Dean's Message
from Professor Rosie Young

Message to HKU Medical Faculty
from Professor Rosie Young

Exciting News
The Grand Opening of Faculty of Medicine Building

Feature
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

A bulletin to keep alumni and friends in touch and up to date.
The Department of Orthopaedic Surgery was created in 1961. It was born of necessity, at the time when diseases and injuries of the musculoskeletal system had grown to such a proportion that management of such problems could not be effectively dealt with within a department of general surgery. Its establishment was also spearheaded by the international recognition of the pioneering work on tuberculosis of the spine in the second half of the 1950’s.

Prior to the establishment of the Department, an Orthopaedic and Trauma Unit had already been formed in 1951 in the Department of Surgery. Dr AR Hodgson from the United Kingdom was recruited to start the Unit and when he arrived in Hong Kong in September 1951, he was joined by Dr Harry SY Fang (later Professor Sir Harry SY Fang). Dr SF Lam was the clinical assistant.

Professor Hodgson was subsequently appointed to the Foundation Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery in 1961. His supporting staff consisted of Dr Harry Fang and Dr A Brodetti, an Italian surgeon who later became a professor in Naples. The Department was initially housed in tiny premises on Eastern Street in the Sai Ying Pun District below the main University campus. Within Queen Mary Hospital, there were literally two small rooms provided, one for the professor, and the other for the rest of the staff, near the present Accident & Emergency Department. The provision of decent, although still limited, planned space for the clinical departments of the University of Hong Kong took place in 1967 with the completion of the Professorial Block in Queen Mary Hospital. The Department moved into its premises on the 5th floor, and for the first time there was space not only for the holder of the Chair, and two or three teachers, but also for a research laboratory. Professor Hodgson recognized the importance of comprehensive visual documentation in clinical research, and started the first audio visual laboratory in the Faculty of Medicine.

Professor AR Hodgson was Head of Department from 1961 to 1975. This period saw major consolidation and expansion of the activities of the Department. The limited number of beds in two wards, called "Pott" and "Bright" wards were always fully occupied with patients with acute trauma and infections. Many other musculoskeletal problems, such as congenital deformities, inflammatory and degenerative disorders, and even tumours needed a long waiting period for admission. Because of the nature of children’s orthopaedics at that time, many required a prolonged hospital stay, and could not be accommodated at Queen Mary Hospital. Professor Hodgson was able to harness the support and enthusiasm of a group of philanthropists, and thereby convince the Hong Kong Government to provide funding for converting the Sandy Bay Convalescent Home for Crippled Children, to a full-fledged children’s orthopaedic hospital in 1968. This was subsequently named as the Duchess of Kent Children’s Orthopaedic Hospital. This hospital, under the dedicated and enthusiastic support of the missionary Columban sisters, grew in international fame because of the quality of the clinical research and patient-care services there. The clinical records were all typed, and x-rays kept permanently, enabling excellent quality long term studies. As a result, four overseas doctors come for 6 months of formal training every year, and now numbers over 150. They come from all five continents, including developed countries such as North America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

As far as research was concerned, there were mainly clinical studies and innovations, as well as applied biomechanical research. Many of the clinical innovations have been adopted worldwide lasting to the present. Applied biomechanical research was only possible through personal cooperation with members of the Faculty of Engineering, as there were no such luxuries as research grants and research personnel in those days. Other important contributors to the development of the Department, who have since left the Department, included Drs YS Tsao, KP Chan, Louis Hsu locally; Dr Allen Murly from Cambridge, Professor Robert Duthie from Oxford, and Dr Franklin Hoaglund from USA.

Professor Arthur Yau became Head of Department from 1975 to 1980. Many of the very complicated surgical techniques for spinal surgery were either developed during this period, or were initiated then. The Department had gradually grown in size, and a decision was made to divide it into 2 teams for clinical care purposes. Some headway was made towards developing basic research. Hand surgery was recognized by the Faculty to be an important area of postgraduate training and research, and funding was made available to establish a senior lectureship. Dr SP Chow (later Professor) was appointed to that post. The complete reorganization of the hand surgery service, with its very important concomitant rehabilitation components of physiotherapy and occupational therapy, was achieved.

CLINICAL SERVICE

Currently the academic Department of Orthopaedic Surgery has: 9 academic staff (3 chair professors, 4 associate professors, and 2 assistant professors); 16 research and technical staff; 5 administrative and secretarial staff; 13 research postgraduate students; and 8 overseas fellows on a 6-month formal training program. Hospital Authority medical staff include: 3 consultants, 5 associate consultants/senior medical officers, and 19 medical officers. The Department is organized into 3 teams, A, B and C. Team A deals with hand, microvascular, foot and ankle and complicated trauma problems. Team B deals with sports injury, joint replacement surgery and tumour problems. Team C deals with spinal disorders and children’s orthopaedics problems. Within the team structure, the following formal divisions have been established:

- Hand & Foot Surgery
- Joint Replacement Surgery
- Paediatric Orthopaedics
- Sports & Arthroscopic Surgery
- Spinal Surgery
The Department has a very well developed clinical service, covering all the major subspecialities in orthopaedics and traumatology. Several of the divisions provide tertiary and quaternary treatment for patients coming from all parts of Hong Kong. The international recognition of its standard of clinical training and service is reflected by the continuous demand for fellowships in the Department providing formal training for six months to a year of overseas doctors from all over the world.

Recently with funding donated by the D.H. Chen Foundation, a Centre for Paraplegic Walking has been established. It is the only one in Hong Kong. Using a reciprocating gait orthosis (RGO) and functional electrical stimulation (FES), completely paraplegic patients are trained to walk on their own for a useful distance.

TEACHING

The decision of the Faculty of Medicine to go full steam ahead with problem-based learning as the model for undergraduate teaching meant a tremendous increase in teaching time and commitment. It would not have been possible, with a complement of only 9 full time academic staff, without the help and dedicated commitment of honorary clinical teachers, both within and without Queen Mary Hospital. Much of the teaching has to be re-engineered in terms of process and format and to some extent delivery. The launching of this new program in the Department required many hours of planning and debate. Dr Peter KY Chiu was the main architect of this new program, and other coordinators have been appointed for each phase. Dr D Yip coordinates Year 2 (Musculoskeletal System); Dr WY Ip coordinates Year 3 (Integrated Block and Phase I Block C - Tumor and Infection); Dr K Cheung coordinates Year 4 (Phase II Block B - Surgery and Block C - Rehabilitation); Dr KY Chiu coordinates Year 4, 5 (Phase III); Dr WM Tang coordinates Year 5 (Phase IV onwards). There are 51 honorary clinical teachers.

Postgraduate teaching continues to be done vigorously, with different modes of teaching sessions at the team level, as well as two clinical case conferences for the whole Department every week. A monthly Morbidity and Mortality meeting also adds to the strength of clinical case conferences for the whole Department every week. A different modes of teaching sessions at the team level, as well as two clinical teachers. Tang coordinates Year 5 (Phase IV onwards). There are 51 honorary clinical teachers.

We also contribute to undergraduate teaching in B.D.S., B. Nursing, and to teach courses in M. Med. Sc. and M.Phil.

RESEARCH

All academic staff, and many of the Hospital Authority medical staff are engaged actively in research. Up to date facilities are provided by the following laboratories:

a) Histopathology Laboratory;

b) Laboratory for Experimental Microvascular Surgery;

c) Materials Testing Laboratory, housing a MTS and Instron machine;

d) Motion Analysis Laboratory housing a Vicon and an Elite system;

e) General Biomechanics Laboratory; and

f) Laboratory for Pulmonary Function Analysis, to determine pre and post-operative pulmonary function in scoliotics.

With the opening of the Faculty of Medicine Building, an additional 350m2 of space are provided for new laboratories, e.g. (i) a Surgical Skills Laboratory (ii) a Molecular Biology Laboratory (iii) a Laboratory for Imaging of Musculoskeletal Tissues, etc.

As far as funding is concerned, an excellent track result of obtaining Croucher Foundation, RGC, and CRCG Grants are recorded. The Department also strives hard to obtain funding external to the University, and has been successful with the Association of Osteosynthesis (AO) based in Switzerland, and setting up of a Joint Research Company (Hantak) with funding contributed by the Hang Lung Group.

Clinical Research

As a hallmark of an internationally recognized strong clinical department, clinical research remains one of the priorities. The main thrusts are in the areas of spinal disorders, reconstructive microvascular techniques, children’s orthopaedics, arthroplasty, and sports injuries.

Basic Research

a) Biomechanics

The main thrusts are in the study of the spine, the knee joint and the hand; and the analysis and development of systems for spinal fixation and finger fracture fixation.

b) Electrophysiology

Spinal cord monitoring, development of novel functional electrical stimulation (FES) systems for paraplegics to enable them to walk.

c) Biomedical

Elucidation of the role of the pineal gland in the aetiology of scoliosis, use of transgenic mouse models to investigate the molecular basis of bone repair and formation, study of genetic mutations in idiopathic scoliosis and degenerative disc diseases.

A Departmental Postgraduate Research Committee is under the Chairmanship of Dr William Lu, a bioengineer. This ensures that supervision of higher degree students is of good quality, and opportunities are organised so that research postgraduate students have ample opportunity to interact with each other (see below).

The Chairman of the Departmental Postgraduate Research Committee runs an informal research meeting every week for two hours, with required attendance by all higher degree students, and relevant supervisors. There is a yearly Department Research Day with formal presentations by everyone who is actively doing research in the Department.

Senior academic staff have been invited to sit on the editorial boards of many major international orthopaedic journals.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Senior staff serve as Chairman or Members of Advisory or Executive Committees of the Hong Kong SAR Government, non-Governmental Organisations, regional and global learned societies, both within the field of orthopaedics and traumatology as well as non-medical fields.
Dean's Message

By popular request, my speech delivered at the Grand Opening ceremony of Faculty of Medicine Building on April 29, 2002 is publicized herewith:

One hundred years ago (and it might even be to this date and hour because right now is the best hour of the day, and today is one of the best days of the Year of the Horse - so says the Tung Sing!), Max Planck, a Nobel laureate, discovered quantum - a packet of heat energy that radiates and jumps. Indeed, this new building is a quantum jump in pride, image and energy for Hong Kong. Hong Kong now has a building where we can hear the echoes of our past, sense the greatness of our present, and draw strength for our future.

This project has taken 3 deans (I’m just the lucky 4th to move in and give a speech), 3 VCs, 3 UGC chairmen to formulate (including Dr Alice Lam; thank you Dr Lam), a visionary Mrs Anson Chan to kick off (thank you Mrs Chan for your leadership), a heap of support from the benevolent HK Jockey Club (thank you Mr Li) and a good crowd of generous donors mostly alumni to finish (thank you friends), and one astute biochemist, Professor Vivian Chan and her team of architects, builders and Estate officers to materialize. Professor Chan please stand, and thank you. She was given the portfolio to build. It shows you that a system of accountability, something like Mr Tung’s ministerial system, really works. Thank you Mr Tung for gracing us with your presence.

For 115 years, this medical school has been a place where tradition thrives alongside the most revolutionary of ideas. We continue to produce the highest number of international research papers; last year it was 5.4 papers per staff, which is way above any other institution in Hong Kong. We continue to have the greatest number of local teachers regarded as the top 1% in the world; in fact there are 21 of us in this room. We did this with the smallest amount of physical space in any medical school that I know of. You won’t believe it: up till yesterday, my research assistant’s desk was the cover of a microscope. You can understand how good we feel to be decompressed with this new space.

Where do we go from here? We have set a target to become one of the world’s top 20 medical schools in 5 years and top 10 in 10 years. We know that Dr Victor Fung and his Council want HKU to be in the top 25. I guess a top-20 medical school will help to offset the more gentle side of HKU.

This medical school has reformed itself in governance. We have now an appointed dean system and a corporate structure, and we have zoned our 17 or 18 departments into 3 generic groups of Medical, Surgical and Health Sciences. This will make the school more accountable, more strategic, and more responsive to the needs of the community. Yes, we will stop the waste and start the worth.

We have built a new medical curriculum on the principle of teaching the students to learn through discovery, thereby arming them with a lifelong technique of learning. The curriculum is tailored-made for Asians with their special culture, history, and values. Five years on, it has become a benchmark for Asia. Tsinghua U, e.g., has signed an agreement with us to help them build their brand new international medical school.

We envision that following the breakthroughs in human and microbial genome technologies, the 21st century will be a biomedical century. We have re-positioned ourselves to capture this world movement, as well as the Chief Executive’s R & D direction, towards a biomedical century, and help lead the way for our country. HKU has committed to establish a Human Genome Research Centre in this building, and we have literally hundreds of projects in this direction, to the extent that we have been able to attract Dr Tsui Lap-chee to be the director, as well as Mr Tung's blessing to press ahead.

The Pasteur Institute of France, which has 6 Nobel-prize winners and discovered hepatitis B vaccine and the AIDS virus, looked for a research partner in this region and eventually picked HKU; and with the leadership of Dr James Kung and the patronage of Mrs Betty Tung, we have founded The HKU-Pasteur Research Centre, right alongside the most revolutionary of ideas.

We also envision that medicine that works is medicine, irrespective of whether it’s western, Chinese or alternative medicine. This is the only medical school that I know of that has established a School of Chinese Medicine inside it. We have obtained approval in principle from UGC to turn the old Li Shu Fan site to a Human Research Institute for the study of Complementary and Alternative Medicine, using the most advanced fundamental and modern methods to, really, MAKE MEDICINE WHOLE AGAIN. Hong Kong, where east meets west, and with its expertise in the higher institutions agreeing to come under one roof, is clearly the best and most powerful place to do this.

In the pursuit of our vision, we seriously believe that we will churn out new scientists, new discoveries, new drugs, new patents, new spin-off companies, new industries, new jobs, but importantly a new holistic medicine to serve mankind.

A medicine that will give youth to your body, a spring to your steps, a delight to your gut, a spirit to your liver, a stream to your kidneys, love to your genitals, strength to your breath, life to your mind, a glow to your eyes, crispness to your ears, a smile to your lips, and a song to your heart.

115 years ago, HK invested on us, and established this medical school; at that time life expectancy was 26 years, today it is 80. Whether you are in the private or public service, work with us, invest on us; we guarantee that we will turn all of you into centenarians.

For this medical school and this university, every dawn is a new beginning, and every sunset is a round of applause. We have never become, because we are always in the process of becoming. We will do everything we can to make Hong Kong a world-class city - a shining city on the hill.

To summarize, may I show off 2 lines of Chinese verse, for which Professor Peter Fung, a physicist, has given me lots of help. I call this a three step matching verse.

Translation:
A pride of the nation, A hymn of care, A torch of virtues,
This school stands tall as a shining city of medicine.
A peer of the world, A book of life, A hall of wisdom,
This university braves strong as a revolutionary of science."
7th Medical Research Conference
26 - 27 January 2002

The 7th Medical Research Conference of the Department of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong, was held on 26-27 January 2002 at the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Jockey Club Building. Professor CF Lee (李 dừng), Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), officiated the opening of this year’s conference. The plenary lectures included “Long-term beneficial effect of adrenergic receptor blockers - evidence provided by 3D structure analysis of proteins AQP3 and AQP7 which transport glycerol” by Professor PCW Fung (馮顯雲) (HKU), “Applications of biochip technology in gene expression profiling and protein-protein interaction analysis” by Dr M Yang (杨市), and “Chemical and molecular genetic analysis of Radix Astragali (Huangqi) in China” by Dr KWK Tsim (韩家升) (HKUST). In addition, there were 5 scientific sessions, with 18 oral presentations and 40 poster presentations. The conference provided the opportunity for researchers and post-graduate students to exchange ideas and to present their work. A selection panel reviewed the submitted abstracts, and those selected for presentation were published in a supplement issue of The Hong Kong Practitioner. Young Investigators Awards were presented to those with outstanding performance in the abstract, oral presentation or poster presentation. This yearly event has established itself as an important forum for the promotion of research culture and collaboration.

HGM 2002 Satellite Symposium: Genomic Approaches to Human Diseases

A one-day satellite symposium entitled “Genomic Approaches to Human Diseases” was held on April 12, 2002 in Renaissance Harbour View Hotel as a prelude to the Seventh International Human Genome Meeting, HGM2002 in Shanghai. The Symposium, which was co-organized by the Genome Research Centre of The University of Hong Kong, was funded by the Innovation and Technology Commission. The symposium aimed to enable researchers, students, biotech companies and the public in Hong Kong to learn the latest advances in Genomics and its implications for the research in understanding diseases that are prevalent in the region. Eight prominent speakers of the HGM2002 were invited to share the exciting findings of their research. Mrs Sarah Kwok (郭映霞), Deputy Commissioner for Innovation and Technology was the guest-of-honour for the opening ceremony and the symposium was well attended by more than 200 participants.

Opening Ceremony of Fan Pui Garden

The opening ceremony of Fan Pui Garden, which encompasses 10,000 square feet and is located at the heart of the Faculty of Medicine Building, was held on January 29, 2002 to commemorate the generous support of the Li Shu Fan Medical Foundation for its generosity in providing the environment for the exchange of idea in the new age of biomedical science in the form of a Chinese lyric. The opening ceremony was concluded with a Garden Party and guests enjoyed lunch in the beautiful scenery of the Garden.

Book Passing Event and Opening Ceremony of Yu Chun Keung Medical Library

The Lee Hysan Medical Library was relocated and renamed the new Yu Chun Keung Medical Library on January 5, 2002 and an official opening ceremony was held on April 10, 2002, in memory of the late Mr Yu Chun Keung (余振強) and in recognition of the generous donation of Yu Chun Keung Charitable Trust Fund to the Faculty.

A Book Passing Event, which signified the moving of the Medical Library into a new age of information technology, was organized by the Medical Library and Faculty of Medicine on January 5, 2002. A human chain comprising medical and nursing students, faculty staff and library staff was formed along Sassoon Road to pass the World Health Organization Collection, the last batch of library collection to their home in the new medical complex.

The official opening on April 10, 2002, which was officiated by Professor WIR Davies (戴置安), Professor SK Lam (林兆霖), Mr KC Yu (余啟強), Dr CC Yu (余志超), Mr Lawrence Tam (谭家廉), Deputy Librarian and Ms Julia Chan (陳麗莉), Medical Librarian marked the new era of computerization in medical education. The new Yu Chun Keung Medical Library encompasses a floor area of 2,850 square metres and is designed as a state-of-the-art facility with sophisticated information technology to provide a virtual learning environment conducive to study and research. The Knowledge Navigation Centre is equipped with computers, multimedia workstations, scanners, software packages for learning, class presentation and digital publishing. About 40 networked computers are available for access to online catalogues, local databases and health sciences resources worldwide. There is also a Computer Assisted Learning Laboratory with an additional 45 computers and necessary software for large group presentations and seminars. In addition to network nodes, the Library has installed wireless LAN for a ‘Network-Access-Everywhere’ environment.
Having been a member of the Medical Faculty since my student days over five decades ago, I am honored and delighted to be asked to write a message for the Medical Faculty Newsletter.

History is sometimes branded as a baggage. Tradition and historical practice are often considered a hindrance to change. This is certainly not the case with our Medical Faculty. Founded in 1887 as the Hong Kong College of Medicine for the Chinese, the Medical Faculty became one of the two founding faculties of the University of Hong Kong in 1911. It has survived two world wars including the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong when the physical structure of the University was almost totally destroyed. It has lived through numerous financial crises in the past 115 years. Yet the Faculty has not only overcome these financial, social and political hurdles successfully, it has expanded tremendously in terms of scope and function. Also it has greatly enhanced its status and reputation in the world of academia. The mission of the Hong Kong College of Medicine was to train Chinese doctors practising western medicine to serve Hong Kong, China and the region. The present version of the Faculty’s mission is ‘to provide an environment conducive to the advancement of learning, teaching and research in the art and science of medicine and health; to promote its practical application through the promotion of health and provision of patient care, and in doing so, to benefit and serve Hong Kong, the rest of China and the international community’. Needless to say the mission statement today is much more lengthy and elaborate. But this is more than playing with words. While upholding the principal spirit of the original mission, it truly reflects how the Faculty has evolved and developed and how it has changed with time to meet the challenges in the 21st century.

The greatest asset of any organisation lies in its people. In the case of a university they are the staff, students and graduates. Their performance, achievements or failures will enhance or damage its reputation. Having worked in a clinical department for many years, I wish to share with you the experience of a clinical teacher. I think this is particularly relevant now when a group of doctors have voiced a strong protest against the long working hours and dissatisfaction of working in public hospitals. The path of a medical graduate aspiring to an academic career is long and arduous. Depending on the specialty you choose, it takes more than six years of training after internship to acquire the status of a specialist. It requires the same training and more to obtain promotion from lectureship to senior lectureship. Competition for such promotion has always been keen.

The three primary functions of a clinical teacher are clinical service, teaching and research.

Clinical service

I have put clinical service first because a clinical teacher has to spend at least 60% of his time on patient care and the remaining 40% or less is shared equally between teaching and research. A survey conducted several years ago showed that clinical teachers worked unusually long hours (about 60 hours per week) and had to be on duty in the evenings and at weekends. He or she might also be discouraged by the poor physical environment in overcrowded wards or the long queues at the outpatient clinics. Despite these frustrations, often there is satisfaction in witnessing the satisfactory progress of a patient’s condition and the realization that in a clinical department patient care is inseparable from teaching, training and research.

Teaching

The undergraduate curriculum in medicine is heavy and demanding. Most medical schools are moving away from didactic lectures to seminars and small group teaching. This also applies to our faculty which adopted ‘Problem Based Learning’ about 5 years ago. Judging from the candidates who presented themselves for the final examination in medicine this year I think that the new curriculum is better than the old in several aspects. The candidates are better at communication, more ready to discuss and argue, more capable of thinking and analysing problems and more versed on ethical issues. The new curriculum is naturally more labor intensive for the teachers. The introduction of computer aided learning is a great help but cannot completely replace the interaction between the teacher and student. Medicine is both an art and a science, although the progress in medical research and the explosion of medical knowledge in recent years has made it more of a science than an art. The clinical teacher’s attitude towards patients sets an example to students.
Research

All clinical teachers are encouraged to do research. In fact, research achievement is the most important criterion in the University's assessment for promotion to senior positions. Performance in clinical service and excellence in teaching are also taken into account in the promotion exercise, but they are more difficult to quantify and assess objectively.

In addition to the above three primary functions, senior clinical teachers have to take part in administration within the department, the Faculty and the University. As an honorary consultant within the Hospital Authority system a teacher is often obliged to share administrative duties with counterparts in the Hospital Authority. I fully sympathise with my colleagues who complain of long working hours and the sacrifice they make in the fulfillment of their personal or family life. Fortunately, the remuneration of a clinical teacher in Hong Kong is attractive and the University has provision for annual leave or study leave to enable the individual to recharge his or her batteries or upgrade clinical and/or research skills. As human beings we need these tangible incentives to spur us along. But we must not forget that when we first joined the medical school as a student we were not looking for a comfortable life. We were young and idealistic, searching for the fulfillment of personal aspirations and ideals.

Over the years the Faculty has been changing and changing for the better. The academic quality of our student intake is among the best in Hong Kong. We recruit internationally for the best and most suitable teachers to our faculty. Our new curriculum is at the forefront of medical education. The Faculty of Medicine Building provides our students and teachers with modern facilities for teaching and learning. It also houses well equipped laboratories for basic and clinical research. 'Growing with Hong Kong: The University and its Graduates', a publication by the University to celebrate its 90th anniversary gives a succinct account of our graduates' achievements and contribution to Hong Kong in a wide range of spheres, including clinical service, research, administration and public service. In medical research, our graduates have also left their mark beyond Hong Kong.

Though we may be happy with the Faculty's achievements thus far, there is no room for complacency. We are aware that the environment is always changing and competition is increasingly fierce. Our competitors are global. To maintain our prestigious position in the world, we need constant vigilance and untiring efforts. There are several areas that I think we should improve in and do better.

Firstly, the main objective of a medical school is to produce competent doctors to serve the public. At the same time, we must not lose sight of the fact that the faculty should also be the training ground for those who have the aptitude and potential to pursue a career in basic or clinical research. Students should cultivate an enquiring mind and interest in research very early in their undergraduate days and be given opportunities to reinforce these qualities throughout their stay in the university. Secondly, nowadays research is seldom the work of a single individual. Thus, there should be much more stress on collaborative research among teachers. This applies to collaboration between teachers in the same department, different departments and different faculties within the university and even other universities and institutions in our own locality and abroad. Thirdly, we need to be better informed about our physical, social, political and cultural environment. We need to know or even anticipate what our contemporaries are doing and we must be ahead of them and do better. We must formulate our long-term vision and have our dreams even though some dreams may appear unattainable in the foreseeable future.

Our medical faculty should aim at being one of the best or at least one of the most highly ranked in the world. We should not settle for less. We should set an enviable example for other medical schools. Our graduates are not only leaders in the profession but also role models in every field, be it Family Medicine or other specialties. They exemplify the best medical practice in terms of clinical competence, compassion, ethics and personal integrity. Our research should be at the cutting edge of medical science and contribute significantly towards our understanding of the human body and its function in health and disease. In the past 115 years, we have not yet produced a Nobel Laureate. But we certainly hope to produce one or more in this century. Such achievements will need the total dedication and commitment of our staff and students, as well as an innovative and cohesive environment. The long history of the medical faculty is not our burden. On the contrary, our success in the past is the foundation on which we can build our future. It also spurs us on and demands that we make extra effort to safeguard our supremacy. On the occasion of the inauguration of the Faculty of Medicine Building we should all reflect on the past and plan for the future.

The alumni take pride in the achievements of the Faculty and hope to play an even more active role in its future development. 🌟
Grand Opening of Faculty of Medicine Building

After 5-year of construction, the Faculty of Medicine Building finally stood up as the new landmark of Sassoon Road. To commemorate this historic episode of its grand opening, that signified that the Medical Faculty had entered a new age of biomedical science, a series of celebrations were organized.

The Grand Opening Ceremony

More than 600 distinguished guests, supporters of the building project, alumni, staff and students joined the ceremony which started with the exceptional drumming performance by a group of young musicians. This was followed by a choir performance by alumni and students and the ceremony was honoured by the addresses from the Honorable CH Tung, Professor KM Cheng and Professor SK Lam. Representatives of donors, supporters of the building project, benefactors and friends of the Faculty joined the officiating guests in the Lighting Ceremony and the toast. At the end of the ceremony, all guests were invited to a garden party and a guided tour of the Faculty of Medicine Building.

Symposium in Medical Sciences
21st Century Health Care in Hong Kong: A New Era

The Inaugural Symposium in Medical Sciences - "21st Century Health Care in Hong Kong: A New Era" in celebration of the Grand Opening of the Faculty of Medicine Building was held on June 1-2, 2002.

The opening ceremony was officiated by Professor WIR Davies (戴德威), Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong and Professor SK Lam. The ceremony was honoured to have Mr Thomas Yiu (姚振生), Deputy Secretary for Health and Welfare of the Health and Welfare Bureau, Dr PY Lam (林榮鴻), Acting Director of the Department of Health, Dr William SW Ho (何兆鴻), Chief Executive of the Hospital Authority, Presidents of Colleges and Academy of Medicine, and the Co-Chairmen of the Organizing Committee to join the ribbon cutting ceremony. At the end of the ceremony, Professor ST Fan (范上達) delivered the first state-of-the-art lecture entitled "Development of Live Donor Liver Transplantation".

The Symposium was a great success. More than 40 distinguished experts in respective specialties of the Faculty of Medicine highlighted the recent advances in a range of topics that were chosen to represent the increasing complexity and diversity of health care in Hong Kong. The symposium was attended by over 600 participants who had the opportunity to join a guided tour of the Faculty of Medicine Building as well.
Following the inaugural symposium, a Faculty Banquet for Grand Opening and Reunion was held on June 6, 2002 at the Grand Ballroom of the Grand Hyatt Hotel, as the finale of a series of celebrations to commemorate this event. The dinner was well attended, with over 500 medical alumni and friends of the Faculty joining to celebrate the auspicious occasion. The programme began with a welcoming speech delivered by Professor SK Lam, Dean of Faculty of Medicine, followed by an address of Professor RTT Young (楊宗聲), the President of the University of Hong Kong Medical Alumni Association to solicitate alumni’s support to the alma mater. Mrs Fanny Law (羅欽樺), Secretary for Education and Manpower, who was the guest-of-honour, delivered her address to congratulate the opening of the new complex that signified the gateway to a new era in the biomedical century. Our distinguished alumnus Dr David Fang (方津生) and MBBS students Mr Axel Hsu (徐成智), Mr Fan Hoi (范海) and Mr Martin Tong (唐錦威) charmed the participants with their outstanding singing and musical performance at the Banquet and brought the evening to a climax. The Banquet was undoubtedly a golden opportunity for all alumni to recall their old memories and to keep up with old and new friends. It was a huge success enjoyed by everyone.

Student’s Column - Book Passing Event by David Lung, MBBS III

Time flies. It is already my third year here in the Hong Kong University medical school. The Faculty always organizes many activities for students from different years so that they can get to work with and know more about one another. On the other hand, most medical students are constantly obsessed with their books and stethoscopes. Understandably, the result is that most of those involved in these activities are year one students. This has always been true until the "headquarters" had to move.

The Lee Hysan Medical Library, where I have spent countless hours in the past 3 years, was moved to the New Medical Complex over the past few months. To round off this historical project, the Faculty has organized a human chain book-passing event on January 5, 2002. Medical and nursing students, together with staff of the Faculty, were invited to pass the last batch of books from the old site to the new one. This was a significant event to us because it had been like losing a home since the old library closed in December. We had had difficulty in looking for other places to study, and QMH library was one of our few choices. But then, we could not chat there nor leave our stuff behind while having a long lunch in K2 just like what we did at Bayview. We also lost a good place to chill in during free periods. For these reasons we had been looking forward to the grand opening of this new library and we were all excited that it was eventually ready for use.

It has never occurred to me that recruiting helpers among us would yield so much response. It was encouraging to see not only the first-year, but that second-, third- and fourth-year students have also turned up to this book-passing event. Finally, the human chain was formed, with students lining up along Sassoon Road neatly after the short rehearsal. One thing you might not notice was that the students were all wearing their own class jacket, representing students from all 5 years - different classes have come together, forming one of the most time-renowned faculties in Hong Kong. On top of this, alumni who used to studied in the Lee Hysan (the 'New Library' in their medical student years) have also attended this memorable event, making it not only an event for the medical students in the 21st century, but for all medical students from the past and the present alike.

As the last book was placed onto the shelf, it signified the birth of the new library!
Professor SK Lam, Dean of Faculty of Medicine, for being conferred the Bockus Medal in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the advances of gastroenterology in research, education and clinical practice when he gave the plenary Henry Bockus Lecture at the 12th World Congress of Gastroenterology held in February 2002. The Lecture and Medal represents the highest honour given to a gastroenterologist, on the occasion of the World Congress held every four years and Professor Lam’s lecture was entitled “Cellular and Molecular Basis, Biological Markers, and Chemotherapeutic Interventions for the Prevention of Gastric Cancer.”

“How did I feel? Well, it was the kind of feeling that I had at the age of 15 when I climbed to the top of Tai Mo Shan - that indescribable sense of achievement which follows the ultimate conquer of hardship. The only difference was I planted this time the HKU flag on the summit.

To be respected by the world as its worthy clinician, teacher and scientist, and to be on the same stage where the great names of gastroenterology had been - that was the finest hour of my career. I put in, as I should have, hours and hours into the lecture design and it was very rewarding to have received afterwards runs and runs of request to turn the lecture into print.

Yes, as individuals many of us in the Faculty have in the past 115 years climbed to the summit of our field, but together this school of ours will one day plant its flag on the Everest of medicine.”

Professor Al Hedley, Chair of Community Medicine, for being re-appointed as Member of Health Services Research Committee, for the period of March 1, 2002 to February 28, 2003.

Professor Louis CK Low, for being appointed the Guest Professor of Tongji Medical College of Huazhong University of Science and Technology.

Professor Tang Siu-wa, for being appointed as Head of Department of Psychiatry, for the period May 1, 2002 to April 30, 2005.

Professor Yuen Kwok-yung, for being appointed as Head of Department of Microbiology, for the period of July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2005.

Dr Sophia SC Chan, for being appointed as Head of Department of Nursing Studies, with immediate effect until June 30, 2005.

Dr Jin Dong-yen, for being appointed as Assistant Professor in the Department of Biochemistry.

Dr Leung Suet-yi, for being promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Pathology.

Dr Kenneth WT Tsang, for being promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine.

Dr Benjamin CY Wong, for being promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Physiology, for the period May 1, 2002 to April 30, 2005.

Professor Cho Chi-hin, Chair of Pharmacology, for being awarded the 2001-2002 Outstanding Researcher Award of the University.

Professor Lam Tai-hing, Head of Department of Community Medicine, for being awarded the 2001-2002 Outstanding Researcher Award of the University.

Dr Karmin O, Associate Professor of the Department of Pharmacology for being awarded the Outstanding Research Student Supervisor Award of the University.

Professor Wong Tak-ming, Head of Department of Physiology, for being awarded the Outstanding Research Student Supervisor Award of the University.

Professor A Danchin, Scientific Director of HKU-Pasteur Research Centre, for being granted a total sum of HK$14,944,090 by the Innovation and Technology Commission in support of the project entitled “From Gene Regulation to Gene Function: Bioinformatics Sustainable Programme and Portability”.

Dr CL Lin, Assistant Professor of the Department of Surgery, for being granted a total sum of not more than $3,133,000 by the Innovation and Technology Commission in support of the project entitled “Discovery and Clinical Evaluation of Novel Immunogenic Peptides for Immunotherapy of Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma.”

Congratulations to......

Donations

Mr Simon KY Lee has donated a sum of HK$1,500,000 for Seminar Room 7 in the Faculty of Medicine Building.

Mrs M Nash Leong Che Chee, in memory of the late Dr Leong Kam Leng, has donated a sum of HK$1,500,000 for Seminar Room 6 in the Faculty of Medicine Building.

Professor Rosie TT Young has donated a sum of HK$1,500,000 to the Faculty of Medicine for Seminar Room 5 in the Faculty of Medicine Building.

An anonymous source has donated a sum of HK$1,030,000 for establishing the Lo Chung Wan Memorial Scholarship for MBBS undergraduates.
2nd Annual General Meeting

The 2nd Annual General Meeting of the University of Hong Kong Medical Alumni Association was held on April 23, 2002 at the new Faculty of Medicine Building and more than twenty members attended the meeting. At the meeting, it was reported that the Association was in the process of applying for charitable status in order to facilitate its roles in the promotion of medical education for public benefits and to act as a body for the purpose of consultation in matters of educational and public interest. To achieve these objectives, a series of activities, including public lectures, scientific meetings and counselling programme for undergraduates will continue to be organized. Also, at this meeting, Professor Daniel TM Chan was newly elected as Honorary Secretary and Mr Philip PY Yiu was appointed as Honorary Legal Advisor for the Association in the coming service year.

Event Announcement

Golf Tournament 2002

Date: 20th December, 2002
Time: Eden Course, Hong Kong Golf Club
Tee Off Time: 11:33 am - 1:32 pm
Registration Miss Lenora Young
and enquiries: (Tel: 2871 8841, Fax: 2871 8898)
Email: Lenora@hkam.org.hk
Registration deadline: 20th November, 2002 on first-come-first-served basis.

Luncheon Talk

Topic: Investment Strategy in the Present Economic Environment
Date: 28th November, 2002
Speaker: Mr Kwok Kwok-chuen, Chief Economist (NE Asia), Standard Chartered Bank
Venue: The Hong Kong Medical Association
2/F, The Chinese Club
21-22 Connaught Road, Central, Hong Kong
Remarks: Details to be informed

The website of the HKUMAA is recently re-launched.
Please visit http://www.hku.hk/facmed/alumni for details.

Forthcoming Events

Advanced Trauma Care for Nurses (ATCN) Provider Course
Date: September 13-14, 2002
Venue: The Jockey Club Skills Development Centre
C Wing, 3/F, Main Block, Queen Mary Hospital

Care of the Critically Ill Surgical Patient (CCrISP) Course
Date: November 19-21, 2002

Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support Instructor Course
Date: November 30-December 1, 2002

Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support Provider Course
Date: December 7-8, 2002

Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support Provider Course
Date: December 28-29, 2002

Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support Provider Course
Date: December 28-29, 2002

Information: Course Administrator
Email: qmhsdc@hkucc.hku.hk
Tel: 2855 4885 Fax: 2819 3416

6th Annual Scientific Meeting
Date: October 5-6, 2002
Venue: Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre
Information: Ms Kinny Tin
Tel: 2855 3349 Fax: 2872 5828

C Elaine Field Memorial Symposium
Date: November 2, 2002
Venue: Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Medicine Building
Information: Ms Constance Chau/Ms Dora Lai
Tel: 2817 0641 Fax: 2855 1523

International Clinical Trials Symposium 2002
Date: October 21-23, 2002
Venue: Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour Australia
Information: Professor Johan Karlberg
Tel: 2835 4664

18th World Congress of Digestive Surgery & 9th Hong Kong International Cancer Congress
Date: December 8-11, 2002
Venue: Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre
Information: Ms Venue Chan Email: wcds2002@hku.hk
Tel: 2818 0232/2835 4253 Fax: 2818 1186
Dr George KK Lau (廖家俊) was appointed as Associate Professor in Clinical Hepatology of the Department of Medicine in 2002. He was a graduate of The University of Hong Kong and has received further research training in Stanford University, USA and the University College London, UK. His major research interest includes the design of combination therapy for chronic hepatitis B infection and the use immunotherapy for hepatitis B infection. His work in hepatitis B reactivation has gained international reputation and he was recently awarded the prestigious National 973 basic science grant to support his work in hepatitis B immunotherapy.

Dr Chi-leung Liu (廖子良) joined the Department of Surgery as Clinical Associate Professor in July 2002. Dr Liu obtained his degree at The University of Hong Kong. Following graduation, he received his surgical training at the Department of Surgery, The University of Hong Kong and one-year overseas training at Queensland Liver Transplant Centre, Australia in 1995. He also obtained the degree of Master of Surgery in 1999. Dr Liu's interest is in the field of hepatobiliary-pancreatic surgery and liver transplantation.

Dr Chung-yau Lo (盧耀勳) obtained his medical degree from The University of Hong Kong in 1987 and continued his surgical training in Department of Surgery at Queen Mary Hospital. After obtaining his fellowship degree in 1991, he spent one year of residency training in Johns Hopkins Hospital of United States. He has developed an interest in surgical endocrinology and spent 6 months post-fellowship training in Mayo Clinic. His Master of Surgery degree thesis was focused on parathyroid autotransplantation during thyroidectomy. His research interests include clinicopathological and molecular aspects of endocrine tumours, application of minimally invasive endocrine surgery and monitoring of endocrine surgical procedures.

Professor Siu-wa Tang (鄧兆華) has recently taken up the Chair in the Department of Psychiatry. He graduated from the Medical School of The University of Hong Kong in 1971 and left for Canada after his internship year. After residency training in psychiatry at the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, University of Toronto, he attended the Institute of Medical Sciences and obtained his PhD in neurochemistry under Harvey Stancer. On a MRC fellowship, he spent a postdoctoral year with Philip Seeman in dopamine and serotonin receptor research and contributed to the understanding of mechanism of actions of atypical neuroleptics and SSRI antidepressants. After heading the Psychopharmacology Department at the Clarke Institute, Professor Tang was recruited to the University of California, Irvine and later succeeded William Bunny Jr. as Chair of Psychiatry. His primary research interests include mood disorders, drug discovery, neurotransmitter receptors, bioinformatics and clinical and molecular psychopharmacology. In addition to his medical training, Professor Tang is also an MBA and is interested in healthcare restructuring and research in managerial and organization behaviour.

Dr Raymond YT Yeung (楊宇鑫) joined the Department of Community Medicine as Research Assistant Professor in Health Economics and Policy in July 2001. This is a joint appointment with Medical and Health Research Network, a multidisciplinary forum across faculties within HKU and hosted by Faculty of Medicine. Dr Yeung obtained his PhD in economics at Queen's University in Canada. He was a senior economist with Hong Kong Policy Research Institute and senior consultant with Deloitte Consulting prior to joining HKU. His speciality is in applied econometrics, numerical simulation, discrete choice dynamic programming, regulatory impact analysis and decision modelling. His current research areas include cost-benefit / cost-effectiveness analysis of health services and healthcare financing.

Dr Stephen PY Yong (楊添然) joined the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology as Clinical Assistant Professor in January 2002. Dr Yong obtained his degree in Cell Biology from the University of British Columbia in 1988 and his MBBS from the University of Sydney in 1995. After he completed his internship at Westmead Hospital in Sydney, he spent one year in the Prince of Wales Hospital in the same city as a registrar in Chemical Pathology. Subsequently, he worked at the Singapore General Hospital where he obtained his basic Obstetrics and Gynaecology training and the MRCOG. After spending more than 20 years abroad, he is now back in HK working in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Queen Mary Hospital where his current interest is in fetal-maternal medicine focusing on medical diseases and infections in pregnancy.

Departure
Dr David LC Cheung (張力正), Associate Professor, Department of Surgery
Professor AS Dixon, The Dr Sun Yat-sen Chair, Department of Medicine
Dr AE Greer, Assistant Professor, Department of Anaesthesiology
Professor AA Nanji, Professor, Department of Pathology

Retirement
Professor Ng Mun-hon (吳文馮), Chair of Microbiology, Department of Microbiology

Professor Kennedy Francis Shortridge (鄧力強), Chair of Microbiology, Department of Microbiology.

"I feel privileged to be bidding au revoir to friends and colleagues after 30 fascinating years. During my career I have witnessed many positive changes in teaching and research especially contributions from the Microbiology Department towards a better understanding of infectious disease. My best wishes to all."