



新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

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To Editor  
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**First Annual Scientific Symposium on EBV Related Tumours -  
Organised by The Hong Kong Cancer Institute and Chinese  
University of Hong Kong, To be held at The  
Prince of Wales Hospital**

To celebrate the first Anniversary of the opening of the Sir Y K Pao Centre for Cancer and the Lady Pao Children's Cancer Centre, an International Symposium is to be held at the Prince of Wales Hospital on March 4 1996 entitled "EBV related tumours". EBV stands for Epstein - Barr Virus, discovered in the 1960s by two scientists, Drs Barr and Epstein. The subject is particularly important to Hong Kong because the virus is thought to be one of the causes of Nasopharyngeal Cancer (NPC), which is so common in this part of the world that it has become known as the "Cantonese Cancer".

There are on an average 1000 new cases of NPC reported annually, of which 750 are male patients. Deaths caused by NPC is about 500 per year.

In the West, where EBV infects adolescents it is known to cause "glandular fever" which is usually a short lived and mild illness which leads to a sore throat, tiredness and swelling of the lymph glands. In a small number of people it may also be responsible for a much more serious disease, a type of cancer of the lymph glands called "Hodgkin's disease", and some of the cancers of the lymph glands which develop in people with AIDS. In parts of Africa EBV is responsible for a cancer of the lymph glands in children (known as Burkitt's Lymphoma) which, untreated, is rapidly fatal. Professor George Klein, of the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden will address the meeting on this topic. Professor Klein is one of the World's leading authorities on the role of viruses in causing cancer, a field in which he is credited with over 1000 scientific publications and numerous international awards. His lecture is supported by the Cheng Suen Man Shook Foundation and will draw an audience from all over Hong Kong.

In Southern China, where the virus infects nearly all children in their early years, it is strongly associated with NPC. The role of EBV in this type of Cancer will first be discussed by Professor Zeng Yi from the Institute of Virology of the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine. He will also discuss current research, in which he is involved on the development of vaccines against the virus, which may hold promise for a long-term control of the problem. Furthermore he will discuss why the tumour is so common in Southern China. Dr Maria Li Lung of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and Dr Dolly Huang of the Chinese University of Hong Kong will further discuss the association of EBV with NPC in this region and the molecular genetics of this cancer.

If detected early, NPC and the other tumours mentioned above, are likely to be cured by modern anti-cancer treatment using drugs and radiotherapy. Methods of detecting the tumour early, and the latest advances in treatment will be described by Doctors from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, working at the Prince of Wales Hospital. Exciting and innovative treatment approaches which rely on enhancing the body's own immune system, so that it can recognise and destroy the tumour, are to be discussed by Professor Richard Ambinder from Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA.

The Chinese University is at the forefront of research into and treatment of Nasopharyngeal Cancer. This meeting will provide an ideal forum in which to discuss all the latest research with other leading International Authorities.

The Cancer Centre, despite only being operational for one year has already established State of the Art Laboratories for research into cancer in Hong Kong and one of these is dedicated to the field of NPC.

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