

# ACA NEWSFILE

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

**Editor:** Dr S S Lee  
ACA Secretariat

Vol 7, no. 9 -- September 2000 (issue no. 81)

## . Calendar .

XXXIVth Meeting of the  
Advisory Council on AIDS  
(ACA)

2:30pm 13 October 2000

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

6:00pm 14 September 2000

XXth Meeting of the  
Scientific Committee on  
AIDS (SCA)

2:30pm 21 September 2000

IIIrd Meeting of the  
Committee on Promoting  
Acceptance of People  
Living with HIV/AIDS  
(CPA)

2:30pm 28 September 2000

## WELCOME

**THE Virtual AIDS Office of Hong Kong** has been visited over **96,000** times since the end of 1997. Have you visited the "Office" - a joint website of ACA and AIDS Unit (serving as the secretariat of the Council)? Watch out for a facelift of the "Office" in the coming months! t

## In this issue.....

We are focusing on the interface with community planning (page 35)

Don't forget to return the survey form on the back of the *Newsfile* (page 38)

## Interfacing Community Planning

TWO years ago, the Advisory Council on AIDS formulated its recommended AIDS strategies for 1999-2001, following a six-month effort in reviewing Hong Kong's AIDS programme and situation. With community planning at the heart of the new strategies, it's gratifying to see the inauguration of the Community Planning Committee (CPC), and witness the process gaining momentum.

While welcoming the birth of CPC, the Council has also started to conceptualise its interface with the new Committee. In the last months there have been discussions about possible duplications of efforts, opportunities of collaboration, identification of gaps, and the means of complementing the Committee. These useful debates were founded on the common vision of ACA and CPC in advancing Hong Kong's AIDS programme.

CPC is new to AIDS, and in fact new to Hong Kong. We need innovation and understanding to turn this opportunity into yet another milestone. The Secretariat invites you, fellow member of the Council, committee(s), subcommittee, teams, groups and/or task forces, to express your views by returning the questionnaire on the back of this newsletter. The objective of the exercise is to seek your opinion on the future role of CPC and the Council's AIDS Prevention and Care Committee. The subject will then be discussed at an upcoming Council meeting.

Thank you for your support!

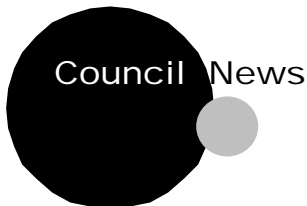
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Hong Kong Virtual AIDS Office <http://www.info.gov.hk/aids>

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**Advisory Council on AIDS Secretariat**

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## Code & Conduct

IN June the *Committee on Promoting Acceptance of People living with HIV/AIDS* (CPA) submitted its suggestion to the Medical Council on its revised *Professional Code and Conduct* to be issued to

medical practitioners. Under Section 29 Serious contagious / infectious diseases, the Medical Council had accepted the suggestion and added the following paragraph:

"All patients, including those with serious contagious/infectious diseases, are entitled to timely and appropriate investigations and treatment. A patient should not be

denied of care even if his own actions and lifestyle may have contributed to the disease condition."

The purpose of the addition is to put in context the ethical duty of the medical profession to patients suffering from any disease. The draft Code can be viewed on the Medical Council's website at

[www.mCHK.org.hk](http://www.mCHK.org.hk) t

## Interviews

CABLE TV interviewed Dr Homer Tso, the Council Chairman on 17 August. The interview forms part of the work of the channel in coming up with a special programme on AIDS to be broadcast towards the end of the year.

On 23 August, a producer of the BBC World Service Education Programme talked with the Secretary of the Council to collect information on the HIV/AIDS situation in Hong Kong. The programme also included interviews with community organisations working on AIDS in Hong Kong and the region. t

## Building Capacity in Community Planning

ON 17 August, a workshop was organised by the Community Planning Committee Secretariat, focusing on epidemiology and methods of situation assessment. Three presentations were given, on epidemiology, surveillance and the progress in community planning, by Professor TW Wong, Dr SS Lee and Ms Ho Takyin respectively. The presentations were followed by active discussions, and the sharing of experience in the drafting of the situation papers for each priority area.

Over 25 persons were in the audience, including the Chairman and secretary of the Advisory Council on AIDS. Organiser of the programme explained that this was the first of a series of activities on facilitating the community planning process. t

## Public Health Congress

On 4 September, the Chairman and the Secretary of your Council will be participating in an HIV/AIDS Symposium during the *IX International Congress of World Federation of Public Health Associations*. The Symposium, coordinated by UNAIDS, will feature panel speakers from different countries around the world.

The Congress will be held in Beijing between 2 and 6 September 2000. Other public health issues will also be discussed, centering on the theme *Challenges for Public health at the Dawn of the 21st Century*. t



**AIDS Hotline 2780 2211** *Information, Counselling  
HIV Testing*

## situation in the western pacific region

THE World Health Organisation Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WPRO) has released its updated report in August on the HIV/AIDS situation in the region.

The Report suggested that the total number of people living with HIV was expected to exceed 1 million before the end of the year 2000. The following patterns of HIV transmission could be distinguished: (a) high and increasing HIV incidence with spread primarily through heterosexual contacts in Cambodia and certain areas in Papua New Guinea; (b) high HIV incidence in injecting drug users in China and Vietnam; and (c) declining incidence in Australia and New Zealand.

The Report provided estimates for countries in the Region, including Hong Kong. Members may wish to note that the figure for Hong Kong (3700) is an old one that WHO has projected from our old data (not in consultation!). For Mainland

Surveillance update

**Reported HIV/AIDS Statistics updated 30 June 2000**

		HIV (AIDS)
<b>Gender</b>	male	1204 (425)
	female	242 (50)
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Chinese	1004 (366)
	non-Chinese	442 (109)
<b>Transmission</b>	heterosexual	821 (301)
	homosexual	286 (91)
	bisexual	74 (26)
	injecting drug use	28 (8)
	blood/bl products	68 (18)
	perinatal	11 (4)
	undetermined	158 (27)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1446 (475)</b>

China, the estimation is 500 000.

Another interesting question worth asking is -*what constitutes the Western Pacific Region?* Professor James Chin, in his website *Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control* (CDPC) reminded that the WHO regions are based on both geographical and political considerations. The Western Pacific Region includes China and South Korea, but does not include Indonesia or North Korea. t

## STD Surveillance

IN the newly released *Hong Kong STD/AIDS Update*, the latest surveillance data collected from the Social Hygiene Service is presented. Non-gonococcal urethritis / non-specific genital tract infection remains the commonest sexually transmitted infection (STI) in Hong Kong.

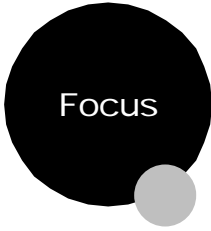
Last year nearly 30000 new cases of STIs were treated at the Department of Health's Social Hygiene Clinic. A majority of the infections were contracted outside Hong Kong. Over half (58.38%) were aged between 20 and 40.

Last year (1999) the Service reported 13.6% of the total HIV infection under the HIV/AIDS Reporting System.

*Hong Kong STD/AIDS Update* is a quarterly publication of Social Hygiene Service and Special Preventive Programme, Department of Health t

## Name-based reporting

UNAIDS released a best practice document "The role of name-based notification in public health and HIV surveillance" in July 2000. The expansion of named reporting in countries like the US has again alerted us of the objectives of, and concerns in implementing, case-based surveillance. The document can be downloaded from UNAIDS's website [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org) t



## Survey on Interfacing with Community Planning

This is a simple survey which you can complete in just seconds. Please put a tick against the items that best describe your views and have the form faxed to the Secretariat at 23370897 or by post to the address on the first page of this Newsfile. You don't need to put in your name, but please submit the form once only!

(A) Are you a member of (may tick more than one) the following?

- ACA
- one or more of the committees of ACA
- one or more of the subcommittee, task forces, groups, teams of the committees

(B) The Council considers the process of programming as a cycle linking strategy development , prioritization, to implementation and finally evaluation. Using this framework, you are asked to indicate your perceived role of APCC (AIDS Prevention and Care Committee) of ACA and the CPC (Community Planning Committee). Please put a tick(s) against your choice(s), and there are blanks for roles that you want to suggest:

	<u>APCC of ACA</u>	<u>CPC</u>
1. Strategy development	-----	-----
2. Prioritization of programmes	-----	-----
3. Programme implementation	-----	-----
4. Coordination of programmes	-----	-----
5. Programme evaluation	-----	-----
6. -----	-----	-----
7. -----	-----	-----

Other Views:

Secretariat  
corner