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Expert to Boost Development of Chemical Pathology in Hong Kong

"Metabolic disorder amongst children who suffer from mental retardation or disturbances of motive function could be detected by screening for the disease early before marriage and conception of risk parents," the newly appointed Chairman of the Department of Chemical Pathology at the Chinese University, Professor Nils Magnus Hjelm said.

A distinguished expert in chemical pathology, Professor Hjelm is the front-line investigator on various metabolic disorders, with special interest in screening. He regards the development of chemical pathology in Hong Kong as of great significance because treatment to fight various diseases could be more successful with early diagnosis. For example, cancers of the liver and pharynx which are common in Hong Kong can be diagnosed at the early stage by applying mass spectrometry, a sophisticated new technology that can identify and measure new classes of molecules which may be of considerable importance to further characterise disorder. A Biomedical Mass Spectrometry Unit, as revealed by Professor Hjelm, would be established within the Department of Chemical Pathology.

As the Chair and Professor of Chemical Pathology in the Institute of Child Health in the University of London for almost 15 years before joining the CUHK, Professor Hjelm has had extensive experience in child health. He is planning to establish a unit specializing in metabolic diseases within the Department of Chemical Pathology at the Chinese University.

After obtaining a licentiate in medicine from the University of Uppsala in Sweden in 1960, Professor Hjelm began his career as clinical biochemist in the Academic Hospital of Uppsala, and he was awarded a doctorate in medicine in 1969 by the same university. He became F.R.C.Path. in 1984.

Attachment: Recent picture of Professor Nils Magnus Hjelm

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