

Discoverers, Explorers and Pioneers Medicine Thrives Under HKU's Endowed Professorships

仁心仁術先行者

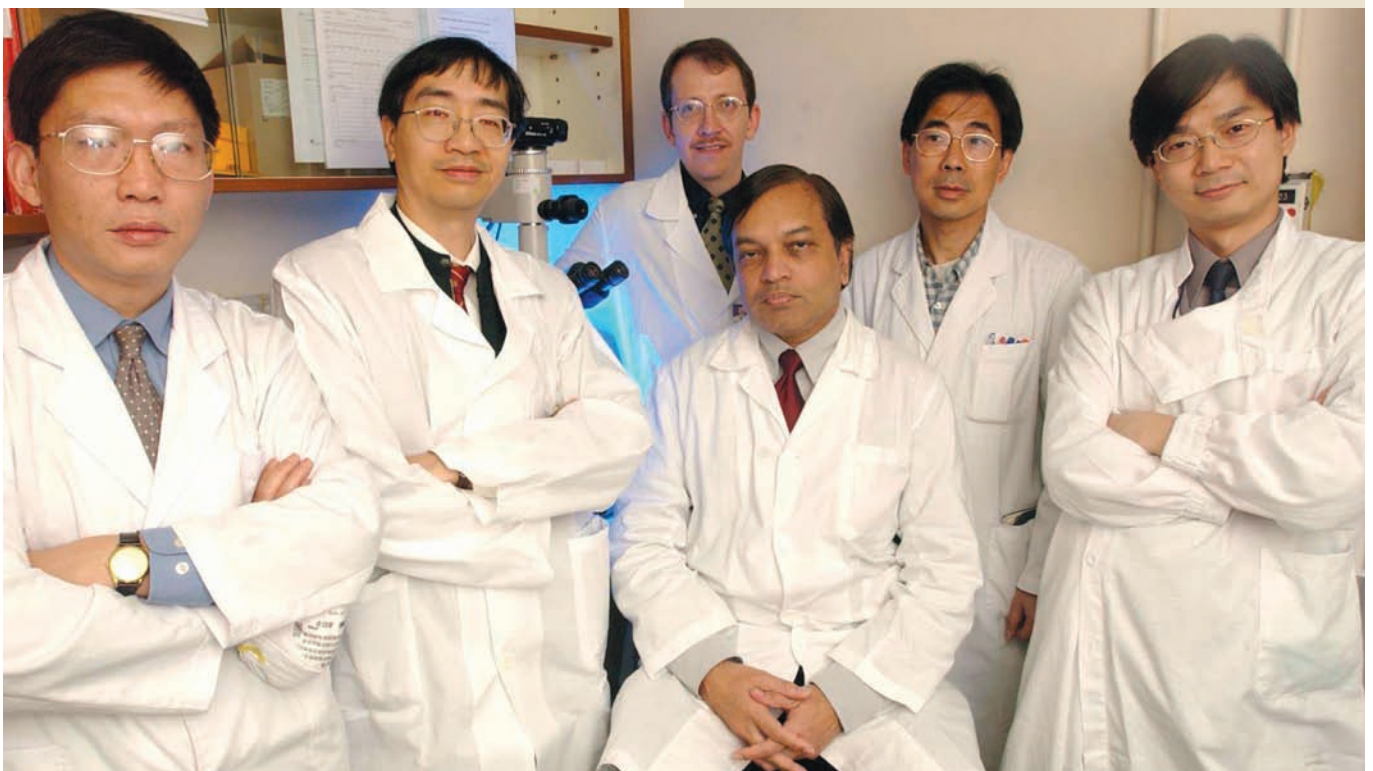
Since its first inauguration in 2005, the Endowed Professorships Scheme has created 25 chairs at the Faculty of Medicine, in areas such as spine surgery, pathology, infectious diseases, community child health, molecular medicine, and public health. So large a total it is a testament to this collection of world-class researchers in 16 departments, 200 full-time faculty members in all.

That said, the ultimate beneficiary of the Endowed Professorships Scheme is society. "Whether it is the development of a new drug, a discovery of the roots of a disease, or the production of a vaccine, all of the results and

the end product of the research would be directed to the community. The proceeds and support from the Endowed Professorships Scheme benefit my patients, my children and my children's children," said Professor Lee Sum-Ping, the Dean of Medicine and this year's recipient of the Dexter H C Man Family Professorship in Medical Science.

(Centre) Professor Malik Peiris, (from left) Professor Guan Yi, Professor Yuen Kwok-Yung, Dr John Nicholls, Professor Chan Kwok-Hung, Dr Leo Poon

(中) 裴偉士教授、(左起) 管軼教授、袁國勇教授、黎國思博士、陳國雄教授、潘烈文博士





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*Lee Sum-Ping
Dexter H C Man Family Professor in Medical Science*

The research funded by the Scheme includes emerging and timely areas in medicine. For example, Ronald Li, a Professor of Medicine and the Director of the Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine Consortium, is the recipient of this year’s S Y and H Y Cheng Professorship in Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine. Li, a heart disease expert, is widely recognised for using protein and tissue engineering, and gene therapy on stem cells to treat heart disease.

As the Henry Fok Professor in Infectious Diseases, Yuen Kwok-Yung used the funds to research his specialty of emerging infectious diseases. In 2003 Yuen, head of the Department of Microbiology, and his team were the first to discover the SARS coronavirus during the SARS outbreak.

Another leading member of the SARS team is Malik Peiris, holder of the Tam Wah-Ching Professorship in Medical Science under the Endowed Professorships Scheme. As the Chair Professor of Microbiology and Honorary Consultant at Queen Mary Hospital, Peiris has served as an advisor to the World Health Organization (WHO) and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of London in 2006.

Karen Lam Siu-Ling, as the Rosie T T Young Professor in Endocrinology and Metabolism, has increased public awareness in diabetes, obesity, heart diseases such as heart attacks, and strokes. The funding has also helped fund collaborative studies in Alzheimer’s disease. She is the founding president of Diabetes Hong Kong, founding director of HKU’s Centre of Endocrinology and Diabetes, and director of the Medical Faculty’s Research Centre of Heart, Brain, Hormone, and Healthy Aging.

明德教授席計劃至今已至第五屆，當中25項教授席屬醫學院，研究範疇包括脊柱外科、病理學、傳染病學、社區兒童健康、分子醫學、公共衛生學等。醫學院16個學系擁有世界級頂尖醫學專才、和200人的團隊。獲今屆文洪礎家族基金教授席（醫療科學）的醫學院院長李心平說：「無論是發展新藥物、探究疾病根源、抑或是生產疫苗，最終還是以社會大眾的健康為依歸。明德教授席最終受惠的是病者、我們的子女，世世代代，受惠的是社會大眾。」

醫學研究也包括開發前沿領域，如獲鄭兆如鄭杏如基金教授席（幹細胞生物學及再生醫學）的李登偉教授是心臟科專家，他研究以先進的蛋白基因及幹細胞組織工程技術，來治療心臟病。

2003年，微生物學系系主任袁國勇教授，是傳染病學權威，在沙士爆發期間和他的團隊，率先解開沙士冠狀病毒之謎。2005年，他獲頒授霍英東基金教授席（傳染病學），他繼而把研究經費，投放於對人類健康威脅日益嚴重的傳染病學上。

另一位在研究傳染病毒上取得卓越成就的是譚華正基金教授裴偉士。他是微生物學講座教授、瑪麗醫院榮譽顧問。裴偉士教授亦負責在瑪麗醫院設立病毒快速診斷服務，該實驗室帶頭處理香港主要的新興病毒感染疾病，包括H5N1禽流感 and 沙士。裴偉士曾任世界衛生組織專家顧問，及2006年獲選為英國皇家學院院士。

楊紫芝基金教授林小玲，是內分泌代謝學專家，著力提高大眾對糖尿病、心臟病和肥胖等健康問題的關注。她是香港大學內科講座教授；心、腦、內分泌及抗衰老研究中心創辦人及港大內科系內分泌科主任。