



To News Editor  
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### Eminent Pharmacist on Breakthrough in Drug Therapy during Cardiac Arrest

Cardiac arrest occurs to as many as 300,000 to 400,000 people a year in the United States alone, but improvements in relevant drug therapy have been hampered by the lack of research due to ethical considerations, according to a leading clinical pharmacy professor, Moses Chow.

"Cardiac arrest is an urgent event requiring immediate lifesaving measures in order to save the patient," Prof. Chow explains, adding that the implementation of effective cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and definitive drug therapy are imperative.

"Definitive drug therapy requires administration of the right amount of drug to exert the right effect at the right time for a particular indication," said Prof. Chow, Professor of Clinical Pharmacy at the University of Connecticut. However, there is presently a lack of knowledge of effective drug management during cardiac arrest and CPR, mainly due to the lack of research.

"In fact, there has been no breakthrough in the past 30 years, mainly due to the difficulty in conducting studies during such a setting as well as the ethical restrictions," said Prof. Chow, who is also the Director of Drug Information Service at Hartford Hospital. The real challenges for pharmacists are to study the drugs in human subjects during CPR, he added.

Professor Chow is currently visiting Hong Kong on the invitation of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). He will deliver a public lecture on **"Improving the Pharmacotherapy of Cardiac Arrest and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation: A Challenge for the Present and the Future"** at the University's Shatin campus this week. The lecture will start at 5 p.m. on Friday (Oct. 13) in Lecture Theatre 6, Lady Shaw Building. Admission is free. All are welcome.

Prof. Chow has contributed significantly to clinical pharmacy research for the improvement of drug therapy in patients. His early work in the cardiac arrest setting led to changes in dosage of lidocaine recommendation by the American Heart Association. Presently, he is investigating the use of an oxygen carrier, haemoglobin, to improve resuscitation.

The Wei Lun Visiting Professorship/Fellowship Scheme at CUHK was established through the generous donation by the Wei Lun Foundation Ltd. Eminent scholars from around the world are regularly invited to the University to give public lectures and foster academic exchange.

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