



# 新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

Department of Surgery  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

## Press Release

### HONG KONG DEAF TO BENEFIT FROM SEDAN CHAIR RACE

Hong Kong, 24 April 1996 -- The Chairman of the Matilda Bazaar & Sedan Chair Race, Dr David Henderson, today presented a cheque for \$100,000 to Dr Alison Reid, Hospital Chief Executive at the Prince of Wales Hospital. Dr Henderson said : "The organising committee of the Matilda Bazaar & Sedan Chair Race is delighted to be able to assist the Cochlear Implant Team in the exciting work they are doing for profoundly deaf people in Hong Kong. The "Bionic Ear" programme - which they are pioneering in Hong Kong - can bring completely deaf people back into the world of sound and hearing."

Professor Andrew van Hasselt of the Chinese University of Hong Kong who heads the multi disciplined team thanked the Matilda Charities Fund for their generous donation and explained : "The 'bionic ear' is a sophisticated electronic device that is implanted by surgeons into the skull (by means of a fine electrode introduced into the inner ear) that directly stimulates the nerve of hearing in profoundly deaf patients."

Professor van Hasselt went on to explain : "The selection of suitable candidates - who may be either adults who have become deaf or children who were born deaf - is a particularly important and painstaking task. The period of preparation preceding the implantation of the bionic ear is long, and requires devotion and dedicated input. The rehabilitation period which follows the implanting of the 'bionic ear' is also lengthy, requiring great determination on the part of the patients and medical staff."

The donation of \$100,000 from The Matilda Charities Fund will go towards the establishment of a "Cochlear Implant Centre" at the Prince of Wales Hospital. This has been an aim of the Cochlear Implant Team - made up of representatives from the Hospital Authority and the Department of Surgery of the Chinese University of Hong Kong since the commencement of the programme 18 months ago.

The Centre will cater to the needs of potential candidates and their families, who require extensive counselling and support. Professor van Hasselt explained : "The Cochlear Implant Centre will provide a suitable venue where patients can gather, talk to each other about their challenges and successes, and receive counselling from medical staff."

Professor van Hasselt stressed that the donation from the Matilda Charities Fund will go some way towards the establishment of the Cochlear Implant Centre, but further donations are sought to complete the rehabilitation facilities and ensure the viability of the Centre.

- 2 -

The Matilda Bazaar and Sedan Chair Race - an annual event - last year raised over HK\$1.8 million for a wide cross section of Hong Kong charities. This year's event will take place on Saturday 12 October.

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