



## **Press Release**

### **Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Co-hosts Documentary Screening of *Unseen Enemy* with National Academy of Medicine**

(Hong Kong, 3 June 2017) The Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (HKAM) and the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) co-organised a special documentary screening of *Unseen Enemy* at the HKAM Jockey Club Building on 2 June 2017. The documentary investigates the crises of epidemics through the three case studies: Zika, Ebola and Influenza. Renowned experts in infectious diseases and public health were invited to discuss the topical issues and impact of epidemics. The event attracted around 100 participants including healthcare policy leaders, academics, clinical practitioners, researchers and students. The Honourable Lai Tung-kwok, Secretary for Security of the Government of the HKSAR, was present to officiate the screening event.

Professor Lau Chak-sing, President of the HKAM, highlighted the importance of unity when combating the unseen enemies. “The global community is facing increased threat of ‘mysterious’ epidemics that spread rapidly but silently. No matter who you are and where you live, the invisible enemies may invade your body and threaten your lives. It is not only about how we confront diseases, but more importantly also how we unite to fight the universe health crises.” Professor Lau also extended thanks to the NAM for inviting the HKAM to co-host this meaningful event in Hong Kong.

Following the addresses by Dr. Victor Dzau, President of the NAM, and the Honourable Lai Tung-kwok, Ms. Janet Tobias, Director of *Unseen Enemy*, shared the vision behind the making of the documentary.

After the documentary screening, local and overseas healthcare and public health professionals joined a panel discussion co-moderated by Professor Lau Chak-sing and Dr. Thomas Tsang, Clinical Associate Professor of The Jockey Club School of Public Health and Primary Care, The Chinese University of Hong Kong and Vice President of the Hong Kong College of Community Medicine. Panel members were Dr. Wong Ka-hing, Controller of the Centre for Health Protection of the Government of the HKSAR; experts from the Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine at The University of Hong Kong including Professor Gabriel Leung, Dean of Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine; Professor Keiji Fukuda, Director of School of Public Health; and Professor Yuen Kwok-yung, Chair of Infectious Diseases, Department of Microbiology; Dr. Victor Dzau; as well as Ms. Janet Tobias. They shared their insightful views on the potentially devastating impact of the epidemics, which stimulated thoughts among the participants.



Photo caption



(From left to right) Dr. Wong Ka-hing, Controller of the Centre for Health Protection of the Government of the HKSAR; The Honourable Lai Tung-kwok, Secretary for Security of the Government of the HKSAR; Ms. Janet Tobias, Director of *Unseen Enemy*; Prof. Lau Chak-sing, President of the HKAM; and Dr. Victor Dzau, President of the NAM



Renowned experts in infectious diseases and public health discuss the topical issues and impact of epidemics

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**About Hong Kong Academy of Medicine**

Established in 1993, the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (HKAM) is an independent institution with statutory power to organise, monitor, assess and accredit all medical specialist training and oversee the provision of continuing medical education (CME) and continuous professional development (CPD) in the territory. Within 15 constituent Colleges, there are now 66 specialties and subspecialties, with more than 7,500 Academy Fellows who are eligible for registration in the Specialist Register of the Medical Council of Hong Kong or Dental Council of Hong Kong.



### **About National Academy of Medicine**

The National Academy of Medicine (NAM), established in 1970 under the name Institute of Medicine, is an independent organisation of eminent professionals from diverse fields including health and medicine; the natural, social, and behavioral sciences; and beyond. It serves alongside the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering as adviser to the nation and the international community. Through its domestic and global initiatives, the NAM works to address critical issues in health, medicine, and related policy and inspire positive action across sectors. The NAM collaborates closely with its peer academies and other divisions within the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

### **About Unseen Enemy**

*Unseen Enemy* is a documentary exploring the increased threat of epidemics, through the three case studies: Zika, Ebola and Influenza, calling for actions in preventing the next epidemic. The film, directed by Emmy-Award winning filmmaker Ms. Janet Tobias, has been broadcast in different countries, and screening events have been recently held in other cities such as Washington DC, Brussels, Beijing and Tokyo. The trailer of the film can be accessed at: <https://vimeo.com/208747314>.

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