

ACA NEWSFILE

(Publication of the Advisory Council on AIDS, Hong Kong)

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ACA Secretariat

Vol 7, no.5 -- May 2000 (issue no. 77)

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XXXIIIrd Meeting of the Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA)

2:30pm 7 July 2000

IIIrd Meeting of the AIDS Prevention and Care Committee (APCC)

6:00pm 18 May 2000

XIXth Meeting of the Scientific Committee on AIDS (SCA)

2:30pm 25 May 2000

IInd Meeting of the Committee on Promoting Acceptance of People Living with HIV/AIDS

2:30pm 8 June 2000

HIV/AIDS in the first quarter of the millennium

FORTY and 22 new HIV and AIDS cases were reported respectively to the Department of Health in the quarter of January to March 2000. The cumulative total now stood at 1399 for HIV cases, and 455 of them were known to have progressed to AIDS. Male is still the predominantly affected gender whilst the narrowing of the male-to-female ratio for the newly reported cases continued. Chinese accounted for more than 70% of the cases.

Although sexual transmission remained the most frequent route of HIV transmission, one notable point was that we had another new case due to injecting drug use (IDU) in this quarter. Six cases relating to IDU were reported in the year of 1999. Albeit that the cumulative IDU infections was only 24, the trend of identifying new cases in the last four consecutive quarters appeared consistent and persistent. This is worrying as HIV infections in the drug-taking population can notoriously explode within a short period of time. The prime objective of the AIDS programme is to prevent infections and a warning bell genuinely rang.

Preventive education and risk reduction is a must. The question is how the efforts can be expanded to reach more drug users effectively. Messages are obvious. If the drug users cannot quit drug injection, the bottomline is that no needle-sharing should be practised. Better still, he/she has to use a new needle every time he/she injects. This applies to them while in Hong Kong or when they travel outside Hong Kong. All drug and treatment services, including those run by the government and non-governmental organisations, shall be mobilised to act. Another key strategy is to encourage HIV testing for the drug users. Not only will this enhance the understanding of situation in the community, early diagnosis of the infected can facilitate care and management for his/her health. ♂



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ACA Newsfile Vol 7 Page 17

Community Leaders Summit on Community Planning in LA

UNDER the theme of "Many Paths, One Goal: Preventing HIV", a summit on community planning was held in Los Angeles (LA), US from 28 March to 1 April 2000. Six Hong Kong delegates from the community, CPP Secretariat, and the Department of Health joined the meeting that was attended by some 1200 US community leaders, government officials, and representatives from the

technical organisations.

Besides participating in the normal programmes of the Summit which included institutes, roundtables, workshops, affinity sessions, and poster presentations, Hong Kong delegates had the chance to meet the CDC representatives, technical assistance providers and some Community Planning Group members; thanks to the arrangement by Mr.

Walter Chow. The meeting turned out to be a fruitful one for the Hong Kong delegates, in better understanding the US model of CPP, networking with resource persons, and bringing forward the local process.



Hong Kong Virtual AIDS Office
<http://www.info.gov.hk/aids>



Cumulative HIV/AIDS Statistics in Hong Kong updated 31 March 2000

		HIV (AIDS)	
<i>Gender</i>	male	1170	(407)
	female	229	(48)
<i>Ethnicity</i>	Chinese	974	(350)
	non-Chinese	425	(105)
<i>Transmission</i>	heterosexual	792	(283)
	homosexual	282	(91)
	bisexual	73	(26)
	injecting drug use	24	(7)
	blood/bl products	68	(18)
	perinatal	10	(4)
	undetermined	150	(26)
TOTAL		1399	(455)

Department of Health, Hong Kong SAR

A Memorable Occasion to Commemorate

ON the 6th of April 2000, some 120 guests and workers came together at the Red Ribbon Centre to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA). The ACA was formed in March 1990 by the Government, to advise on policy relating to prevention, care and control of HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong. It then progressed to its fourth term (1999-2002) last year and was chaired by Dr. Homer Tso, one of the longest serving member of the Council.

Over the past 10 years, the Council and its Committees were joined by, besides prominent government officials, many distinguished professionals and community leaders. It was most gratifying that past and present members got together on that day to share experience, recent happenings and views on the latest development of AIDS. The passion and enthusiasm to the issue was well demonstrated by the good participation of the event. It was most invaluable that besides Dr. Tso,

Chairmen of the past terms of the Council - Prof. SH Lee, Dr. Margaret Chan, Dr. Conrad Lam - were all present on the occasion. Furthermore, members of as far back as the first term of the Council, such as Mrs. Lam Pei Yu-Dja, Dr. the Hon Leong Che Hung and Dr. Chow Chun Bong also joined the gathering.

Of course, we are most



grateful to Dr. EK Yeoh, the Secretary for Health and Welfare, for his officiating at the commemoration and the kick-off ceremony of a "15 years of AIDS in Hong Kong" photo exhibition. Not to miss the golden opportunity of having so many members altogether, group photos were taken for members of the Council and Committees for each term. This and the event itself will form a new episode for memory.

The photo exhibition comprised over 50 photos

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captured in the past 15 years of AIDS in Hong Kong. Walking into this time gallery, one will be able to trace back and conjure up the memories of past events. Hopefully, it also leads us to devise means to cope with the current situation and to look forward to the future needs. After display at Red Ribbon Centre by the end of April, the photo exhibition

will be staged at the City Hall (from May 1 to May 4), Sha Tin Town Hall (from June 17 to 18), Tuen Mun Town Hall (from July 2 to July 3), and Tsuen Wan Town Hall (from July 23 to 28).

A competition of "Select the Historical Photos" is also organised for the roving photo exhibition. The

public can either participate in the exhibition or visit the Virtual Hong Kong AIDS Office at the website of <http://www.info.gov.hk/aids>. The photo most frequently selected by the participants will become the most historical photo. Each winner will be awarded a souvenir prize.

Beyond the 10th anniversary of the ACA, it is sincerely hoped that all members and AIDS workers can continue their efforts with enthusiasm in AIDS prevention and control in Hong Kong. 