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## INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM TO BOOST LOCAL CANCER RESEARCH

World-renowned cancer specialists will meet their local counterparts from the Chinese University of Hong Kong next week at an important scientific symposium which is expected to provide fresh impetus for the territory's campaign against cancer.

Entitled "Cancer into the 21st Century", the symposium taking place on Feb 16 is organized by the University's Hong Kong Cancer Institute. The ten overseas speakers are all eminent oncologists - from major cancer centres in the United States, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Australia, China and Malaysia - as well as members of the Institute's scientific advisory board.

Two of them had served as the U.S. President's advisers on medical research related to cancer. They are : Dr. Richard A Rifkind, Chairman of Sloan-Kettering Institute - who had served nationally on the President's Biomedical Research Panel; and Dr. Frederick Becker, Vice President for Research, of Anderson Cancer Center - who was appointed to the National Cancer Advisory Board by President Bush in 1990.

During the symposium, the experts from abroad will share their latest research findings and experience in cancer treatment, and discuss with local specialists the future directions in cancer research.

"Research is the key to better understanding, prevention and treatment of cancer - Hong Kong's number one killer diseases which are claiming more and more lives," said Prof. Philip Johnson, the Director of Hong Kong Cancer Institute.

"Hong Kong has an important role to play in the global battle against cancer, especially in the locally-prevalent areas such as nasopharyngeal cancer and liver cancer - where our doctors and researchers have made major contributions in terms of the understanding and treatment of the diseases. We hope to contribute as well as benefit from such international exchange with leading oncologists and representatives of first-rate cancer centres," he said.

"With the dedicated research facilities coming on stream at Hong Kong's first purpose-built cancer centres at our teaching hospital, the Prince of Wales Hospital, we in the Chinese University are all set to attack cancer in the broadest of fronts," said Prof. Johnson.

The new facilities include diagnostic and research laboratories with state-of-the-art equipment – including the world's most advanced Magnetic Resonance Imaging machine which enables accurate localization of tumours; a Confocal Laser Scanning Microscope which can reveal the internal workings of living cells and help researchers analyze how cancer cells affect normal cells; and a Karyotyping Machine which can detect damaged chromosomes responsible for development of some cancers.

The brainchild of the Hong Kong Cancer Institute, the new cancer centres at the Prince of Wales Hospital adopt a unique team approach in pursue of high-quality care for patients. Established with a HK\$120 million donation from Mr and Mrs Peter Woo, the two centres – for adults and children respectively – were officially opened by the Prince of Wales three months ago.

Besides cancer treatment, it is also hoped that the new facilities will act as a focal point for public education as well as multi-disciplinary research – which are essential for the containment of the growing problem of cancer in Hong Kong.

The special features of the seven-storey centre include: a Cancer Screening Unit with the latest diagnostic imaging equipment; a special dispensary for cancer drug preparation which offers better protection for staff against health hazards in such drug preparation; a purpose-built day chemotherapy clinic which offers cost-effective outpatient services enabling patients to stay close to their families; a paediatric cancer centre specifically designed to meet the young patients' needs and allay their fears of hospital, which has in-patient beds, isolation rooms and a Bone Marrow Transplant Unit.

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Encl.: Symposium programme

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