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from the desk of the chairman

Hong Kong is a vibrant city and people are always busy. In this age of information overload, one may be excused for feeling over-whelmed by all kinds of mail in the post, on the fax machine or through the internet. Yet information is what helps to generate thoughts and actions. With this in mind, the Society would take the risk and send to all its members and well-wishers a Spring Newsletter of the year, in the earnest hope that by reporting to you our work since the last newsletter, you will be further motivated to advise the Executive Committee on how to improve our work and to give us your valuable suggestions of what additional tasks to undertake.

The main work of the Society is the running of the Museum both to present what we already have in as good a way as possible and to put up exhibitions on themes of topical interest in health and disease. The restraint in our financial resources has limited the strength of the museum staff and we are thankful for the generous help from volunteers both among our membership and from the public at large.

As you can gather from the contents of this Newsletter, efforts are being made to embrace tasks of a more academic and historical slant. We are encouraged that a significant number of members have shown their interest in our endeavours and contributed to them. Of note, an inaugural meeting of the newly formed Medical History Interest Group was well attended and it was unanimously agreed to have regular meetings in the future. I hope you will be able to attend such future functions either as audience or, better still, as speakers.

I am sure the Newsletter will speak for itself and I shall conclude by wishing you a happy and fruitful year ahead and look forward to seeing you at our activities in the future.




Dr Tso Shiu Chiu

Highlight of the Month

The Start of the Medical History Interest Group

Launch of the Medical History Interest Group (MHIG)

The very first meeting of the group took place on January 17 2009 at the Museum. Over 40 members and guests attended a special talk given by Prof. Sir David Todd entitled: 'Some reminiscences, including recollections of three former teachers: Prof. A J S McFadzean, Dr. Stephen Chang and Prof. Gerald Choa'. Contributions from the audience were warm and spontaneous. It was also agreed unanimously that the MHIG should continue. The next meeting is now being prepared for September. *Watch out for further announcements.*



The Education and Research Committee (ERC) is the HKMMS Society's newest committee ...



Although it began operations only a few months ago, the ERC has already initiated several important projects. Besides being responsible for organizing the Medical History Interest Group, the ERC has started exploring with the Education Bureau collaborative efforts in providing training and special learning resources for *public health module* of the new Senior Secondary school 'Liberal Studies' curriculum. It is also looking into organizing and augmenting the Society's archives, and is

helping to prepare a permanent exhibit on SARS and other infectious diseases in the museum.

Special Message from the ERC:

Do you have an interesting photo, record or object that you may consider donating to the Museum?

We welcome your donation of photographs (good digital copies are acceptable; we could also do these for you) and artefacts. Please be assured that these will be well looked after and will add significantly to the resources for education and research that the HKMMS will be able to provide.

The Museum Building

The building is a British architectural design, drawing references from the Edwardian period, and representing Hong Kong architecture in the first decade of the 20th century. It was transformed to suit tropical conditions, with expansive balconies and well-placed windows to encourage cross-ventilation. The use of Chinese roof tiles is probably due to sensitivity to local materials and deference to local culture.



The Museum building was originally the Government Bacteriological Institute opened in 1906. It was the first purpose-built medical and public health laboratory in Hong Kong. It is interesting to imagine that in order to encourage the creativity of the exploring pathologists, the architect's impulse allowed a folly of obelisks to sprout forth from the top of the building corners in stoic formation.

What's On

Thematic Exhibitions

Sports & Health Exhibition -

New Concepts and New Technology in a Modern Society



From the Plague to New Emerging Diseases: A Chronicle of Pasteurian Research in Hong Kong



Bits & Pieces

Highlight of Herbal Garden (Spring 2009)



Chinese Name: 七葉一枝花
Common Name: Love Apple
Botanical Name: *Paris Polyphylla var. chinensis* (華重樓)

This is one of the 100 rare and precious plants in Hong Kong. It prefers an altitude of 600-1300m and can only occasionally be found in Lantau and Hong Kong Island. The leaves are

characteristically narrow oval or inverse lanceolate in shape, 5-9 in number, 7-9cm in length and cyclic at the apex. Medicinal use is in its stem.

Teachers and students of the HKU SPACE Cultural Heritage Management course using the Museum as a case study to explore the opportunities, challenges, difficulties, approaches, usages and management of historical building. Photographs show Mr Ken Borthwick, Chairman of the Building Subcommittee of the Museum Society, and an expert in built heritage conservation, sharing with the students the conservation work being done in the century-old Museum building.



The microscope used by the famous French-Swiss scientist Alexandre Yersin who discovered the causative bacteria of plague, *Yersinia pestis*, during 1894 in Hong Kong. The microscope and other historical exhibits are on loan from The Musée Pasteur, Paris, and are on display at the Medical Museum until the end of November 2009.



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沒理由**放手**！

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The Museum welcomes

rental of its lecture room and galleries for holding seminars and other private functions.

Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences

2 Caine Lane, Mid-levels, Hong Kong

www.hkmms.org.hk

Opening Hours

Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sunday and Public Holidays: 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Monday closed

Enquiries

Tel: (852) 2549 5123 Fax: (852) 2559 9458

Email: info@hkmms.org.hk

What's coming up?

13 May and 20 May (Wed)

Lectures on Public Health for Secondary School teachers

On the invitation from the Education Bureau, the Society is offering 2 lectures to teachers in preparation for the Public Health Module of the Liberal Studies Curriculum. They will be delivered by members of our ERC, Prof SS Lee will be speaking on 'Public Health Issues in HIV/AIDS' and Dr Vincent Cheng will speak on 'Public Health Lessons Learnt from SARS'

16 May (Sat) and 17 May (Sun)

International Museum Day

September

Second meeting of the Medical History Interest Group

Launch of SARS and Infectious Diseases Exhibition

October

Fund Raising Ball

Hong Kong Museum Of Medical Sciences Society

Objectives of Society

1. to establish and promote the Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences and to collect and preserve materials of historical interest relating to the development of medical sciences in Hong Kong.
2. to promote research and public interest in health matters, the development of medicine in Hong Kong and neighbouring regions and the interaction between scientific and traditional medicine.
3. to promote cooperation between the Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences and local or international institutions with similar objectives.

The Museum Society welcomes your application

Membership is open to persons aged 18 and above who are willing to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association and to promote the objectives of the Society. Membership is subject to approval of the Executive Committee.

Membership Benefits:

1. Free admission to the Museum & previews of exhibitions
 2. Receipt of newsletter
 3. Reduced fees for lectures & classes
 4. Discount on items from the Museum shop
 5. Use of meeting & exhibition rooms on application
 6. Access to Museum Library
- *Life, Medical Fraternity & Ordinary Members* of the Museum Society enjoy full benefits as listed above, and are eligible to elect and to serve on the Board of Directors.
 - *Corporate Members* may nominate up to 2 persons who will enjoy all the benefits and privileges of full membership.
 - *Associate Members* are entitled to membership benefits numbers 1 to 3.

The more Members there are in the Museum Society, the more ideas we could get. The more people who are able to sustain and enhance its exhibits, the greater reputation it will gain as a foremost institution of its kind worldwide.

Will you join us?

Belonging to the Museum Society is the best way to fully enjoy Hong Kong's new museum and to support it for the future!

HONG KONG MUSEUM OF MEDICAL SCIENCES SOCIETY

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name: (English) _____
(Chinese) _____

Date of birth : _____

ID card no. : _____ Sex : _____

Occupation : _____

Company : _____

Correspondence Address : _____

Email : _____

Tel. : (office) _____ (home) _____

Fax. : (office) _____ (home) _____

■ Life-Membership

Fee \$10,000

■ Corporate Membership

Fee \$50,000

■ Medical Fraternity Membership

Entrance Fee \$5,000 Annual Fee \$1,000

■ Ordinary Membership

Entrance Fee* \$1,000 Annual Fee \$500

■ Associate Member

Entrance Fee* \$250 Annual Fee \$100

* Entrance fee waived in 2009

Signature : _____

Date : _____

Cheque no. : _____

Bank : _____

Please mail this application together with a cheque to:

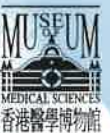
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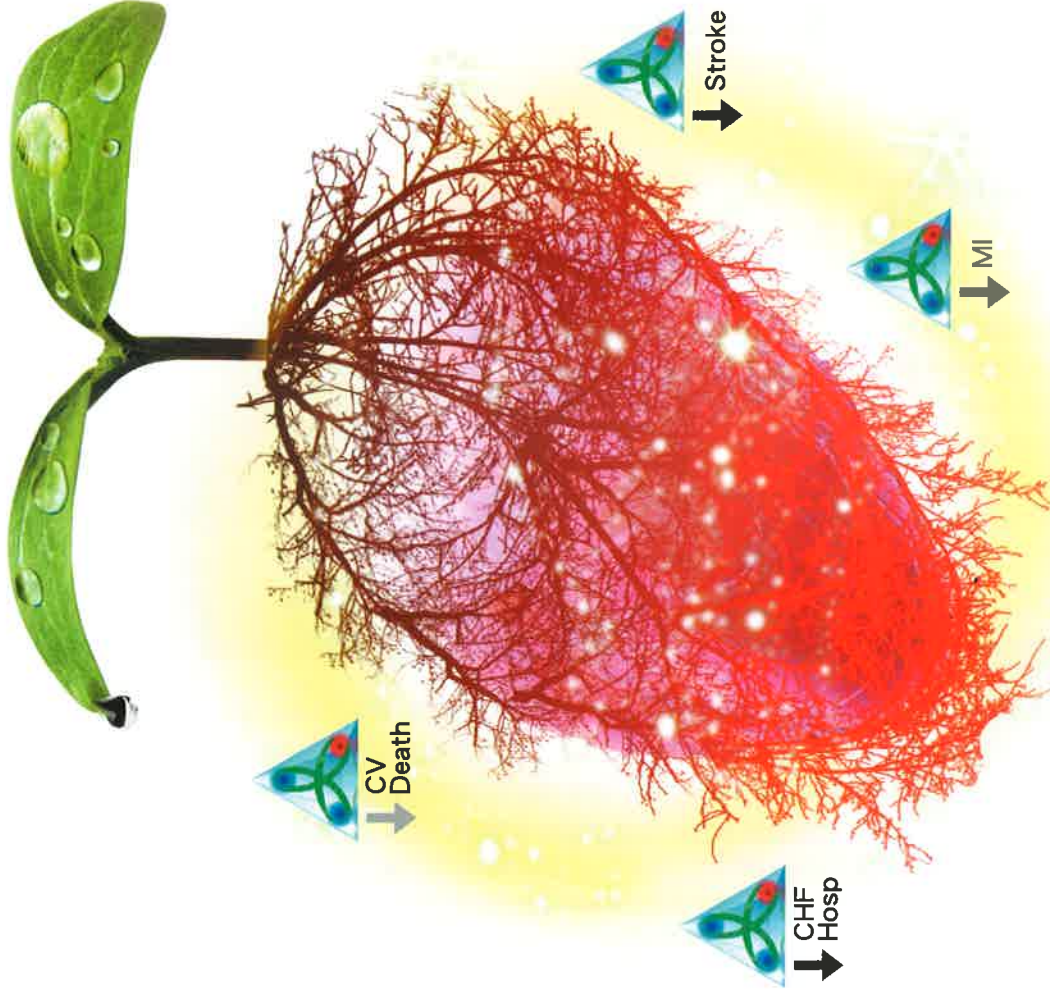
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New England Journal of Medicine 2008;358:1547-59.



[†] ONTARGET : ONgoing Telmisartan Alone and in combination with Ramipril Global Endpoint Trial (www.ontarget-micardis.com)

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Precautions: Kidney disease or transplant; liver disease; excessive vomiting or diarrhoea; heart problems; raised aldosterone levels; on a low salt diet; hereditary fructose intolerance; high potassium levels in blood. **Interactions:** potassium supplements; potassium-containing salt substitutes; potassium-sparing medicines (diuretics, such as certain "water" tablets), ACE-inhibitors, angiotensin II receptors antagonists, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), heparin, immunosuppressors, trimethoprim, lithium-containing medicines. **Side effects:** Commonly reported: abdominal pain, arthralgia, back pain, chest pain, muscle spasms or pain in extremity, diarrhoea, dyspepsia, influenza-like illness, myalgia, eczema, symptoms of infection (e.g. urinary tract infection including cystitis), upper respiratory tract infection including pharyngitis and sinusitis. Less common: visual disturbance, anxiety, increased sweating, dry mouth, flatulence, tinnitus like symptoms, vertigo. **Rare reports:** stomach discomfort.



ARB = Angiotensin II Receptor Blocker
 MI = Myocardial Infarction
 CV = Cardiovascular
 CHF Hosp = Hospitalisation for Congestive Heart Failure



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