



## Press Release

### **Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Hosts Chinese New Year Media Reception 2017 Special Presentation Highlights the Need for Medical Training and Development to Address Ageing Population in Hong Kong**

(Hong Kong, 13 February 2017) The Hong Kong Academy of Medicine hosted its Chinese New Year Media Reception today, and organised a special presentation on “Ageing Population”, reviewing the impact of the ageing population on Hong Kong’s medical system. During the media reception, the Academy President Prof. Lau Chak-Sing remarked, “In view of the future needs, the Hong Kong government earmarked a sum of \$200 billion last year for the upgrade of healthcare facilities.” In addition, there will be a total of over 400 graduates from the medical schools of the two local universities this year. Prof. Lau hoped that the 15 constituent specialty Colleges of the Academy would use this opportunity to review their training programmes, in response to society’s changes and needs.

Prof. Lau continued, “In the past with the shortage of manpower, specialist training, which is mostly conducted within the Hospital Authority, was oriented towards the provision of healthcare services. We hope that the Academy could be supported by the Hospital Authority on specialist training to advance high standards in medical specialist training.”

In 20 years Hong Kong will see rapid population ageing. According to statistics, percentage of elders aged 65 or above will increase from 2014’s 15% to 2024’s 23%, and even escalate to 2034’s 30%, which would increase pressure on medical service requirements.

Attending the media reception also included representatives from Hong Kong College of Community Medicine, The Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists, College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong, The College of Surgeons of Hong Kong and Hong Kong College of Physicians. The College representatives made presentations on the challenges of an ageing population, from perspectives of community medicine, geriatrics, psychiatrics, dental and urology. The speakers concluded that medical training and strengthening the integration of medical services would be effective in addressing the healthcare issues.



In view of the increasing medical needs, the Hong Kong government committed to financial support last year for the enhancement of healthcare provision, including constructing new hospitals, rebuilding old hospitals and increasing healthcare facilities. The long-awaited Hong Kong Children's Hospital is expected to be completed next year and commence operation in different phases. Moreover, in association with the increased number of graduates from the two local medical schools joining the workforce this year, Prof. Lau hoped that all specialty Colleges would cooperate and develop specialist training appropriately, in order to meet the changes and needs of the society.

Prof. Lau emphasised the importance of trusting doctor-patient relationship. He suggested that medical training should focus more on strengthening doctor-patient communication. He also encouraged doctors to broaden their knowledge through overseas training, which would compliment Hong Kong's future medical developments.

#### **About Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (HKAM)**

Established in 1993, the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine is an independent institution with statutory power to organise, monitor, assess and accredit all medical specialist training and oversee the provision of continuing medical education (CME) and continuous professional development (CPD) in the territory.

Within 15 constituent specialty Colleges, there are now 66 specialties and subspecialties, with more than 7,500 Academy Fellows who are eligible for registration in the Specialist Register of the Medical Council of Hong Kong and Dental Council of Hong Kong.

Photos of the event could be downloaded from the following link after 6:00PM today:

<https://cloud.hkam.org.hk/s/9NG3ZaXiVhFMYUS>

Password: hkam

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