



新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

TO NEWS EDITOR
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 3, 1995

Young doctors urged to be aware of patient's rights

Young doctors should be aware of patient's rights and their professional responsibility to their patients to meet the challenging reforms in Hong Kong's health care system, a distinguished public health professor said.

Prof Lee Shiu-hung, Chairman of Department of Community and Family Medicine of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, told 150 freshmen and medical students at the Opening Ceremony of the Medical Orientation Camp'95 that rising health costs, rising expectations, increasing sophistication in medical technology and rising proportion of older population have greatly changed the health care system in Hong Kong.

Besides, doctors have to deal with problems not only from the local population but also problems from the increasing numbers of new immigrants who have been exposed to a different kind of health care system, he added.

He criticized Hong Kong's health care system that it has been too hospital-oriented. The concept of primary health care as the base of a health care system and the gate-keeper of the hospital system has not been fully appreciated.

Future health care system should be more community-based and seek the full support and cooperation of the community. Medical ethics hence, is receiving greater attention and doctors have to be more accountable for the care given to patients, Prof Lee stressed.

Increasing concern about some of the doctors of medical institutions being alleged of inadequate care to the patients demands young medical students to respond to changes in the health care system and uphold the good name of the profession.

Lastly, Prof Lee offered the students three dictums to follow in their medical education and practice, namely determination, devotion and perseverance, and affection. And armed with these, they can be qualified as doctors of the 21st Century.

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Prof Lee is the Advisor of the Medical Society of CUHK. Acting Dean, Prof Lee Joseph C K, and Sub-Dean, Prof J A Gosling of the Faculty of Medicine, Chairman of Medical Society, Mr Albert Wong also attended the opening ceremony.

P.S. Prof Lee Shiu-hung's Photograph is enclosed

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