香港中文大學 THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

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TO NEWS EDITOR FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## First Comprehensive Geriatric Outreach Service Team To Boost Services

In providing health care to elderly people, one particular group has been relatively neglected until recently. These are the elderly with physical or mental disability, those living without relatives or in remote, isolated areas. They may not know how to seek help, or are unable to seek help when they are ill, or may have unrecognized diseases.

As a result, their illness or disability resulting from illness may become too advanced or irreversible by the time they come to the attention of the health and social welfare authorities. Another major problem is the difficulty experienced by elderly with mobility problems who require longterm medication for chronic diseases, to obtain their medication.

The formation of a geriatric multidisciplinary outreach team to provide medical and remedial therapy to this group of the elderly represents a major advance in health care for the elderly. The joint venture, made possible by the All-Star Football Association (which has a longstanding record of service to the elderly), the Faculty of Medicine of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and the Hospital Authority, will for the first time provide a comprehensive service for this group of elderly people, including medical consultation, provision of drugs, and assessment of functional needs.

The team's services received a major boost today (June 15) when the All-Star Football Association handed over a bus to the elderly outreach programme. The bus provides a transport service for outreach team to visit clients, or for patients to obtain diagnostic/remedial services.