

Note to Editors  
For Immediate Release

9 October 2009

**CADENZA Symposium 2009: Primary Care & Older Persons – Key to Medical and Social Integration  
Explores models and strategies in building a primary care system for older persons in Hong Kong**

According to Hong Kong population projections, over 26% of the city's population will be 65 or above by 2036. This is an increase from about 0.85 millions in 2006 to 2.26 millions in 2036. Older persons, particularly those with chronic conditions, have complex needs requiring medical and social care. These needs however are being addressed in different settings. To provide medical and social care in a seamless manner, primary care can be a platform for health and social care providers to manage elderly people's chronic conditions and psychosocial problems as well as to engage them in health maintenance and promotion.

To explore models and strategies for building a primary care system for older persons in Hong Kong, CADENZA: A Jockey Club Initiative for Seniors, Faculty of Medicine at The Chinese University of Hong Kong and Faculty of Social Sciences at The University of Hong Kong jointly present the **CADENZA Symposium 2009: Primary Care & Older Persons – Key to Medical and Social Integration** on 9 and 10 October (today and tomorrow) at Shaw Auditorium, Postgraduate Education Centre, Prince of Wales Hospital.

The Symposium brought together 17 distinguished overseas and local speakers and attracted more than 500 participants including professional practitioners from government, non-government organisations, academia and professional bodies. To address the health and social care needs of the older persons in a primary care setting, two overseas speakers **Professor Barbara Starfield** from USA and **Professor Steve Iliffe** from UK brought an international perspective while 15 local speakers, along with health and social care providers, shared their local experiences and insights including success, obstacles and future plans.

The Symposium was officially opened this morning (9 October 2009) by **Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung**, GBS, JP, Secretary for Labour and Welfare, **Dr Donald Li**, JP, Steward, The Hong Kong Jockey Club and **Professor Jack Cheng**, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. In the opening ceremony, they all stressed the importance of developing a medical social interface model to provide primary care for the elderly. One of the initiatives of CADENZA is to develop such a model and to establish the **Jockey Club CADENZA Hub** in Tai Po. This is an innovative one-stop integrated health and social care centre for older and soon-to-be-old persons. A tour to the Hub would also be arranged for interested participants on 10 October.

As a family physician, **Dr Donald Li**, JP, Steward of The Hong Kong Jockey Club said the importance of quality primary care in the health care system was being acknowledged all over the world. In May this year, the World Health Organisation passed a resolution calling for all member nations to reinvigorate their health care systems through the strengthening of primary health care. "Indeed no one can deny that an effective primary health care system that delivers continuing, comprehensive and holistic care to individuals can improve the health of the population as well as reduce pressure on the hospital system. This is especially important for the increasing number of elderly in Hong Kong, where the insatiable demand for public resources poses a heavy burden on the health care system."

**Professor Jean Woo**, Director of CADENZA began the two-day event by highlighting the health and social needs of older persons from the users' perspective. She saw the primary care setting as key to meeting these needs, saying, "we are fortunate in having distinguished speakers from overseas as well as key local service agencies to discuss the various facets of how we may provide needed care in a primary care setting: the management of chronic diseases, the role of social services and examples of successes and obstacles, psychological problems, self-management, outreach support and the family doctor's perspective from the private sector."

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THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



Topics presented on 9 October (today):

**Management of chronic diseases**

- Professor Barbara Starfield, Professor of Department of Health Policy and Management, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Professor Steve Iliffe, Professor of Primary Care for Older People, University College London

**Experience of HK NGOs in primary care: success, obstacles and future plans**

- Rev Dorothy Lau, BBS, JP, Director of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council
- Dr Lam Ching-choi, BBS, JP, Chief Executive Officer of Haven of Hope Christian Services
- Ms Maggie Chan, Director of Social Work Services, Caritas – Hong Kong
- Mr Ngai Kong-yiu, Executive Director of Social Service Units, The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong
- Mr Michael Lai, MH, JP, Chief Executive Officer, St. James' Settlement

Topics to be presented on 10 October (tomorrow):

**The primary care approach to dealing with psychological problems in the elderly**

- Professor Cindy Lam, Professor and Head of Family Medicine Unit, The University of Hong Kong
- Professor Samuel Wong, Associate Professor and Head, Division of Family Medicine and Primary Healthcare, School of Public Health and Primary Care, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

**Results from community group models (CDSMP and DM)**

- Mr Wayne Chan, Physiotherapist II, CADENZA
- Dr Elsie Hui, Senior Medical Officer, Medical and Geriatric Unit, Shatin Hospital, Hospital Authority

**Outreach support**

- Mrs Victoria Kwok, Director of Social Services Department, The Salvation Army
- Dr Felix Chan, Honorary Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong
- Dr Bernard Kong, Deputy Cluster Service Director (Community Services), Hong Kong East Cluster, Hospital Authority

**Medical social integration from a family doctor's perspective**

- Dr Sammy Tsoi, Adjunct Associate Professor, School of Public Health and Primary Care, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

**Role of CADENZA in development of a primary care model**

- Mr Peter Chan, Chief Project Administrator of CADENZA

**About CADENZA: A Jockey Club Initiative for Seniors**

CADENZA: A Jockey Club Initiative for Seniors is a HK\$380 million project initiated and launched by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust in 2006. The project aims at nurturing academic leadership in social gerontology and changing the mindset and attitude of the general public through a range of training and public education programmes. Cross-sectional collaboration between organisations and the implementation of innovative elderly services and programmes are also encouraged in order to bring about a new mode of elderly care services to prepare for a rapidly ageing society. Details of CADENZA are available at [www.cadenza.hk](http://www.cadenza.hk).

For media enquiries, please contact Miss Erica Leung, CADENZA (Tel: 2219 4479, pager: 7778 6606, email: [ericale@hku.hk](mailto:ericale@hku.hk)). Photos of the event can be downloaded at <http://www.cadenza.hk/eng/press>.

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