



新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

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**Combined Children Spina Bifida Clinic
and
Setting up the Childhood Spina Bifida Support Group of Hong Kong**

Spina bifida is a common congenital anomaly characterized by defective closure of the bony encasement of the spinal cord, through which the cord and meninges may protrude. Children suffering from spina bifida often have multiple problems including neurological deficit of the lower limbs, e.g. paraplegia, and loss of urinary and faecal control. Optimal management of these children necessitates a multidisciplinary approach by various medical specialists.

The Faculty of Medicine of the Chinese University of Hong Kong like to announce the setting up of the first Combined Children Spina Bifida Clinic in Hong Kong at the Prince of Wales Hospital. The Combined Clinic will be formed by specialists from the Divisions of Paediatric Surgery and Neurosurgery of the Department of Surgery, Division of Paediatric Orthopaedic of the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Department of Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy as well as Prosthetic and Orthotic Departments. We also like to announce the founding of the "Childhood Spina Bifida Support Group", the first of its kind in the territory.

The establishment of this clinic will greatly enhance co-ordination of care between different medical specialties and will also provide more convenience to parents of these unfortunate children who otherwise have to visit the hospital much more frequently to attend separate individual clinics.

Doctors at the Chinese University of Hong Kong realize that peer group support is complementary to the medical advances they can offer. We therefore take the lead to set up the "Childhood Spina Bifida Support Group of Hong Kong" with the following goals:

- 1) To provide opportunities for patients and their families to exchange information and experience concerning spina bifida and its related problems, including lower limb deformities, bowel and bladder dysfunction, spinal cord tethering, etc;
- 2) To raise public understanding and awareness of children spina bifida and its related problems.

It is estimated that over 300 children in Hong Kong are suffering from spina bifida at present and that about 20 children are born each year with the defect.

Attachment: A set of 6 photos on children spina bifida