

新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

To News Editor
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Chinese University Sets Up "Nasopharyngeal Cancer Research Foundation"

Cancer is the single largest cause of death in Hong Kong with the cancer-related death rate increasing by more than 30% over the past decade.

With Southern China, Hong Kong suffers the highest incidence of nasopharyngeal cancer (NPC) in the world. An average of one in every 2,500 of the adult population of Hong Kong would be stricken with the cancer each year. This killer disease is the most common cancer, more than doubling its closest rival, in adults below the age of 50. Because of its disturbing predilection for southern Chinese people, it is often referred to as the "Cantonese Cancer".

While medical doctors, scientists, and health care professionals in Hong Kong have contributed greatly to the knowledge of this dreadful disease, much still needs to be done towards understanding some of the fundamental and clinical aspects for its prevention, early diagnosis and effective treatment. The dramatically disproportionate incidence of NPC renders this cancer a unique Hong Kong responsibility. The NPC Research Foundation is being created to shoulder this responsibility.

The objectives of the Foundation are:

- i) To promote, coordinate and sponsor research projects for the pursuit of knowledge in relation to nasopharyngeal cancer.
- ii) To encourage the study and enhancement of diagnostic and treatment methods relating directly to nasopharyngeal cancer.
- iii) To establish an educational facility with a focus on nasopharyngeal cancer in order to inform both the medical profession and the lay public about the necessary precautions and early detection, and to offer counselling services for patients and their families.
- iv) To establish an International Register for nasopharyngeal cancer.
- v) To raise funds for the purposes of furthering the above objectives.

Evolving from the multi-specialty Prince of Wales Hospital Workgroup on NPC, a precedent for broad inter-departmental cooperation has been established. The Foundation will be housed in the Sir Y K Pau Cancer Centre and will be the focus for input, support and free exchange among all groups involved in the study of this disease, in Hong Kong, China and overseas.

With the generous support in the form of significant donations from Health Care Asia Inc. (HK\$1.5 million) and the Provident Foundation (HK\$0.5 million), the means are now available for the establishment of the NPC Research Foundation. These donations have been earmarked by the Foundation for a project on the early diagnosis of nasopharyngeal cancer.

It is anticipated that the Nasopharyngeal Cancer Research Foundation will become the key organisation worldwide for all aspects of nasopharyngeal cancer.

Advisors to the Foundation include: Professor Arthur Li, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, CUHK; Dr. P. Choi, Consultant of the Department of Clinical Oncology, PWH; Dr. D. P. Huang, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Anatomical and Cellular Pathology, CUHK; Dr. J. Tam, Lecturer of the Department of Microbiology, CUHK; Mr. C. A. Van Hasselt, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Surgery, CUHK and specialists from Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth Hospitals.

A photo taken at today's press conference will be available at GIS press boxes this afternoon.

For press enquiries, please contact Ms Annie Lam (6097267) or Mrs Shirley Kwok (6097294) of the University's Information Office.