Surviving Housemashhips

CUHK Medical Alumni Newsletter
THE YEAR 2021 MARKS THE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Don't miss this chance to connect with your teachers, dear old friends and classmates at our celebratory activities!
Scan to update your profile.

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

Send us stories about your memorable experiences such as a new move in your career and life or how joyous you felt when you won a prize or an award - just anything interesting you think is worth sharing with us.

Articles can be in English or Chinese (approx: 500 words).
Photos are welcome.

Only selected stories 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

Dr. Siu Wing Tai Memorial Scholarship

In recognition of Dr. SIU’s tremendous contributions to the Faculty and remarkable achievements, the Faculty of Medicine has established the Dr. Siu Wing Tai Memorial Scholarship to provide financial aid for students with outstanding performance and with the intention of pursuing surgical training overseas.

Those who wish to contribute to the scholarship, please make cheques payable to “The Chinese University of Hong Kong” and write your name, graduation year and “Donation to Dr. SIU scholarship” on the back.

Mailing address:
Medical Alumni Affairs, Room 101, 1/F, Choh-Ming Li Basic Medical Sciences Building, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, New Territories.
CONTENTS

NEWS BRIEF
- Update Your Information
- Article and Photo Contribution
- Call for Donations
- CU Medicine 40th Anniversary

WELCOME MESSAGE
- Welcome Message by Professor Simon NG
  Associate Dean (Student Affairs)

FEATURES
- Healing and Heartbreak: A Day in the Life of a Houseman
- Honing Physician Leadership Skills With Heart

SPECIAL FEATURE
- Pioneering a Partnership Approach to Healthcare in Hong Kong

LATEST UPDATE
- Priming to be Better than the Best

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS
- CUHKMAA SFL Intern Survival Workshop
- Faculty Reception 2020
- O-Camp Meeting with Medical Alumni
- Career Workshop on Surgery

EDITORIAL BOARD

HONORARY ADVISORS
Professor Francis CHAN
Dean, Faculty of Medicine

Professor Enders NG
Associate Dean (Alumni Affairs), Faculty of Medicine

CHAIRMAN
Dr. Byron CHU

MEMBERS
Dr. Peter KWONG
Dr. Peter PANG
Dr. Ruby CHING
Dr. Jennifer MOU
Dr. Xina LO
Dr. Haysan CHAN
Dr. Eric CHEUNG

Medical Alumni Affairs
Integrated Event Management
Faculty and Planning Office, Faculty of Medicine
Room 101, 1/F, Choh-Ming Li Basic Medical Sciences Building
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong
Tel: 3943 3334 / 3943 0891
Email: medical_alum@med.cuhk.edu.hk

The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Medical Alumni Association
Email: cuhkmaa@cuhk.edu.hk
Come join us in building our 40th Anniversary Memory Wall

Rummage through your treasure chest and send photos of your cherished moments... what better way to reminisce with friends and family the glorious times you had at the Faculty.

Submit and view album:
It is indeed a privilege to be given the opportunity to write a few heartfelt words in Med Tolo. As the Associate Dean of Student Affairs of CU Medicine and an alumnus of MBChB, I always feel so proud whenever our fresh graduates, after five or six years of medical studies, begin their journey of medicine as housemen. Internships are never easy but they can leave us with bittersweet memories, and lessons, to last forever. I believe our alumni would share the same feeling.

In this issue, we will hear about the internship adventures of two young alumni - I am sure their stories would reflect many of ours. Two other alumni who graduated from the Global Physician-Leadership Stream (GPS) will share with us how the programme had inspired and helped them pursue their dreams. Since the programme was launched in 2013, over 300 students have undergone additional training in global perspectives in medicine and leadership competencies. Being the Director of the Programme, I am eager to see these compassionate future leaders spread their wings to advance healthcare for the betterment of society.

The Chief Operating Officer of CUHK Medical Centre, Professor Justin WU, will share with us the Centre’s latest developments and the possibilities of future collaborations between it and our alumni. The Centre is an important milestone for CUHK as well as the Faculty of Medicine and I urge you to read this illuminating article.

The Faculty of Medicine is approaching its 40th Anniversary in 2021 and I am honoured to be part of it. An array of celebratory activities is being planned for this significant and momentous event. Do not forget to check in with the Faculty from time to time to see what is being planned for next year’s festivities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our alumni in crafting, building and contributing to the development and continued success of the Faculty. Your efforts over the years have helped shape our Faculty of Medicine.

Writing this message amid the COVID-19 pandemic brings me mixed feelings. While looking forward to next year’s anniversary celebrations, many of our fellow alumni are toiling day in and day out to keep us safe. Every day they are facing unprecedented challenges and risks posed by this global health crisis. No matter how difficult, we will strive to overcome it. As South Africa’s Archbishop Desmond Tutu once said:

“Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.”

So my dear fellow alumni, let’s march on together with hope!
Healing and Heartbreak: 
A Day in the Life of a Houseman...

After years of burning the midnight oil at the Faculty of Medicine of CUHK, two young aspiring doctors left campus life behind and embarked on a new journey as housemen. Donning a white coat and experiencing both physical and mental challenges they are determined to become, not just highly-skilled doctors, but who are also empathetic to the pain of patients.

Infusing daily rounds with warmth

“A patient’s gratitude is my greatest encouragement,” says Dr. Allan LUI, who completed his internship in June this year. Dr. Anson CHAN, who started her internship in July, nods in agreement: “I try to remember every patient. I usually greet them by name and wish them good morning during my rounds. Seeing their cheerful response is very satisfying.”

As a new houseman, Dr. CHAN is very grateful that she was able to join the coveted surgical division at the outset. “There are a large number of patients to deal with, so I am very busy. Every day, I visit the ward once by myself and then go on rounds with the consultant doctor. After that, I help prescribe medication and according to the consultant doctor’s instructions, arrange for patients to undergo computer diagnostic imaging, X-ray or other tests. Sometimes, I need to draw blood, set up drips and suture small wounds.”

Dr. LUI, who hopes to be an oncologist in the future, jokes: “When I was a houseman, I sometimes felt like a senior clerk because I often had to focus on the computer system to follow up on the consultant doctor’s orders.”

Rigorous schedule

“The working hours are indeed very long, at least 80 to 100 hours a week,” Dr. LUI says. “Our on-call days are especially intense. I’ve worked continuously for more than 36 hours.” Dr. CHAN adds: “Usually every three to five days, we get a ‘call’. For example, we might start work at 7 am on the first day and be called immediately afterwards. On busy days, there is no time to sleep; we might have to work until 7 or 8 pm the next night.”

While they may recount their schedule matter-of-factly, to the average person, it could resemble the training schedule for the Ironman challenge. Both of them, however, emphasise that their passion for what they do overrides the long working hours and onerous duties.

Challenging yet inspiring experiences

Dr. LUI shares that setting priorities was particularly important during his internship. “Often, there are multiple patients who need to be dealt with simultaneously. The only feasible option is to deal with the seriously ill and life-threatening cases first.”

Dr. CHAN recounted an unforgettable experience. “On one very busy night, as I was looking forward to having a meal because I hadn’t eaten until midnight, a nurse reported that an elderly woman with cognitive impairment had recovered quickly following a sudden slight drop in her blood oxygen level. Despite starving, I decided not to eat but examine the woman first. I then discovered she was having a heart attack. I learnt from the case that even if a patient’s blood oxygen level goes up soon after a drop, the underlying problem might be more serious. Fortunately, I had decided to skip that meal!”

The two fledgling doctors repeatedly stressed the importance of establishing a good relationship with patients.
Nothing like hands-on experience

Dr. CHAN likens herself to a sponge which absorbs information and experience because practicum is completely different from theoretical studies. “Patients come from diverse backgrounds and therefore need to be managed appropriately. We can’t just go by the book when it comes to diagnosis and treatment.”

Dr. LUI wholeheartedly agrees: “By dealing with different diseases directly and interacting with each patient, one can learn more effectively than in the classroom.”

The most important lesson he has learnt is deciding between optimising treatment for cure or for comfort. “I had a patient whose cholangiocarcinoma had spread throughout the body and she was severely jaundiced due to biliary obstruction. She also had intra-abdominal abscesses and was extremely weak. The aggressive treatment option providing her with the highest chance of survival was an invasive procedure. Ultimately, after discussing with the attending doctor, the patient’s family decided they didn’t want to prolong her suffering from a progressive, incurable disease.” Dr. LUI is still moved by how the patient’s son grasped his mother’s hand to comfort her in her final hours. It was a poignant, bittersweet moment for all present that day, he adds.

Bright future

Asked about where she envisions herself after the internship, Dr. CHAN says, “Before talking about what I gained from the experience, I want to talk about what I can give. I hope to be a competent houseman who follows instructions, works well with everyone and helps reduce the burden of attending doctors.”

Having completed his internship, Dr. LUI is heading to the University of Cambridge for a doctoral degree. He says he plans to return to Hong Kong after his PhD and become a clinician-scientist. “I like connecting with and treating patients. But I also love doing research, so I hope to do both!”

It is clear from their experiences that both Dr. CHAN and Dr. LUI are highly motivated and intend to channel their enthusiasm, care and professionalism into practising medicine at the highest level.

奔向未來日子

對於完成實習後的憧憬，陳醫生正色道：「在談收穫之前，我想談自己可付出甚麼，我希望當一個稱職的實習醫生，減少主診醫生的負擔。」

呂醫生將遠赴英國劍橋大學修讀博士課程，立志成為一位醫生科學家：「我喜歡接觸、醫治病患，但同時熱愛做研究，希望兩者兼顧！」

今年的實習時間，是緊張而過；然而，深信這兩位醫生會憑藉熱誠和魄力，仁愛與專業，走上這大的行醫之道。
While students of CUHK’s prestigious Global-Physician Leadership Scheme (GPS) are often feted for their academic excellence and outstanding resumes, these two young alumni, through their humility, sincerity and empathy, embody the true spirit of the programme.

Dr. Charlotte LAU and Dr. Landon CHAN both say they benefited enormously from the workshop opportunities, overseas internships and student exchanges, as well as one-on-one mentorship under GPS.

Dr. CHAN was among the first batch of GPS graduates. “The spirit of GPS is now a part of me. I have deeply imbibed the lessons learnt during the programme - leadership skills, conflict resolution, research and clinical experience,” he says.

A key part of the GPS training is mastering people-to-people skills, in particular, how best to communicate with patients and their family, says Dr. LAU. “You need to be understanding and compassionate” she adds. Dr. CHAN agrees: “While conducting scientific and clinical researches are deeply satisfying to me, it is the direct impact that those researches have on patients that matter the most. Ultimately, you need to look at the perspectives of the patients and their families and help them understand the risks and benefits of different treatment options.”

**Profound experiences**

This humanistic approach is evident in the unforgettable memories they share. Dr. LAU’s voice trembles as she recalls an incident at the Prince of Wales Hospital. “While I was on call overnight, a patient who was to be discharged the next day, suddenly went into cardiac arrest. Although I was very nervous, the lessons I learnt during GPS workshops helped me stay calm.”

Despite the medical team’s efforts, the patient did not regain consciousness. The family had decided not to proceed with tracheal intubation or any kind of treatment in the intensive care unit. “I was emotionally affected by what the patient’s son said. He explained that his father was a good man and he would have wanted to leave in peace and without pain.” The episode taught Dr. LAU the importance of taking the wishes of the patient and family into account when making decisions.

Dr. CHAN, now an oncology resident at Princess Margaret Hospital, has also had many poignant experiences at work. “Many of our patients are already terminally ill so they have to return to the hospital frequently. So I have become a familiar face to the patients’ families and eventually, a bond develops between us.”

He also recalls a patient from Nepal, whose condition was deteriorating rapidly and who did not want to die in a foreign country. “We helped arrange for oxygen bottles for her flight home and were all so relieved when she eventually made the flight.”

**Nurturing mentors, enriching opportunities**

As they develop into confident yet empathetic doctors, Dr. LAU and Dr. CHAN are inspired by their mentors.
“I chose Professor Justin WU from the Department of Medicine & Therapeutics as my mentor because I was intrigued by his research on the integration of Chinese and Western medicine. He has been like a father to me,” Dr. LAU shares. She also praises other supportive mentors such as Professor Vincent MOK, Assistant Dean (Admissions) and Professor Simon NG, Associate Dean (Student Affairs) and the Director of GPS.

Dr. CHAN says working on a research project supervised by Professor Dennis LO, Associate Dean (Research) and the Director of the Li Ka Shing Institute of Health Sciences, was “an extremely rewarding learning experience” as it introduced him to the highest state-of-the-art research in non-invasive diagnosis. Another mentor was Miss Janet WONG, former Commissioner for Innovation and Technology. “She helped me improve my interpersonal skills and career planning. She has also advised me on other aspects of my life - it was a truly holistic mentorship.”

Both doctors went abroad after winning the Innovation and Technology Scholarship. Dr. LAU joined a summer exchange programme at the University of Toronto and participated in a research project on integrated medicine. Dr. CHAN went to Yale University and took part in a major bioinformatics project.

GPS’s focus on research has inspired Dr. LAU to aim higher after graduation.
“I hope to do clinical research in addition to my duties as a doctor.”

Dr. CHAN says GPS exposed him to the different aspects of a medical career, including research and administration. He views the programme as a launching pad. “I don’t think GPS ends after graduation. If the goal is to reach Mars, we are only just starting our journey.”

The profound experiences the two GPS alumni encountered during their medical journey have shed invaluable insights into how to better serve the community as doctors as well as humanitarians. But more importantly, combined with the GPS spirit, they have learnt the true meaning of life.
“Open up the mountains, open up the land, our sacred work is to pioneer.” This one-liner from the CUHK Student Union song has inspired generations of young scholars to strive for new heights of achievement. Professor Justin WU, Chief Operating Officer of the CUHK Medical Centre (CUHKMC), says the lyrics perfectly encapsulate the pioneering spirit which he, and the CUHKMC as a whole, embody.

The Centre will break new ground in Hong Kong’s medical history by exploring essential elements between private and public healthcare sectors. Using cutting-edge technology to provide high-quality, one-stop, affordable and transparent medical services, CUHKMC aims at becoming a leading academic medical centre in the region.

When Professor WU was offered the position of Chief Operating Officer, he jumped at the chance. He had longed to be one of the “pioneers” of this trailblazing project. However, even though he stepped down from his post as associate dean of the Faculty of Medicine of CUHK, he is still continuing with his teaching and active clinical practice, including weekly clinic sessions in Prince of Wales Hospital. “I am grateful for these tasks as they remind me I am still a teacher as well as a clinician,” he says. “Through these opportunities, I can have a deeper understanding of the needs of patients and public hospitals, and the difficulties they face.”

As Hong Kong’s population ages and the incidence of chronic diseases rises, the demand for healthcare has increased exponentially. At the same time, the growing complexity of medical care has led to the increase in the cost of medical services. This has resulted in many people flocking to public hospitals, putting them under severe strain and increasing the waiting times for non-urgent medical services.

“As the queues get longer and longer, you can see the heavy pressure on the hospitals,” Professor WU says. “This situation has become my driving force, inspiring me to think about how to use the CUHKMC model to try to solve the problems.”

CUHKMC meticulously-designed fixed price package services will “give people peace of mind when seeking medical care” through price certainty and transparency, Professor WU explains. In addition to boasting state-of-the-art technology, the hospital is also designed to best serve the needs of all users – patients, visitors and staff. In particular, detailed attention has been geared towards enhancing patient experience such as streamlining services to eliminate unnecessary waiting time and transfers.

Health companion of Hong Kong people

Professor WU has watched CUHKMC grow and blossom over the years from its initial construction on a rugged piece of land to a fully-equipped building which is due to start trial operations in early 2021.
A complete range of medical services, on a larger scale, is expected by the middle of the year.

Whenever Professor WU passes by the sleek and modern hospital building with its clear glass curtain wall, he would smile and ask himself: “If I were a patient or when I grow older and am retired, what would I expect from this hospital? I would definitely wish for it, not just to treat illnesses, but to become a partner in managing my health, teaching me and helping me take good care of my body.”

“Apart from providing medical services, CUHKMC also hopes to promote personalised wellness programmes, raise public health awareness and improve population health. Do not wait to see a doctor until you are sick. Instead, start with your lifestyle and eating habits. Take care of your health as soon as possible,” he emphasises.

He believes this will help people identify and manage the suboptimal health or disease at the earlier stage, which will, in turn, reduce medical expenses and alleviate the pressure on overall medical services.

Forging kinships with Faculty of Medicine

As the first private teaching hospital in Hong Kong, CUHKMC enjoys a close partnership with CUHK’s Faculty of Medicine. “CUHKMC’s philosophy and services are closely linked to the Faculty. Apart from providing medical services to the public, CUHKMC also shoulders the mission of education and research,” Professor WU explains.

In terms of nurturing the next generation, Professor WU stresses: “We have the most advanced research and technology, which will now be at the service of the public. CUHKMC is also a teaching platform, which offers medical students learning opportunities that are completely different from those in public hospitals. Here, students will gain a deeper understanding of the importance of ‘patient-centred’ care, which will be of immense help in their future careers.”

On the research front, the CUHKMC model will be used to connect Hong Kong with medical innovators worldwide to introduce new technologies for the benefit of patients. “For example, CUHKMC can use CUHK’s faecal microbiota transplantation technology to treat gastrointestinal patients,” he says. “The academic excellence of the Faculty of Medicine’s renowned disciplines, such as cancer, sports medicine, diabetes and endocrinology, can be translated into patient benefits.”

Strong support from alumni network

Given that CUHKMC is an innovative concept for Hong Kong in that it is a not-for-profit private teaching hospital operating on a commercial model, various stakeholders — citizens, the government, the medical community and alumni — have high expectations.

“Dealing with everyone’s expectations and seeking common ground are extremely important,” Professor WU says. “I have done a lot of communication work because setting up a hospital is by no means easy. There are many challenges at every stage.”

He has been liaising actively with various stakeholders, especially alumni who work in the private sector. “I teach at CUHK’s Faculty of Medicine and, though I have private practice sessions under university regulations, I really can’t say that I have extensive experience in providing private medical services. I am very grateful for our alumni’s resourcefulness and generosity in sharing with me their valuable operational experiences in the private healthcare sector.”

In the process of setting up CUHKMC, Professor WU has reconnected with senior alumni, his former classmates and former students. “I have now become their student,” he muses. He says alumni working in the private sector have offered guidance and advice on fixed-fee packages and have stressed the importance of diversity and flexibility.
Through his interactions with them, Professor WU acknowledges the difference between the public and private medical sectors. "For example, if imaging examinations are arranged within a week in public hospitals, it’s already considered very fast, but in private hospitals, patients expect to get this done the next day."

While benefiting profoundly from the advice of CUHK alumni, Professor WU hopes to build on the robust bonds he has established and further strengthen cooperation.

He is firmly convinced that the Centre will provide alumni with excellent opportunities for professional and career development.

**Space for healing**

Apart from forming a medical team and establishing a close collaborative relationship with the CUHK Faculty of Medicine, Professor WU has also been involved in business developments and has connections with commercial institutions.

"Since graduation, I have been serving in public hospitals. I have been teaching and researching at the university for over 10 years. Now I have established relationships with business partners or alumni serving in the private medical sector and have been involved in many business discussions. This sometimes makes me feel like a ‘businessman’, but at heart, I am still a teacher and a doctor."

Thus, it is not surprising that when asked to name his favourite part of the Centre, Professor WU smiles shyly: "As a gastroenterologist, I would have to say the endoscopy centre. It is of very high standard and the place is spacious."

He believes that the Centre’s prime location – close to Tolo Harbour and overlooking Ma On Shan and Pat Sin Leng – is a key asset. "Many of the rooms have open sea views. This will improve patients’ moods and promote healing."

Professor WU says he is looking forward to CUHKMC’s next milestone when it finally opens its doors to patients and begins serving the Hong Kong community. He is confident that, through the efforts of its dedicated team of pioneers and the support of the wider community, CUHKMC will become a proud brand in the minds of every Hong Kong person.

**香港人的健康伙伴**

每次經過那座風華正茂的醫院大樓，胡教授總問自己：「當將來年老或患病時，這座醫院有何期待？」他肯定在治癒外，冀盼醫院能成為自己的健康伙伴：「中大醫院期望推廣健康服務計劃，提高市民保健意識，別等到生病才求醫。」這不僅減少罹患嚴重疾病的風險，亦可避免復雜的醫療程序，降低醫療成本，從而減輕整個醫療服務的壓力。

**與中大醫學院唇齒相依**

作為全港首間新型教學醫院，中大醫院與中大醫學院乃唇齒相依。他解釋：「中大醫院在服務市民之際，亦承載教學及科研角色，為醫學生提供與公立醫院截然不同的學習機會。」而藉著中大醫院平台，可連結香港、海外醫療創新機構，引入新技術：中大醫院著名學科，例如癌症，運動醫學，糖尿內分泌等創新研究成果，也能直接造福病人。

**校友網絡全力支持**

中大醫院背負著市民、政府、醫學界及校友等各方期望，胡教授坦言求同存異至為重要，須與各持分者溝通無間。「感謝於私營系統服務的校友，與我分享營運心得和對定額收費套餐的建議。」他笑說，在校友面前自己猶如一個學生。他更深信，中大醫院將為校友帶來良好的發展機會。

此外，胡教授須聯繫不同商業機構與合作伙伴。他笑指偶爾需為生意人，需時刻提醒自己，緊守老師和醫生本份。

**絕佳的復健空間**

醫院臨近吐露港，景緻絕佳，教病人心情舒坦，有助療癒。當談到最喜歡的中大醫院位置，胡教授泛起親切笑容：「作為腸胃科醫生，我當然選擇內窺鏡中心，規模高水準，地方又寬敞。」

中大醫院將於2021年初試業，胡教授期待憑藉其專業團隊的努力和社會各界的支持，成為一個香港人引以為傲的品牌。
If you had heard loud drilling, knocking, banging or a whole host of other noises emanating from within the Choh-Ming Li Basic Medical Sciences Building (BMSB) in the past year, it was because major renovations had been taking place.

In fact, if you were observant, you would have noticed that some of the classrooms and teaching laboratories, as well as the nursing simulation ward, have all been modernised. Even the dissection laboratory - one of the world’s finest - has been upgraded and expanded as has the pre-clinical teaching space. One of the 2019 refurbishment project highlights was a rooftop garden on the third floor.

Another round of renovation works is due to commence sometime in the summer of 2021 - depending on certain factors. More classrooms and teaching laboratories will be given a facelift and the information technology infrastructure, central air conditioning and ventilation systems will be upgraded.

Makeover par excellence for beloved icon

The BMSB is an iconic building within CUHK campus and was the first to be constructed in 1980 for the then-new Faculty of Medicine. Dedicated solely for the teaching and learning of medicine, it has since expanded its facilities to include another five undergraduate programmes: Biomedical Sciences, Nursing, Chinese Medicine, Pharmacy, Public Health and Community Health Practice.

The last time the building was refurbished was some six to seven years ago.

With cutting edge technology, modernistic and state-of-the-art amenities in the historical BMSB, medical education and research at CU Medicine will be on par with or even eclipse, the other world-class academic institutes of medicine.
CUHKMAA SFL Intern Survival Workshop

Even the COVID-19 pandemic could not stop the SFL Survival Workshop from going ahead as planned. Using Zoom webinar, the event was held on 23 June 2020. This is the first time, since its launch, the survival workshop had used live interactive means to communicate. More than 100 medical interns participated in the webinar where they were given tips and advice on what to expect as interns and also how to communicate effectively with other healthcare practitioners.

As usual, there was strong support from the CUHK Medical Alumni Association (CUHKMAA). The online event was moderated by its Treasurer, Dr. Zenon YEUNG (MBChB 2009) from United Christian Hospital’s ENT Department. Other alumni who participated in the interaction included Infectious Disease Specialist, Dr. Bonnie WONG (MBChB 2002); Dr. Gloria WONG (MBChB 2009) from the Department of Radiology, Princess Margaret Hospital; Dr. Sze Ho MA (MBChB 2009) from the Department of M&T, Prince of Wales Hospital; Dr. Catherine CHAN (MBChB 2015) from the Prince of Wales Hospital’s ENT Department; Dr. Yuen Cheuk WONG (MBChB 2019), a current intern and Mr. Wilson CHIANG, Deputy Ward Manager in the Department of M&T, Prince of Wales Hospital.

Dr. Xina LO (MBChB 2005), President of CUHKMAA, also made an appearance to show her support to the new interns. Thankfully, the webinar proceeded smoothly to the delight and relief of all.

At the same time, three alumni also pitched in to help the new interns plan for their career development by video recording their experiences and giving advice on the different specialties, and uploading all of it on the web. The “Career Talk” doctors included Dr. Edmund FONG (MBChB 2002), Dr. Eric CHEUNG (MBChB 2009) and Dr. Johnny LAM (MBChB 2011). Another three doctors - Dr. Catherine CHAN, Dr. Gloria WONG and Dr. Sze Ho MA - who were involved in the SFL Survival Workshop webinar also participated in the video-sharing on Career Talk.

Faculty Reception 2020

Prospective students eye-ing CU Medicine’s MBChB and Global Physician-Leadership Stream (GPS) programmes were given the opportunity on 19 July 2020 to “catch up” with our Faculty Dean, Professor Francis CHAN.

Professor CHAN explained to them, via Zoom webinar, the Faculty’s vision. The students were also connected with other professors and alumni who briefed them about the programme features. Medical students, participating in the 75-minute “Faculty Reception 2020”, shared their experiences as undergraduates.

There were numerous questions and answers during the interactive session and needless to say, it was a fulfilling webinar experience overall.
O-Camp Meeting with Medical Alumni

It was a sign of COVID-19 times...social distancing meant the CU Medical Alumni Buddy Programme’s O-camp had to be done online, without the end-of-event traditional dinner.

Undaunted by it all, organisers set up a two-day Zoom programme, beginning 26 August 2020, for about 450 medical students and freshmen so they would not miss out on the annual fun, yet important, event.

Some 46 alumni buddies “zoomed” in during a sharing session which was kicked-off by Dr. Bonita LAW (MBChB 1992), Director of Breast Centre, Union Hospital, with an introduction of the Buddy Programme. Buddies shared their experiences as a doctor and had an invigorating chill-chat with the students.

Topics were wide-ranging, from how to choose a specialty, getting on well with heads and colleagues to coping with pressure and balancing life with study.

Career Workshop on Surgery

Even a pandemic could not stop some CUHK alumni from helping out medical students with much-needed advice. At least nine physicians from different hospitals held a Career Workshop on Surgery, via Zoom webinar, on 11 September at the Prince of Wales Hospital. Dr. Bonita LAW, Director of Breast Centre at Union Hospital, was the moderator.

During the three-hours, the students were briefed on training programmes, selection criteria and how to plan for their internships. They also heard about the experiences some of the surgeons had gone through.

The students, on their part, responded with numerous probing questions, from how to choose training centres to how medical students with eczema or who suffers from hand tremors can prepare themselves for surgical practice. There were also many questions on the different subspecialities as well as how one copes with the demands of being a surgeon.

About 170 students participated in the interactive workshop.