



To News Editor  
For Immediate Release

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**Living with Hope  
Raising Public Awareness about Children Cancer in mainland China and Hong Kong**

Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL) is the commonest childhood cancer and is reported to have 80% cure rate in developed countries. The treatment success requires well designed treatment protocol and groups of experienced paediatric oncologists. Before 2000, many hospitals in Guangzhou were treating leukaemia children without standard protocol. Even in the same hospital, different doctors might be using different treatment protocols for the same disease. The number of patients treated with a particular protocol was usually small, and thus it was difficult to evaluate the treatment result of any protocols.

Since 1997, The Lady Pao Children's Cancer Centre (CCC) of Prince of Wales Hospital and the Department of Paediatrics at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) have been establishing close collaboration with various hospitals in mainland China. About 74 doctors and nurses had received training in the CCC and gained experience on the management of childhood cancer including the western treatment protocols. Among them, 18 were from Guangdong Province. With this background, the paediatric oncologists in Guangzhou understood the importance of setting up a collaborative study group for treatment of childhood cancer in mainland China, which has shown to be a very important milestone for the advances in research and treatment of childhood cancer in many developed countries. The CCC has taken the leading role in conducting collaborative studies of childhood cancer in Hong Kong and also in larger multi-national studies.

With great experience in clinical research in childhood cancer and also excellent laboratory support from other departments including the Department of Anatomical and Cellular Pathology, CUHK researchers decided to help the clinical research studies in childhood leukaemia in mainland China. Guangzhou is the first target as it is geographically and culturally close to Hong Kong. The Guangzhou Childhood Leukaemia Study Group was established in 2002 with 7 hospitals joining, and CCC served as the medical advisor to the Group. The advice include protocol design, data collection, medical management and laboratory diagnosis of troublesome cases, and also analysis of treatment result. In the past 5 years, about 400 patients were recruited into the Guangzhou Childhood ALL 2002 Study, the first large multicentre childhood leukaemia study in mainland China. The 5 year survival is now approaching 80% and it shows marked improvement as compared to historical results. This approach serves as a model for subsequent studies in Guangdong and also to the whole country.

The newly-started 2008 ALL study in Guangdong is now extended to other cities such as Shenzhen, and CCC continued to be the medical advisor of the study. Besides, CCC is further engaged in a much bigger collaborative study in the country which involves more than 10 hospitals from different provinces and cities, and is going to recruit more than 1,000 patients in the coming 3 years. With continuous effort in the past 10 years, there is a progressive improvement in the research and treatment of childhood cancer in the country.

With the support from the Department of Paediatrics of CUHK, the Little Life Warrior Society was established in 2002 by a group of volunteers who care about the cancer children. To celebrate its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Society cooperates with hospitals and parents' organizations in mainland China to organize a writing competition. Over 100 entries from 24 hospitals and medical units were received, among which many are considered of good quality. The Society has compiled 35 awarded entries in a Special Issue, the first publication on the true stories about child cancer patients and their cure from over 10 cities in mainland China. Proceeds from the sale of this book will be contributed to the Society's "China outreach" programme to support childhood cancer mutual aid organizations on the mainland.



致新聞編輯  
請即發放

### 勇敢面對生命挑戰 中港癌症兒童活出新希望

急性淋巴細胞性白血病是兒童最常見的癌症。在發達國家，其治愈率高達 80%。有效的治療需要良好的治療方案，以及有豐富臨床經驗的兒科腫瘤專家。在 2000 年之前，廣州大部份醫院對治療患癌兒童缺乏標準的治療方案。即使在同一間醫院，不同醫生治療同一種疾病都可能用上不同的方法。病童很少能夠接受標準的治療，因此較難評估不同治療方法的優劣之處。

自 1997 年，香港中文大學（中大）兒科學系及威爾斯親王醫院包黃秀英兒童癌症中心（中心）開始與中國各地的醫院建立更緊密的關係。超過 74 名醫護人員到中心接受培訓，其中 18 名來自廣東省。他們在學習過程中吸收了香港及國際的經驗，深深體會到成立兒童癌症協作組織對研究及治療癌症兒童起著重要的作用。中心進行的大型臨床協作研究項目在香港一直居於領導地位，並積極參與國際性的臨床研究。

在中大兒科學系的臨床研究經驗及病理解剖及細胞學系完備的實驗室支援下，中大研究人員積極協助內地開展兒童白血病臨床研究。基於地理位置及文化背景與香港接近，廣州是研究項目的第一個試點。經多方努力下，廣州兒童白血病協作組於 2002 年正式成立，並邀得七間醫院攜手參與，由中心出任此組織的醫療顧問，參與制訂治療方法、資料收集和管理、對一些複雜病例提供實驗診斷及醫療會診，以及協助分析治療的成效。廣州兒童白血病協作組成立後，隨即開展了為期 5 年的兒童急性淋巴細胞性白血病研究，約 400 名病童參與，成為內地最大型的跨中心兒童白血病的研究項目。研究結果發現，病童 5 年的存活率已達到 80%。此研究成為了廣東省以至全中國的跨中心協作研究的楷模。

廣東省剛開展的另一項研究項目，獲得更多省內的城市例如深圳參與，讓內地更多癌症兒童及家長得到更好的支援。目前，中心與全國多個城市超過 10 間醫院合作，成立一個大型的跨中心白血病協作組，開始兒童白血病研究 CCLG2008 方案，未來 3 年將有超過 1,000 名患癌兒童參與研究。透過各方不斷努力，過去 10 年間，內地兒童癌症的研究及治療都有明顯的進步。

另外，由中大兒科學系在 2002 年協助下成立的生命小戰士會，是一個以癌症兒童康復者和家長作主導，與醫護人員共同管理，以病童為中心的互助組織。為慶祝成立 5 週年，小戰士會於 2007 年籌辦了全國性的徵文比賽，反應熱烈，共收到 24 間醫院及單位寄來逾 100 篇參賽作品，反映了內地癌童的苦況和醫護人員在困境下義無反顧的努力。為此，生命小戰士會亦特別輯錄了 35 篇內地及本港的得獎作品，成為全國第一本集國內 10 多個城市癌症兒童、家長和醫護人員的故事集。此書所得收益將撥歸生命小戰士會「中國發展事工」計劃，以支援內地各省市成立兒童癌症互助組織。

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