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## **CUHK Hosts Eleventh International Workshop on Therapeutic Endoscopy**

The Chinese University of Hong Kong's Faculty of Medicine will organise the **Eleventh International Workshop on Therapeutic Endoscopy** to demonstrate the newest developments in endoscopic surgery on 3-5 December, which will be transmitted via satellite to doctors in Japan and the USA.

With the explosive development of therapeutic endoscopy in recent years, many diseases that required open surgery in the past can now be treated without an operation. Notable examples are bleeding from peptic ulcer and oesophageal varices, stones in the common bile duct, oesophageal cancer, bile duct obstruction and polyps in the cancer. Endoscopic treatment can be performed without general anaesthesia and without the pain and suffering of a wound in the abdomen. Patients recover faster and costs are reduced because hospital stay is shortened.

The medical faculty at The Chinese University of Hong Kong has been a world leader in the development of therapeutic endoscopy. Many new procedures, catered for common diseases in Hong Kong and South East Asia, were pioneered by staff members at the Prince of Wales Hospital, the teaching hospital of the Faculty. The incidences of peptic ulcer bleeding in Hong Kong is amongst the highest in the world. Injection treatment of this condition, a technique pioneered by the Prince of Wales team has become the most popular method of stopping ulcer bleeding worldwide. The mortality rate of pyogenic cholangitis, a disease prevalent in South East Asia, has been significantly reduced by endoscopic drainage, a method popularized in Hong Kong.

To make these new techniques more widely available in Hong Kong and other countries, this year's workshop will be transmitted via satellite to Tokyo, Japan, and Sacramento in the United States. Doctors in Tokyo and California can observe the procedures performed in Hong Kong, and experts from Japan and the United States will participate in the discussion of the management of the patients. Experts from the Faculty of Medicine at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, together with leading experts from Europe, the United States and Japan, will demonstrate state-of-the-art procedures to an international audience of 350 gastroenterologists and surgeons from all over the world.

The therapeutic endoscopy workshop at the Prince of Wales Hospital held every December has become an important focus for specialists in this field to meet, exchange ideas and learn about the latest technology in this rapidly developing area.

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