Award: Certificate of Best Oral Presentation at the Hong Kong Ophthalmological Symposium in December 2015.

**Dr Ian Wong Yat-hin** (王逸軒), Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Ophthalmology, has been elected as a Distinguished Young Fellow of the College of Ophthalmologists of Hong Kong in September 2015.
Dr Kenneth Chok Siu-ho (竺兆豪) joined the Department of Surgery as Clinical Associate Professor in November 2015. He graduated from HKU in 1999. He obtained post-fellow training in Queen Mary Hospital and soon was Consultant Surgeon before joining the Faculty. His research interests focus on the advances in the management of Hepatocellular Carcinoma and liver transplantation. He is particularly interested in the management of biliary complications in living donor liver transplantation.

Dr Michael Co Tiong-hong (許長峯) joined the Department of Surgery as Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery in October 2015.

Dr Charlene Catherine Ho (何嘉琳) joined the School of Biomedical Sciences as Lecturer in July 2015. Dr Ho completed her PhD at the University of California in 2008 with a focus on human dietary requirements for the daily recommended intake of micronutrients, specifically Vitamin A by studying the dynamics of beta-carotene metabolism using radiocarbon and accelerator mass spectrometry. She then continued to pursue her passion for communicating evidence-based knowledge for a healthy population by working with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-funded programs in California and Brasil's Ministry of Health in Rio de Janeiro. Before joining HKU, she was invited to work at the Key laboratory of Biomedicine at Northwest University, Xi’an, China, to examine the efficacy of Traditional Chinese Medicine and cancer.

Dr Lee Chi-wai (李志偉) joined the School of Biomedical Sciences as Assistant Professor in September 2015. He obtained his BSc and PhD from The Hong Kong University of Science & Technology in 2001 and 2005 respectively. With the support of The Croucher Fellowship, Dr Lee received his postdoctoral training at Rutgers, then at Emory University in the United States. Prior to joining HKU, Dr Lee was an Assistant Professor and Principal Investigator of the Laboratory of Neuronal Development & Diseases in the Department of Physiology at National University of Singapore since 2013. His research focuses on the signal transduction and cytoskeletal mechanisms underlying synapse development, disease, and regeneration.

Dr Leung Ling-pong (梁令邦) was the Consultant Emergency Physician in Queen Mary Hospital before joining HKU’s Emergency Medicine Unit in May 2015. After taking up the post of Clinical Associate Professor, he has been working closely with the Hong Kong Jockey Club Disaster Preparedness and Response Institute in developing Disaster Medicine. His research interests include Emergency Geriatrics, Prehospital Medicine and pedagogical methodologies.

Dr Lim Lee-wei (林禮偉) joined the School of Biomedical Sciences as Assistant Professor in September 2015. He obtained a medical degree from Ukraine and later conducted his Master and PhD studies in neurosciences at the Maastricht University. Subsequently, he spent several research fellowships in Maastricht University, Oxford University and Nanyang Technological University. His research focuses on the basic and translational neuroscience using the existing neuromodulatory treatment of deep brain stimulation for neurodegenerative and neuropsychiatric disorders.

Dr Low Sheng-jia joined the Department of Anaesthesiology as Clinical Assistant Professor in May 2015. Graduated at the University of Melbourne, Dr Low received training and spent a couple of years there as an Anaesthetist.

Professor Joseph Lui Cho-ze (雷操奭) joined the Medical Faculty as Clinical Professor of Administrative Medicine Practice and Clinical Director of HKU Health System on a full-time basis in August 2015. He is also Honorary Clinical Associate Professor of the Department of Anaesthesiology and Honorary Consultant of Queen Mary Hospital. Before joining HKU, Professor Lui was Hospital Chief Executive of United Christian Hospital, Cluster Chief Executive of the Hospital Authority’s Kowloon East Cluster, and Co-ordinator of risk management for the Kowloon West Cluster. Apart from clinical anaesthesiology, Professor Lui’s other passion includes quality of patient care, medication and patient safety, and clinical governance.

Dr Diane Hue Dung Tran joined the Department of Anaesthesiology as Clinical Assistant Professor in May 2015.
We would like to express our gratitude and best wishes to the following staff members who have left or will be leaving the Faculty:

**Dr Joyce Chai** (柴逸蘭), Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

**Dr Chen Ling** (陳玲), Department of Ophthalmology

**Dr Cheung Siu-tim** (張兆恬), Department of Surgery

**Dr Fu Chuanhai** (符傳孩), School of Biomedical Sciences

**Prof Ronald Adolphus Li** (李登偉), School of Biomedical Sciences

**Dr Henry Sze Chun-kin** (施俊健), Department of Clinical Oncology

**Dr Peter Yu Sze-yuen** (余思遠), Department of Surgery

We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

---

Dr Gary Tse (謝家偉) joined the School of Biomedical Sciences as Assistant Professor in August 2015. Dr Tse read Pre-clinical Medicine at Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge (Finals in Physiology: BA (Hons), 2008; MA, 2012) and Clinical Studies at Imperial College London (MBBS AICSM, 2014). He completed his PhD at the Department of Biochemistry, University of Cambridge in Cardiac Electrophysiology, 2015. His research interests include cardiac electrophysiology, cardiac imaging, structural heart disease, sodium channels and gap junctions.

Dr Harry Wu Yi-jui (吳易叡) joined the Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit (MEHU) as Assistant Professor in August 2015. He was trained as a medical doctor at Chung-Shan Medical University (Taiwan). He obtained DPhil from the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, University of Oxford, followed by postdoctoral research at the Centre for the Humanities and Medicine, HKU. Before joining MEHU, he was Assistant Professor of Medical Humanities, Nanyang Technological University. His research interests include the history and anthropology of global health, illness narratives, patient activism and medical ethics. Apart from preparing his first monograph on the social history of international classification of psychiatric diagnoses, he is now conducting a project on the narratives of mental disorders in historical and contemporary China.

---

**DONATIONS**

- **5,000,000 or above**
  - The S. H. Ho Foundation
    - In support of the renovation of the Madam S H Ho Residence for Medical Students

- **1,000,000 or above**
  - The Hong Kong Cancer Fund
    - In support of the establishment of Nurse-led Symptom/Psycho-Oncology Clinic under the School of Public Health
  - Mr Michael Ma and Dr Edmond Ma
    - To support the Chan To Haan Pathology Prize for Undergraduate Medical Students, and the Chan To Haan Prize for Research Postgraduate Students in Pathology, Department of Pathology

- **500,000 or above**
  - Institut Pasteur Paris
    - In support of the research and teaching activities undertaken by HKU-Pasteur Research Pole
  - Sweet N Fun Limited
    - In support of “A Platform to Study Pathogenesis & Effective Treatment for MLD & ALD” research project by the Department of Ophthalmology
  - Dr Victor Woo Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences Research Fund
    - In support of the Lens Epithelial Cell (LEC) study by the Department of Ophthalmology
  - Dr Simon Wong Kam-kee
    - In support of the Medical Faculty Springboard Scholarships

- **100,000 or above**
  - Croucher Foundation
    - In support of the 10th Scientific Conference on Cardiovascular Science across the Strait organised by the Institute of Cardiovascular Science and Medicine
  - Dr Fung Ching-fai
    - In support of research activities of the Division of Neurosurgery, Department of Surgery
  - Bayer HealthCare Limited
    - In support of “A Hong Kong-Wide Eye Survey” research project by the Department of Ophthalmology
  - Novartis Pharmaceutical (HK) Limited
    - In support of “A Hong Kong-Wide Eye Survey” research project by the Department of Ophthalmology
Professor Chan Li-chong 陳立昌, who passed away last November, well understood the human side of medicine, not only from the patient’s perspective but also the doctor’s and the student’s – that despite wonderful new developments and technologies, medicine is still about people dealing with difficult situations and the emotions that ensue. He brought that understanding to the classroom and the Faculty as a whole, pioneering the innovative core medical humanities curriculum and forging connections with other disciplines. His efforts have greatly enriched medical education in the Faculty and, ultimately, the practice of medicine in Hong Kong.

Professor Chan was a keen advocate of medical humanities and developed a curriculum that draws on narrative medicine, the creative arts and mindfulness to put students in touch with their own feelings and those of their patients so they can practice humanistic care. He was particularly passionate about the benefits of mindfulness and had a memorable way of nudging colleagues and students to be mindful, too. At the start of meetings and periodically in class, he would gently chime two small cymbals to remind listeners to focus on the present moment.

His commitment to medical humanities was also reflected in his interactions with the rest of the University as the Director of the Faculty’s Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit and as a key member of the Centre for Humanities and Medicine. As example, in April last...
year he brought medical and art educators, bioethicists and museum curators together to discuss how the arts could bring new insights into the design and delivery of healthcare education. He was always seeking such opportunities to cross boundaries of knowledge and understanding for students’ benefit. His expertise and leadership in education were recognised by the University with an individual Outstanding Teacher Award in 2009 and a team award in the same category in 2013.

Education was not Professor Chan’s only forte, though. He was also an accomplished researcher. He came to HKU in 1989 from the UK, where he studied at Cambridge University and King’s College London and did his PhD on the immunophenotyping of leukaemias. He continued to research in that field when he joined the Department of Pathology, developing a mouse model of human leukaemia that was the first in Asia and second in the world to use MLL fusion genes. His PhD students also made important contributions in this field.

Professor Chan’s persistent pursuit of excellence won him praise and respect from colleagues. But he was also very fondly regarded for his compassion and enthusiasm, and his approachability and cheerfulness. He was renowned for his hospitality and his love of music and food, especially his native Malaysian cuisine. The Faculty is deeply grateful for his contributions and his warm, thoughtful spirit, which were celebrated at a memorial service on January 11, 2016. The memorial service was attended by more than 200 university and faculty colleagues, academic collaborators, students and friends. Our deepest condolences are extended to his wife Penny and their children Min-wei and Wen-yen.
With deep sorrow, we mourn the passing of the following Faculty staff, alumni and friends:

Dr Hung Kwan-ngai 洪君毅 (MBBS 1988), Honorary Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Surgery, was a distinguished alumnus of the Faculty and a devoted doctor in neurosurgery.

*Dr Joseph Pan Yin-chi 潘蔭基 (MBBS 1951)

When the war broke out in 1941 Joseph Pan went back to China to join the College of Medicine and Dentistry of West China Union University. He returned to Hong Kong after the war and continued his study in the University of Hong Kong. He graduated MBBS in 1951.

He joined the Department of Medicine as a Clinical Assistant immediately after his graduation. Two years later he obtained a China Medal Board Fellowship to pursue training in cardiology in the USA, under Dr Paul Dudley White, the leading cardiologist of the time. On his return in 1955 he was entrusted with the task to develop cardiology as a subspecialty of medicine by the late Professor A J S McFadzean, then Head of the Department.

When he left the Department of Medicine to go into private practice in 1962, the Lewis Laboratory which he established in the mid-1950s for the investigation of cardiac and respiratory diseases was in full swing and generations of young cardiologists in Hong Kong had received training under his tutelage. He continued to serve the University as Honorary Clinical Lecturer in the Department of Medicine until 1990. He worked closely with the late Sir Q W Lee to select cardiologists for more advanced training in the USA through the sponsorship of the Hong Kong Heart Foundation.

To the medical students he might not have been very popular because he was a serious and demanding teacher who suffered no fools. But they all admitted that he was a good and knowledgeable teacher. To his colleagues in the Department of Medicine he was remembered as a dear and loyal friend.

Dr Pan passed away peacefully at the age of 92 on July 28, 2015.

**Dr Wong Kai-wo 王啟和 (MBBS 1961) was affectionately known as “Ah Wo” in the Class of MBBS 1961. Ah Wo was such a jolly good fellow that he brought joy and laughters wherever he went, even in the most unlikely settings such as before anatomy vivas or Professor McFadzean’s lectures. Later in his years, he continued with his charm while working as a Resident Doctor in the Hong Kong Central Hospital.

Dr Wong Kin-ming 黄建明 (MBBS 1977) was a distinguished alumnus of the Faculty and a devoted doctor who had earned faithful respect from his patients, friends and professional peers for his lifelong dedication to the health of the community and the enhancement of social well-being.

Dr Clyde Wu Ying-chau 胡應洲, Honorary University Fellow, was a long-time supporter of HKU and the Faculty. Dr Wu was born in Hong Kong and, after his secondary school education, left for the United States to study medicine. He became a renowned cardiopulmonary specialist and has devoted his career to medical research in cardiology and in medical education. While his education and career have principally been in the United States, Dr Wu was also a faculty member at the University of Hong Kong’s Department of Medicine from 1961 to 1962, and has been very active in supporting the University’s endeavours. He made immense contributions in promoting medical education and supported greatly for developing programmes and research projects in Hong Kong, Mainland China and the United States.
The Faculty provided media consultancy and assistance to the MBBS students in organising the Health Exhibition 2015 and Health Advocacy Project. These events attracted positive media coverage.

**JULY**


16. New World Group Charity Foundation donates to the Department of Medicine to establish the Medical Oncology Drug Discovery and Development Program. This program will promote drug discovery and development.

23. HKU medical students teach domestic workers the basic life support skills for elderly and bring Emergency Medicine to the community.

30. HKU and Columbia University researchers collaborate and predict the timing and intensity of influenza outbreaks in subtropical climates.

**AUGUST**

10. Top candidates of HKDSE are admitted to HKU MBBS programme. HKU also launches a new book titled "Dissecting the Meaning of Life: An Anthology of Essays on Body Donation".

16. Plague unveiling ceremonies of WHO Collaborating Centre for Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Control and WHO HS Reference Laboratory at HKU. These events attract positive media coverage.

23. HKU medical students teach domestic workers the basic life support skills for elderly and bring Emergency Medicine to the community. This initiative promotes health education and awareness.

24. International collaboration of HKU team finds that selecting genetically supported drug-targets can double the success rate in drug clinical development. This research is significant for pharmaceutical companies.

26. HKU identifies novel DNA changes in patients with Wirsching disease that disrupt the development of the enteric nervous system. This discovery is important for understanding gastrointestinal disorders.

28. HKU and the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute sign the Memorandum of Understanding to train Hong Kong scientists on producing clinical grade "killer T-cell immunotherapies".

**SEPTEMBER**

7. WHO Collaborating Centre for Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Control of HKU hosts lecture on "All you ever wanted to know about Ebola". This lecture addresses critical issues related to Ebola.

16. Visits to the Faculty by The National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference and U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong and Macau. These visits facilitate international collaboration.

29. HKU and international collaborative research teams identify a novel PARP-1 complex that promotes damaged DNA repair. This research is significant for developing new therapies.

30. HKU and Seoul National University College of Medicine sign the Memorandum of Understanding. This cooperation aims to enhance medical education and research collaboration.

**OCTOBER**

20. HKU initiates the first large-scale public cardiac screening for first-time marathon runners to reduce morbidity and mortality of cardiovascular diseases. This initiative promotes healthy lifestyle and community health.

25. HKU School of Public Health hosts the Fifth Hong Kong Public Health Forum on "Extracting Meaning from Data: Cohorts and Deep Analytics" and pays tribute to Professor TH Lam. This event highlights the importance of data analysis in public health.

28. HKU organises a symposium on mental health and addresses issues in youth mental health. This event raises awareness and promotes mental health initiatives.

**NOVEMBER**

7. The Dean meets the press to introduce the “Second Chance” programme. This initiative aims to support individuals who want to change their lives.

10. HKU finds that applying topical imiquimod just before intradermal trivalent influenza vaccine cross-protects against heterologous non-vaccine and antigenically drifted viruses. This research is significant for vaccine development.

12. HKU and PolyU announce the establishment of Respiratory Virus Research Foundation. This foundation aims to advance research on respiratory viruses.

21. HKU hosts The 19th Annual Scientific Meeting of The Institute of Cardiovascular Science and Medicine, in conjunction with The 10th Across the Strait Scientific Conference on Cardiovascular Science. This conference is a significant event for cardiovascular scientists.

28. HKU organises an international symposium on mental health and addresses issues in youth mental health. This symposium promotes mental health initiatives and awareness.
FEB

Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) Student Course
February 18 – 20, 2016
Surgical Skills Centre, Department of Surgery, Laboratory Block, 21 Sassoon Road, Pokfulam
Information
Course Administrator, Surgical Skills Centre, Department of Surgery
+852 3917 9691 / +852 3917 9692
hkussc@hku.hk
www.surgery.hku.hk/atls.php

Hybrid PET-Imaging Symposium and Workshops 2016
March 25 – 27, 2016
Information
William MW Mong Block, 21 Sassoon Road, Pokfulam
www.diaradio.hku.hk/pet2016

Brain, Hormone & Healthy Aging
Ms Phoebe Chow, Research Centre of Heart, Information
20 Nathan Road
Sheraton Hong Kong Hotel & Towers,
March 12 – 13, 2016
Healthy Aging
11th International Symposium on
Geriatrics
February 27 – 28, 2016
Lecture Theatre 1, Cheung Kung Hai Conference Centre, William MW Mong Block, 21 Sassoon Road, Pokfulam
Information
Administrative Assistant, Department of Medicine
+852 2255 4607 +852 2816 2863
medinfo@hku.hk
www.medic.hku.hk/postdip_certcourse.htm

APR

Digby Memorial Lecture 2016
April 8, 2016
Underground Lecture Theatre, New Clinical Building, Queen Mary Hospital, Pokfulam
Information
Secretariat, 2/F, Professorial Block, Queen Mary Hospital, Pokfulam
+852 2255 4905 / +852 2255 4992
www.dml.surgery@hku.hk
www.surgery.hku.hk

Hong Kong Surgical Forum - Spring 2016
April 9, 2016
Lecture Theatre, Cheung Kung Hai Conference Centre, William MW Mong Block, 21 Sassoon Road, Pokfulam
Information
Forum Secretary, Hong Kong Surgical Forum, Department of Surgery, Queen Mary Hospital, Pokfulam
+852 3917 9691 / +852 3917 9692
hkcf@hku.hk
www.surgery.hku.hk/forum.php

Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) Student Course
April 14 – 16, 2016
April 27 – 29, 2016
Surgical Skills Centre, Department of Surgery, Laboratory Block, 21 Sassoon Road, Pokfulam
Information
Course Administrator, Surgical Skills Centre, Department of Surgery
+852 3917 9691 / +852 3917 9692
hkussc@hku.hk
www.surgery.hku.hk/atls.php

The 13th Hong Kong International Orthopaedics Forum
April 23 – 24, 2016
Cheung Kung Hai Conference Centre, William MW Mong Block, 21 Sassoon Road, Pokfulam
Information
Ms YN Chang
+852 2255 4257 +852 2817 4392
ychang@hku.hk

MAY

Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) Student Course
May 5 – 7, 2016
Surgical Skills Centre, Department of Surgery, Laboratory Block, 21 Sassoon Road, Pokfulam
Information
Course Administrator, Surgical Skills Centre, Department of Surgery
+852 3917 9691 / +852 3917 9692
hkussc@hku.hk
www.surgery.hku.hk/atls.php

21st Hong Kong Medical Forum
May 7 – 8, 2016
Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre, 1 Expo Drive, Wan chai
Information
Administrative Assistant, Department of Medicine
+852 2255 4607 +852 2816 2863
medinfo@hku.hk
www.bridgingbiomedicalworlds.com/

Update Certificate Course in Cardiology
May 28 – 29, 2016
Lecture Theatre 1, Cheung Kung Hai Conference Centre, William MW Mong Block, 21 Sassoon Road, Pokfulam
Information
Administrative Assistant, Department of Medicine
+852 2255 4607 +852 2816 2863
medinfo@hku.hk
www.medic.hku.hk/postdip_certcourse.htm