



新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

TO NEWS EDITOR
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 14, 1995

CUHK Faculty of Medicine launches outings for children cancer patients to boost quality care

To improve the quality of life of children who are battling the traumatic diseases of cancer, the Department of Paediatrics of the Faculty of Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), is teaming up with Camp Quality, an international camping and support programme for young cancer patients, to launch a series of fun-filled as well as therapeutic outings and recreational programmes.

These new programmes are expected to benefit around 500 children cancer patients of the CUHK's Department of Paediatrics, which is a leading centre for childhood malignancies and bone marrow transplant.

Having successfully conducted Hong Kong's first paediatric bone marrow transplant in 1991, the Department of Paediatrics proceeded to set records with successful performance of the territory's first paediatric autologous stem cell transplant in 1992, and the first paediatric allogeneic stem cell transplant in 1995.

Equipped with the facilities at the Lady Pao Children's Cancer Centre at the Prince of Wales Hospital, the Department of Paediatrics, CUHK did the majority of the bone marrow transplant in Hong Kong, and is currently treating about 50% of Hong Kong's paediatric cancer patients.

There are 428 paediatric cancer patients and 416 children with various blood diseases being treated and followed up at the Prince of Wales Hospital.

The vast majority of cancer patients are acute leukaemia patients, with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia being the commonest - total of 164 patients (38.5%). The CUHK's Department of Paediatrics has performed 65 bone marrow & peripheral blood stem cell transplants, the majority of which were for acute leukaemias. Of the 428 cancer patients being followed up at the outpatient clinic, 163 are being actively treated.

The paediatric cancer patients being treated and followed up at the outpatient clinic range from newborns to 32-year-olds. The older

patients are cured of their cancer, but still receive continuous care. The Department of Paediatrics of CUHK is setting up a long-term follow-up clinic for the detection of the complications of cancer treatment for these patients.

"We have hitherto emphasized only the medical aspect in the fight against cancer in children. It is high time that we look into the social and psychological aspects," said Professor Arthur Li, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, CUHK at a press conference today.

In order to improve the quality of life of the young cancer patients, the Department of Paediatrics has enlisted the support of "Camp Quality" to set up its first base in Hong Kong.

"We are seeking support from the local community to serve our children cancer patients better. A series of outings is being planned to give pleasure to our children cancer patients at the Lady Pao Children's Cancer Centre. It will be a series of happy and meaningful events where doctors, nurses and volunteers join together with our children patients," said Dr Patrick Yuen, Professor at CUHK's Department of Paediatrics. Aside from camping trips, picnics will also be organised so that parents can come to know each other better and draw mutual support from each other, he added.

Camp Quality is an international camping and support programme for children with cancer. Money is raised through the community. The aims of the Camp Quality are as follow:

- * To allow children with cancer to be children again, to have fun, to participate in exciting activities, to make new friends, and, as far as possible, be removed from all stress.
- * To give the families of these children a much needed rest, knowing that the finest programme has been selected to keep their children happy.
- * It is hoped that the camp experience will be fun for the children. Memories from these occasions will sustain them in the weeks and months ahead as they continue their medical treatment.
- * Camp Quality is all about hope for the future!

* * * * *

For press enquiries, please contact Mrs Shirley Kwok of the University's Information & Public Relations Office at 2609-8897.