



## Press Release

### **Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Hosts Media Spring Luncheon Promoting Primary Healthcare Development to Enhance the Overall Health Service Standard**

(Hong Kong, 18 February 2019) - Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (HKAM) hosted its Media Spring Luncheon today. Professor Lau Chak-sing, President of HKAM, together with the Council Members and College representatives celebrated the Lunar New Year with media representatives.

In view of the increasing demand for healthcare services during the winter surge, Professor Lau said that one of the main directions for HKAM's plans this year would be to support the Government in conducting the manpower projection of medical professionals including specialists, as well as strengthening primary healthcare services to help relieve the pressure on public hospitals. Considering that further enhancements in primary healthcare services would focus first on common musculoskeletal conditions and chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension, HKAM suggested its relevant Colleges, for example, Hong Kong College of Emergency Medicine, The Hong Kong College of Family Physicians and Hong Kong College of Physicians, to provide training support for those general practitioners not having received family medicine training, which would help address the shortage issue of family physicians.

The luncheon event featured presentations themed with the development of primary healthcare. Dr. Axel Siu, President of Hong Kong College of Emergency Medicine (HKCEM), remarked that the College had plans to support the development of District Health Centres (DHCs). HKCEM could provide relevant training to equip the healthcare professionals in the DHCs with the capability to deal with emergency situations, including cardiac arrest and other Cardiovascular system-related emergencies as well as acute disorders in respiratory system and nervous system.

Dr. David Chao, President of The Hong Kong College of Family Physicians (HKCFP), welcomed the Government's policy to strengthen the primary healthcare services to cope with the healthcare needs of the citizens. Family doctors are health advisers and treatment navigators of patients, building continuing relationship and mutual trust with them. People taken care of by specific family doctors can better manage their health, resulting in a lower demand for in-patient services. In countries where there is a sufficient number of family doctors supporting the health system, healthcare resources are utilised more effectively leading to better protection of the health of citizens. HKCFP has developed a series of training programmes focusing on chronic diseases for doctors participating in the DHCs and other general practitioners with the aim of enhancing the quality of family medicine practice.

The Government plans to develop DHCs in all the 18 districts in Hong Kong, yet there will not be resident doctors in the centres. The provision of comprehensive primary healthcare



services relies on the general practitioners within the district network who have signed up in the collaboration. Some of those general practitioners may not have undergone family medicine training. Therefore, Professor Lau hoped that HKCFP would take the coordinating role to collaborate with relevant HKAM Colleges. He believed that joint efforts from different specialties to provide training for general practitioners would help increase the health service standard on the whole.

As medical incidents aroused increasing public concerns over the issue of medical ethics, Professor Lau indicated that HKAM was planning to set up a professionalism and ethics committee to promote education on medical ethics amongst doctors. HKAM regularly organises relevant training activities, for instance, a seminar on medical ethics will be co-organised with The University of Chicago in March 2019 to raise the awareness and understanding of medical professionals in this respect.

Over the years, HKAM has been collaborating with the relevant government authorities and organisations in mainland China to promote the standardisation of medical specialist training. The rapid development of the Greater Bay Area facilitates the flow and exchange among people in mainland China and Hong Kong. Professor Lau said that HKAM was in discussion with the Shenzhen Municipal Health Commission to establish a Shenzhen-Hong Kong Specialist Training Centre, with The University of Hong Kong–Shenzhen Hospital identified as a training site. An office would be set up at the hospital for the coordination, and HKAM would contribute advice on the development of the standardised training system for resident doctors and specialists. He envisaged that the Centre would help raise the standard of health services in Shenzhen which would also benefit those Hong Kong people living in the Greater Bay Area with quality medical services.

#### Photo caption



Professor LAU Chak-sing, President of Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, and Council Members of the Academy; as well as representatives of the Academy Colleges celebrate the Year of the Pig with media representatives



Professor LAU Chak-sing, President of Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, says that the HKAM will support the Government in conducting the manpower projection of medical professionals including specialists, as well as strengthening primary healthcare services



Dr. Axel Siu, President of Hong Kong College of Emergency Medicine, shares the College's proposed plans to support the development of District Health Centres



Dr. David Chao, President of The Hong Kong College of Family Physicians, says that HKCFP has developed a series of training programmes focusing on chronic diseases for doctors participating in the District Health Centres and other general practitioners



Professor LAU Chak-sing, President of Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (left), and Professor Gilberto Leung, Vice-President (Education and Examinations) of Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (right), share the HKAM's upcoming plans including the establishment of a professionalism and ethics committee and its collaborative projects in the Greater Bay Area

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### **About Hong Kong Academy of Medicine**

Established in 1993, the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (HKAM) 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 the 15 constituent Colleges, there are now 67 specialties and subspecialties, with around 8,000 Academy Fellows who are eligible for registration in the Specialist Register of the Medical Council of Hong Kong and Dental Council of Hong Kong.

This press release is distributed by Intelligent Consulting Company on behalf of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine. For media enquiries, please contact:

Intelligent Consulting Company  
Allyson Tam M: 9169 3479  
Simon Tam M: 9345 1126