

新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

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Public Lecture on Viruses and Liver Cancer

Professor Philip James Johnson, Professor of Clinical Oncology at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), will deliver his Inaugural Lecture on next Friday (March 5) at 5:00pm in Lecture Theatre L1, Science Centre at the University's Shatin campus.

Open to the public, the lecture entitled "Viruses and Liver Cancer : A Journey to a Far Country" will focus on the mechanism by which the hepatitis B virus causes cancer.

"Half the world's population have been infected by the hepatitis B virus, 350 million people are long-term carriers of the virus, and nearly half of the male carriers will die from primary cancer of the liver," said Professor Johnson. "No where is the problem more prevalent than in Hong Kong where, at the Prince of Wales Hospital, an average of ten new cases are seen each week," he said.

Although a safe and effective vaccine - which can prevent transmission from mother to child if administered at birth - has been available for more than a decade, hepatitis B viral infection is far from dying out, according to Professor Johnson. Effective vaccination is being held back by insufficient funds in high incidence areas in Africa; a lack of political will to provide the vaccine to the deprived in some affluent countries; and by cultural resistance to the idea of vaccination.

A specialist in liver disease, Professor Johnson obtained his degrees of MB ChB and MD both from the University of Manchester. Since 1975 he began his long association with one of the biggest liver units in the world, the Institute of Liver Studies at King's College Hospital in London, where he developed his specialty on liver disease and clinical nutrition. He was appointed Honorary Senior Lecturer and Assistant Director of the Hospital's Liver Unit in 1980 and became Honorary Consultant Physician since 1985. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1991.

Professor Johnson has published numerous papers in leading medical journals. He co-authored two books : "Liver Cancer" (1987) and "The Laboratory Investigation of Liver Disease" (1989) and is working on a third one : "The Investigation and Management of Liver Disease".

For press enquiries, please contact Ms Annie Lam (tel.6097267) or Mrs Shirley Kwok (tel.6097294) of the University's Information Office.