CUHK MEDICAL ALUMNI newsletter

Our Outstanding Young Persons Awardees

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MESSAGE
• Message by Dr Jennifer Mou Wai-cheung (MBChB 2003)

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WELCOME MESSAGE

“Stepping down as CUHKMAA Chairlady…does not mean an end to my support for my alma mater.”

- Dr Jennifer Mou Wai-cheung

I am humbled and honoured to be writing this issue’s welcome address.

How time flies! I was a young intern when I first participated in the Alumni Association activities. From being the only female paddler in the dragon boat team, to joining the committee and becoming the most junior committee member and to taking up the post of Chairlady of the CUHKMAA in 2013.

As Chairlady, it gave me many great opportunities to serve our alumni and to represent the Alumni Association in various events. From these activities, I witnessed the personal growth of myself.

I also witnessed the growth of many alumni. Many of my students are now young specialists. My mentee, from the Mentorship Programme organized by Ming Pao Daily and the Faculty, who was a secondary school student some 7-8 years ago is now, I am proud to say, training to be an anaesthetist.

More importantly, I witnessed the growth and the success of our Faculty. A good demonstration of this is the Faculty’s motto: “Transforming our Passion into Perfection”.

To date, we are so proud to have more than 10 of our alumni winning the Ten Outstanding Young Persons Award over the years - they symbolize the success stories of our Faculty, contributing to society in so many different ways.

On the one hand, our Faculty adheres to the old principle of instilling the importance of “noble character” into students. On the other hand, our Faculty also acts like an “open-minded” parent, always welcoming comments from alumni and students. This has resulted in many innovations and improvements in teaching.

Stepping down as CUHKMAA Chairlady after three years, like all past Chairmen, does not mean an end to my support for my alma mater. I will always lend a helping hand whenever needed.

Last but not least, I would like to congratulate our Faculty on its 35th anniversary…it has come a long way to be where it is now. Let’s continue to work hand in hand for the best of the best.
OUR TOYP AWARDEES

They may have won the prestigious Ten Outstanding Young Persons Award… but these doctors are not resting on their laurels.

EYE DOCTOR STRIVES TO ENHANCE PATIENTS’ LIVES WITH INNOVATIONS AND CHARITY WORK

“You are never too young to take up charity work… you need to know what’s going on within the community…”

- Dr Vincent Lee Yau-wing

(李佑榮醫生, MBChB 1993)

Dr Vincent Lee considers himself “extremely lucky” to have won the Ten Outstanding Young Persons Award in 2009. But this award is not the only one that has catapulted Dr Lee, an ophthalmologist, into the limelight. In 2013, he became the first alumnus of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) to become president of the 60-year-old Hong Kong Ophthalmological Society (HKOS)… a position he held until 2015.

And, he became the first Hong Kong eye doctor to be granted US invention patents, currently holding two for ophthalmic instruments for treating cataract and retinal detachment. He has also invented several surgical techniques for retinal surgery and complicated cataract surgery.

Dr Lee was already an innovator in his early school days, receiving the Young Designer of the Year Award from the Hong Kong Trade Development Council in 1986 and the Young Scientist Award from Kowloon Jaycees a year earlier.

Dr Lee graduated in 1993 and began his training under his current boss, Dr Dennis Lam, then Chairman of CUHK’s Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences. He was awarded the Prince of Wales Public Appreciation Award for seven years in a row. Dr Lee continued his specialist training at the Hong Kong Eye Hospital.

He now holds the position of regional secretary and represents Hong Kong in the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO), and has been one of the coordinators of the APAO’s Scientific Program Committee.

Dr Lee has written over 70 publications, and is the Chief Editor of the newsletter, HKOS (Eye Opener).

However, all Dr Lee’s lists of achievements fade into the background when he is attending to patients. “For most of us eye doctors, cataract surgery is our bread and butter. We do it routinely,” he says.

But something made him realise that what he treats as “routine” means something really important to his patients. “I was shocked when an elderly Chinese gentleman sent me a long stemmed rose, beautifully packed, after his cataract surgery. He said he was so happy to be able to see again… like almost being reborn.

“And he told me whenever he opened his eyes to see, he would remember me. That made me realise that I have to give my 100 percent effort in every surgery I do.”

Community work is very close to Dr Lee’s heart. He volunteers on ‘Lifeline Express’, a train that travels across mainland China to provide free cataract operations. He also served as a volunteer for Orbis - the Flying Eye Hospital - when it stopped over in Jinan in Shandong province in 2014.

His older daughter of 11 years was recently in Vietnam doing volunteer work for Orbis because she is inspired by her father’s charity work.

“You are never too young to take up charity work,” Dr Lee says. “All doctors can contribute to society. You need to know what’s going on within the community and what its needs are.”

Dr Lee fondly remembers his time as a medical student at CUHK’s New Asia College. “What I learned from there is to be humble, down-to-earth and that you just need to learn to overcome difficulties. There’s no need to lead a life of luxury when young.”
"Don’t see your work as just a job, treat it as a mission… a gift from God to be able to serve the community."

- Professor Patrick Yung Shu-hang (容樹恆教授, MBChB 1994)
Many years ago, a little girl living in a farm with her family, looked at moths attracted to the only light bulb in her room. The moths cast large shadows as they flitted around the light. To her, the glowing light bulb was like a growing child, radiating warmth and spreading laughter to the whole family. The moths were like ailments, unwelcome visitors, casting shadows bigger than life, particularly when they were closest to the heart of the light bulb. Thinking deeply, the little girl felt the need to protect the light bulb, which to her was a growing child, from crippling and devastating infections and disabilities.

Years later, in an interview at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), the girl, Dr Emily Hung, was asked why she wanted to be a paediatrician and she related her story about the moths. Impressed, the interviewer, Professor Tai-fai Fok, now the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, offered her a training position with the Neonatal & Paediatric ICU and the Lady Pao Children’s Cancer Centre at the Prince of Wales Hospital (PWH).

Dr Hung now serves as a Consultant Paediatrician at private hospitals, is an Honorary Associate Professor at PWH’s Department of Paediatrics and an examiner for Licensing Examinations (Paediatrics) in the Medical Council of Hong Kong.

Dr Hung has had an illustrious start to her medical career. She studied first at Cambridge University (UK) and was involved in cervical cancer research, under the tutelage of one of the leading figures in the history of making HPV vaccine, Professor Margaret Stanley.

After obtaining her first degree in Pre-clinical Medicine in Cambridge, she returned to Hong Kong in 1997, becoming the first ever transfer medical student at CUHK. Given her different tertiary background, she was enlisted as a member of the Medical Curriculum Reform Board for six years. “At that time, I was seen as an advocate for new ideas,” she laughingly recalls.

“The best thing about CUHK is that it is very ready to adopt new ideas,” Dr Hung says. “And, the professors really look after the students.”

If Dr Hung is not busy at her practice, she is out talking to parents, teachers and medical students on how to pick up early warning signs that a child is severely sick.

She trains medical staff on neonatal resuscitation for the HK College of Paediatricians and is also one of the youngest accredited speakers for the Medical Protection Society where doctors are taught how to communicate well with patients. She is also involved with the Little Life Warrior Society based in Lady Pao Children’s Cancer Centre at PWH.

With her stellar background of awards, publications and charity work, Dr Hung went on to become one of the recipients of the Ten Outstanding Young Persons Award in 2015. Immediately, she and the other eight winners got down to writing a book, detailing how they worked through the good and the bad to be where they are now.

“For me, it is vital to do one’s best. Find your own mission and passion. Try to be the first rate version of oneself, and not a second rate version of someone else, because everyone is a unique light bulb in the world that has a different shine.”
There is a saying… “Be careful what you wish for”. But in the case of Professor Grace Wong, she said she was “super fortunate” that her wish came true…and that was to join the Department of Medicine and Therapeutics of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK).

Professor Wong recalled how so impressed she was with Professor Joseph Sung, the current Vice-Chancellor of CUHK, and Professor Francis Chan, who’s now the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, during her clinical clerkship at the Department’s Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology.

“I was a junior medical clerk at the time, learning how to talk to patients, take their history and other clinical stuff,” she said. “That’s when I personally met the professors and saw how kind they were to patients and students and how knowledgeable they were.

“I started to think, wow, it would be so fortunate if I got the chance to work with them. And, I was also very keen on gastroenterology and hepatology.”

When she finally joined the Department as an academic in 2011, Professor Wong already had an impressive CV under her belt. She was a very junior doctor when she had her first research paper published on primary biliary cirrhosis (PBC) with Professor Henry Chan in 2005. She had also worked for the Hospital Authority for 10 years.

Besides her clinical duties and research work, she is also heavily involved in community service. For example, she helps out in a programme started in 2009 by her mentor, Professor Henry Chan, called “New Life New Liver” where doctors would reach out to intravenous drug users through health talks and free blood tests.

Professor Wong recalls how, through this programme, she befriended a former drug user and managed to persuade him to undergo major surgery for his liver cancer. “I wasn’t his surgeon but when I bumped into him in hospital and heard that he refused surgery, I spoke to him. After several talks, he relented and to this day, he is cancer-free. This is so rewarding,” she said.

Professor Wong is currently the president of AsiaHep Hong Kong - a non-governmental organisation for liver diseases. She can sometimes be seen at public venues, giving seminars and free blood checks. She says it is satisfying to see how people react when they discover they do not have hepatitis, with some admitting they had never heard of the disease before.

“I started to think, wow, it would be so fortunate if I got the chance to work with them. And, I was also very keen on gastroenterology and hepatology.”

“Interaction with people outside the ward often helps me to think how I can...change my clinical practice to help patients.”

- Professor Grace Wong Lai-hung (黃麗虹教授, MBChB 2001)

With her impressive array of community services and research work, it was no wonder that her mentor, Professor Henry Chan, texted her one night about applying for the 2014 Ten Outstanding Young Persons Award. She did not think she stood a chance but decided to try anyway, and much to her surprise and delight, she won.

Professor Wong says young doctors must be aware that because of the heavy workload, they can appear “monotonic” when dealing with patients. “We have to try to understand their worries and concerns, because every patient is different.”
The Medical Alumni Buddy Programme is the brainchild of a group of alumni from the Faculty of Medicine of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). The programme works like a mentoring system, connecting medical students with alumni from different graduation years. The core members within the Buddy group are doctors from the public and private sectors as well as CUHK academic staff.

The Buddy system was created basically to instil pride in the students for their alma mater, build bonds among them, give them advice and support them in their moral and career development.

Various activities will be rolled out to cater for medical students from different years, such as Pre-O Camp and O Camp gathering for junior students and Career Talks for senior students. Other activities - such as talks on extra-curricular issues, stress relief workshops and life-career balance sharing sessions - are also being planned for the whole year. Buddies in the different groups may arrange ad hoc gatherings or dinner parties with their own mentees from time to time.
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

PRE-O CAMP DINNER

A gathering was held on 20 July 2016 with some 70 people attending the event. The dinner was one of the first steps in building relationships and networks among alumni buddy and student leaders before meeting the freshmen at O Camp.

During the gathering, alumni shared some of their special memories during their study days and recounted their experiences as medical students. They spoke about their career paths and also gave an insight into how the medical sector works. Students, for their part, inquired about the different medical specialties.

It is hoped that through such gatherings, students will be able to gain valuable lessons from the alumni’s contributions and experiences.

(Continued on page 9)

INAUGURATION CEREMONY

The inauguration of the Medical Alumni Buddy Programme kicked off on 14 May 2016. The ceremony was attended by more than 100 students and alumni, including the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Professor Francis Chan, the convener of the Medical Alumni Buddy Programme, Dr Siu Wing-tai and Associate Dean (Alumni Affairs), Professor Enders Ng.

The inauguration event laid the groundwork for bond-building between student leaders who were organizing the O Camp, and core groups of the newly-established Buddy system.
Finally...after months in the making, the Medical Alumni Buddy Programme was introduced to eager freshmen during the second day of the four-day Orientation Camp.

About 250 students, including freshmen and student group leaders responsible for organising the O Camp, met their alumni buddy.

The freshmen were divided into 14 groups, with alumni allocated to the 14 O Camp groupings.

Dr Siu Wing-tai, the convener of the Medical Alumni Buddy Programme, gave an introductory speech on the background of the buddy system. He said the basic idea was to leverage the knowledge and experiences of alumni to help students adjust to their school life so that they can contribute to their alma mater in later life. Dr Siu also took the opportunity to introduce a series of activities to the excited students.

During the event there was a lot chatter and laughter, with new friendships and alliances being forged.
There have been a flurry of activities in the run-up to the much anticipated 35th Anniversary Gala Dinner on 25 September 2016. Here are some of the exciting events.

**FACULTY-TEE DESIGN COMPETITION**

Students from the Faculty of Medicine including Medicine, School of Chinese Medicine, School of Pharmacy, The Jockey Club School of Public Health and Primary Care and The Nethersole School of Nursing, got together to organise a competition for the design of an anniversary Faculty tee-shirt.

The event, solely organised by the undergraduates themselves, was open to all students in the Faculty. There was no judge or jury because everyone could participate by voting for the best designs.

Twenty-three entries were received and the winner, Chan Ching-ho (Medicine Year 2) garnered 206 votes out of 700 and walked away with a cool HKD2,000 and a Medic Bear.

The competition might have been intense but the fun it generated brought the students from different schools closer together.

**FACULTY CHOIR**

The 35th Anniversary Choir promises to be a showstopper, offering only the finest choral repertoire. The group is made up of 20 students and alumni from all schools within CUHK’s Faculty of Medicine.

The enthusiastic singers have been practising for days to ensure perfection during the Gala Dinner. Soloists include Rainbow Tsang (Nursing) and Harry Fung (Medicine Year 3). Irene Cheng is the musical conductor and overseeing the group are Professor Vivian Lee (Assistant Dean, Student Development) and Professor Janita Chau (Assistant Dean, Alumni Affairs).

The choir had a pleasant surprise when the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Professor Francis Chan, popped by during a rehearsal in late August to give his encouragement.

All the performers will be wearing the newly designed Faculty-Tee to portray the image of unity.

**VIDEO PRODUCTION**

No anniversary celebrations would be complete without a video documentary and a video compilation of the Faculty’s 35th anniversary is no different as it charts its achievements over the years as one of Asia’s top young medical schools.

Alumni, professors, students and benefactors were invited to participate in the shoot, covering five different themes: history, teaching, research, recognition and the way forward. They shared their thoughts, stories and anecdotes about the Faculty.

The video will premiere at the Anniversary Gala Dinner on 25 September 2016 and will be made available on the Faculty website and Facebook page.
The annual White Coat Party to celebrate the achievements of some 160 medical graduates was held on 18 March 2016 at the Jockey Club School of Public Health in Shatin.

These new graduates, who were conferred the coveted and brand new “White Coats”, will be embarking on a one-year internship before launching full-time into their careers as doctors.

The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Professor Francis Chan, had this advice for the new medical graduates: “As you assume the role of doctors, be sure you make an impact, a positive one, in every encounter - not only with patients - but also with the many healthcare professionals and supporting members, by putting in love, respect and kindness.”

The Vice-Chancellor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), Professor Joseph Sung, who wore his white gown to the party, reminded the Year 5 graduates of the responsibility the coat brings with it. “For some of you, the white coat that you are wearing today may be the heaviest as it symbolizes your turning from a medical student to a physician, a profession that demands great passion and responsibility,” he said.

Afterwards, excited and happy students toasted their five years of hard work with wine and photo-taking, while some held placards to express their gratitude to the Faculty of Medicine as well as to their families.
Medical students with a passion for pursuing postgraduate studies overseas have now been given an opportunity, following the establishment recently of the Lui Che Woo Distinguished Young Scholars Award of about USD2 million (HKD15.6 million). This was made possible by the very generous donation from the Founder and Chairman of K. Wah Group, Dr Lui Che Woo.

A donation ceremony to mark the launch of the award scheme by The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) was held on 12 May 2016 at the Lui Che Woo Clinical Sciences Building, Prince of Wales Hospital, in which Dr Lui and his wife, Mrs Lui, presented a cheque to the CUHK’s Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Joseph Sung and the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Professor Francis Chan.

Dr Lui, in his speech, said the scholarship is aimed at encouraging and supporting talented medical students to fully realize their potential and bringing innovative and diverse perspectives to future medical development.

Professor Sung acknowledged that the healthcare sector is “facing unprecedented challenges” and there is a great sense of urgency to reform medical education and advance medical and scientific research.

Professor Chan noted that Dr Lui’s contribution will enable students to advance their knowledge, build connections, gain international exposure and make contributions to society when they return home.

Before the ceremony, Dr Lui and Mrs Lui, were introduced to some 20 medical students who have shown keen interest in clinical research. Dr Lui was presented with a LEGO model of the Lui Che Woo Clinical Sciences Building for his continued support of CUHK. And, both he and Mrs Lui were also given large-sized mascots of the Faculty of Medicine, Medic Bear and Surgeon Bear.
The Annual Dinner and Annual General Meeting of The Chinese University of Hong Kong Medical Alumni Association (CUHKMAA) was held on 9 July 2016 at the Shatin Jockey Club Clubhouse.

Alumni from different graduation years mingled with each other, some bringing along their children, to gain inspiration and explore medical-related local charity services which was essentially the theme of the night.

Two CUHK graduates gave illuminating talks about their work.

Dr Ben Ng (MBChB 2000), a specialist in Emergency Medicine and now working at Tuen Mun Hospital, shared his experiences during the 10 years he worked as a doctor with the Government Flying Service.

Dr Ruby Ching (MBChB 1995), a private ophthalmologist and Vice-Chairman of Eye Care Charitable Foundation, spoke of the difficulties in carrying out local charity work.

The CUHKMAA also welcomed its new Chairlady, Dr Bonnie Wong (MBChB 2002), who succeeded Dr Jennifer Mou after three years at the helm.

We are pleased to announce the Hospital Chief Executive of Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital and Tai Po Hospital, Dr Man Chi-yin (MBChB 1986), will be sharing his experiences as an interviewer and giving tips on how to prepare for an Associate Consultant position.

DATE AND TIME: 22 October 2016 (10am to 12noon)
VENUE: The Jockey Club School of Public Health, Prince of Wales Hospital, Shatin

The talk is opened to all CUHKMAA members.

Registration: send email to cuhkmaa@gmail.com and state your name, class, contact number, the department and hospital you are from plus your post fellowship year(s).

Basketball enthusiasts, start gearing up! Make sure you have 14 and 21 January 2017 written in your diary.

The Tournament will be held at the New Asia College Gymnasium, CUHK Campus.

Groups will be divided into Men, Women and Family.

PRIZES: Champion, 1st Runner-up and 2nd Runner-up

For details, please refer to our Facebook: “CUHKMAA The Chinese University of Hong Kong Medical Alumni Association” or Webpage: www.cuhkmaa.org.hk
REUNION GATHERING OF CLASS 2006

The MBChB Class of 2006 recently celebrated their 10th anniversary on 11 June 2016. Everyone enjoyed seeing old, familiar faces again, and had a great time taking wacky shots of themselves at the photo booth.

ARTICLE CONTRIBUTION

For all those who love to write...here is your chance.

We are looking for alumni and students to share their stories on any topic of their choice.

WORDS: approx. 500
Photos are welcome.

Only selected articles by the Editorial Board will be published.

Send your articles to:

medical_alum@med.cuhk.edu.hk

** Please provide 1) your name 2) graduation year 3) email 4) contact numbers
**Medical Alumni Contact Update Form**

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