



弘醫道 育專才 建未來
MEDICAL EXCELLENCE FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE

Press Release

Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Celebrates 25 Years of Medical Excellence

Renewing Pledge to Uphold the Highest Standards of Professionalism for a Healthy Future

(Hong Kong, 26 February 2018) – The Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (the “Academy”) today kicked off its 25th anniversary celebrations at a ceremony officiated by Professor Sophia CHAN Siu-chee, JP, Secretary for Food and Health of the Government of the HKSAR. A spring luncheon with the media, attended by Professor LAU Chak-sing, President of the Academy; Dr. LAU Chor-chiu, Chairman of the 25th Anniversary Celebration Organising Committee; Council Members of the Academy; as well as representatives of the Academy Colleges, followed.

Central to the luncheon event was an extensive discussion on the challenges surrounding organ donation, in which the troubling disparity between the expertise Hong Kong possesses in transplant surgery and the lack of available donor organs was elaborated upon. To address this critical health issue, the Academy renewed its commitment to advance clinical excellence in organ transplantation and promote public awareness of organ donation to make a real difference in the lives of patients in need.

‘Medical Excellence for a Healthy Future’

Speaking at the 25th Anniversary Celebration Kick-off Ceremony, Professor LAU Chak-sing, President of the Academy, said, “The Hong Kong Academy of Medicine has been committed to the professional training of our specialists for the past 25 years. We are proud to have contributed to the medical excellence of Hong Kong. Going forward, we will continue to work with healthcare professionals and the community at large to provide better healthcare for our citizens and pave the way for a brighter future. To celebrate our Silver Jubilee, the Academy is going to organise a series of events over the course of the year, including the annual Medical Education Conference on 5 May, Anniversary Congress from 7-9 December, as well as several exciting social and sports activities.”

The Academy’s 25th anniversary theme of “Medical Excellence for a Healthy Future” is reflected in its multi-pronged strategy to maintain the high standards of specialist training and clinical practice in Hong Kong.

Upholding medical professionalism

Recognising the responsibility of every doctor to care for patients and save their lives, the Academy will continue to fulfil its mission of promoting integrity, ethical conduct and standards in the practice of medicine and its specialties. The Academy will actively take part in setting relevant training standards and give advice on different aspects related to the medical profession.

Nurturing healthcare professionals

As part of its ongoing efforts in nurturing elite specialists, the Academy will continue to organise various events in order to foster the exchange of clinical knowledge and experience, further the development of the credentialing system for different specialties, promulgate simulation-based training, and so on.



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Building a healthy future

To realise its vision of a healthy future, the Academy will also invest in training new medical specialists across different specialties and also bring in best practices through external benchmarking and regular reviews, so that our specialists can continue to contribute to building a healthy community in Hong Kong.

Advocating Organ Donation

Hong Kong is at the forefront of organ transplant technology with a remarkable number of world-first accomplishments. Patient outcomes are also exceptional with a very high success rate of organ transplantation in the territory.

“Organ transplantation is a complex procedure involving multidisciplinary teams,” explained Professor LAU. “Apart from clinical knowledge and skills, a good doctor-patient relationship and effective teamwork are critical factors in the success of each procedure. As the only statutory institution overseeing the provision of specialist training in Hong Kong, the Academy is an excellent platform to provide continuing, comprehensive training in all aspects of organ transplantation. We are dedicated to advancing our expertise in surgery and medical technology to maintain Hong Kong’s leading position in organ transplantation.”

Despite medical advances in the field, Hong Kong remains one of the lowest-ranked markets for organ donation in the world, with only 5.5 donors per million people in 2017¹. The lack of available donor organs remains the biggest challenge to organ transplantation in Hong Kong.

Representatives from the Academy, Hong Kong College of Community Medicine, College of Ophthalmologists of Hong Kong, Hong Kong College of Physicians, and The College of Surgeons of Hong Kong discussed the current situation, technology and difficulties of organ transplantation in Hong Kong at the panel session following the media luncheon.

Over the past 10 years, Hong Kong has recorded a low average of around 80 kidney transplants per year. However, there were 2,153 patients² on the waiting list at the end of 2017. Amid the shortage of cadaveric organs, living kidney donation has become an important alternative. According to the “Characteristics and clinical outcomes of living renal donors in Hong Kong” study, which surveyed 83 individuals who had undergone donor nephrectomy from 1990 to 2015, overall perioperative outcomes were good. There were very few serious complications, while long-term kidney function was satisfactory. The study concluded that medical practitioners should encourage relatives of patients with end-stage renal disease to consider the possibility of kidney donation³.

There is also a deficiency in the number of cornea donors in Hong Kong. In 2017, 300 corneas were distributed by the Hong Kong Eye Bank. The average waiting time for a corneal transplant is 11 months and there are 273 patients still waiting for a transplant (as of 31 Dec 2017).

Despite the fact that there are over 280,000 prospective donors registered at the Centralised Organ Donation Register, there were only 178 organ transplants conducted in Hong Kong in 2017⁴. In fact, only individuals who are certified brain dead can be cadaveric donors. The limited supply from donation of transplantable organs has left more than 2,000 patients and their families waiting in desperation.

Family consent is one of the key obstacles in organ donation. However, it is worth noting that a study conducted by the Department of Health found that the majority of respondents would agree to the donation of their family members’ organs after death if they expressed their desire to do so beforehand.



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The Academy believes that only a wide-ranging collaborative approach can change the attitudes towards organ donation in Hong Kong. Public education should be reinforced to enhance public acceptability and understanding of organ donation. Medical practitioners should also contribute in this respect by explaining the benefits while dispelling common myths. The Academy encourages members of the public to add their names to the donor registry and inform family and friends of their wish to donate their organs to save lives.

Sources:

- 1 Hospital Authority
- 2 Department of Health, <https://www.organdonation.gov.hk/eng/statistics.html>
- 3 Hong Kong Medical Journal, <http://www.hkmj.org/system/files/hkmj176820.pdf>
- 4 Department of Health, <https://www.organdonation.gov.hk/eng/statistics.html>



Professor Sophia CHAN Siu-chee, JP, Secretary for Food and Health of the Government of the HKSAR (centre); Professor LAU Chak-sing, President, Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (left); and Dr. LAU Chor-chiu, Chairman of the 25th Anniversary Organising Committee, Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (right) unveiled the 25th anniversary theme, "Medical Excellence for a Healthy Future", symbolising a new chapter in the development of the Academy.



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Professor LAU Chak-sing, President, Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, said the Academy would continue to work with healthcare professionals and the community at large to provide better healthcare for Hong Kong citizens and pave the way for a brighter future.



Professor Sophia CHAN Siu-chee, JP, Secretary for Food and Health of the Government of the HKSAR delivered an address at the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine's 25th Anniversary Celebration Kick-off Ceremony.



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Professor Sophia CHAN Siu-chee, JP, Secretary for Food and Health of the Government of the HKSAR (seventh from the left, front row); Professor LAU Chak-sing, President, Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (sixth from the left, front row); Dr. LAU Chor-chiu, Chairman of the 25th Anniversary Organising Committee, Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (sixth from the right, front row) and Council Members of the Academy; as well as representatives of the Academy Colleges celebrate 25 years of medical excellence.



Professor LAU Chak-sing, President, Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (third from the left); Professor Gilberto Ka-kit LEUNG, Vice-President (Education and Examinations), Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (third from the right); Dr. Anne Yu-kei FUNG, Hong Kong College of Community Medicine (second from the right); Dr. Victoria Wing-yee WONG, College of Ophthalmologists of Hong Kong (first from the right); Dr. LUI Sing-leung, Hong Kong College of Physicians (second from the left); and Dr. Simon See-ming HOU, The College of Surgeons of Hong Kong (first from the left) discussed the current situation, technology and difficulties of organ transplantation in Hong Kong



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About Hong Kong Academy of Medicine

Established in 1993, the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (the “Academy”) is an independent institution with statutory power to organise, monitor, assess and accredit all medical and dental 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 67 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.

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