

The Chairman's Report: Footprints in 2017

Dr. YUEN Kwok-Keung

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) of the Hong Kong Society of Palliative Medicine has been held on 14 December 2017. We are honoured to have Dr. Myung-ah Lee, Chief of Medical Oncology, Department of Internal Medicine, Seoul St. Mary's Hospital, Cancer Research Institute, The Catholic University of Korea to deliver a lecture on "New Advances in Opioid Treatment for Breakthrough Cancer Pain". We would like to thank Actavis Hong Kong Limited for sponsoring the event and Ms Cheung Ka-ki of HKPNA for co-chairing the session with me. The lecture was attended by around 60 audience.

2017 marks the 20th anniversary of the Hong Kong Society of Palliative Medicine and we continued our commitment in promoting high quality palliative medicine in Hong Kong. I would like to thank our council members, sub-committee members and our honorary advisors for their advice and contribution as well as our honorary legal advisor and honorary auditor for their service. I would also like to thank our members and friends for their support and participation in our activities.

During the past year, our society continued to jointly organize the Palliative Medicine Doctors' Meeting (PMDM) and Multidisciplinary Clinical Meeting (MDM) with the Central Committee in Palliative Care of the Hospital Authority and Hong Kong Palliative Nursing Association. Six PMDM were held on January 24, March 28, April 25, May 23, July 25, September 26, 2017 and three MDM were held on February 28, June 27, October 24, 2017. We have also organized the "Certificate course in Palliative Medicine for Health Care Workers" jointly with the Federation of Medical Societies of Hong Kong from October 3 to November 7 with very good attendance by 87 participants.

The 14th Hong Kong Palliative Care Symposium (organized by the Society for the Promotion of Hospice Care, co-organized by our society & Hong Kong Palliative Nursing Association) was held on 7 October 2017 and Dr. Lau Kam-shing delivered the plenary talk on "Evidence-based practice of palliative care for patients with chronic chest diseases". In the Multi-specialty Medical Mega Conference Seventh Round (M3C 7.0) organized by the Association of Private Medical Specialists of Hong Kong, our society hosted a session "Palliative care for non-oncologist" on 30 April 2017 covering three topics including: "Discussion of prognosis in patients with life-limiting illness" by Dr. Rico Liu; "Management of patients in the terminal phase" by Dr. Lam Po-tin and "Care of the Family" by Dr. Tracy Chen. In the Hong Kong Society of Neuromuscular Disease Annual Scientific Meeting, our society was invited as the co-organizer and Dr. Annie Kwok and Dr. Benjamin Cheng talked on "Sharing on Model of Care in Hong Kong" in the Joint Symposium of both societies on 9 September 2017.





For research, our society has completed a multi-center research titled “Burnout among physicians engaged in palliative care in Hong Kong public hospitals – BUPPALHO study” and the result has been submitted for presentation and publication.

Our society also participated in local and international groups including the “Care for the Advanced Diseases” consortium (under the Federation of Medical Societies of Hong Kong) and the Asia Pacific Hospice Palliative Care Network (APHN). In the APHN meeting in July 2017, Dr. Annie Kwok has been elected the Honorary Secretary of the 17th APHN Council.

For public promotion, our society and the Hong Kong Palliative Nursing Association issued a joint response to several local newspapers in August 2017 concerning misuse of the term “euthanasia” in the setting of withdrawal of life sustaining treatment. Dr Tse Chun-yan, our honorary advisor, has written two articles on advance directive published in Hong Kong Economic Journal on 24 June and 11 September 2017. His interview by BBC on advance directive was uploaded to the BBC website on 14 May 2017. I have written an article introducing palliative care published in Hong Kong Economic Journal on 24 June 2017 and I have also represented our society to present our views on “Hospice Services” in the Panel on Welfare Services and Panel on Health Services Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy Meeting on 12 December 2017, urging for territory-wide palliative care policy, evaluation and improvement actions.

Last but not least, I would like to thank Dr. Doris Tse for her contribution and leadership as the Editor-in-Chief of the Editorial Board of the HKSPM Newsletter since 2004 and also thank Dr. Chan Kin-sang for taking up the role as the current Editor-in-Chief. I would also like to express our sincere thanks to the ongoing support by the Society for the Promotion of Hospice Care for sponsoring our newsletters and Annual Scientific Meetings for many years.

During the past 20 years, palliative medicine has become a well-recognized specialty and I hope in the coming decades we can have more active involvement of the health care community in the promotion of palliative care in Hong Kong.



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