

## .Calendar.

**XLIII Meeting of the  
Advisory Council on  
AIDS (ACA)**

2:30pm 4 April 2003

**XXVII Meeting of the  
Scientific Committee  
on AIDS (SCA)**

2:30pm 12 March 2003

**X Meeting of the AIDS  
Prevention and Care  
Committee (APCC)**

6pm 14 March 2003

## Meeting Summary

### ACA 42nd Meeting



THE 42nd meeting of the Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA) was held in the afternoon of the 10th of

January 2003. The meeting deliberated on three main issues - firstly the operation of the Council; secondly, interfacing Mainland China; and thirdly the development of core indicators.

For this second meeting of the new term, members received the progress reports from the chairmen of two of the committees. Mrs Diana Wong of the AIDS Prevention and Care Committee (APCC) explained that an informal meeting had been held earlier on. The Scientific Committee on AIDS (SCA) had likewise been formed. Apart from the operative mechanism and workplan, the terms of reference of the two committees were re-examined, revised and confirmed. (please refer to page 8 for revised terms of reference of the three committees)

In order to enhance the effectiveness of the Council's work, the Council resolved that special advisers might be identified and invited to support the activities of the three committees. These advisers should be technical experts in one of the three fields of HIV science, programme development, and the ethical issues relating to people living

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## Happy New Year



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## The 600000 mark

THE cumulative hit rate of Virtual AIDS Office (VAO) has reached 600,000 in January 2003. VAO is the Government's core website which contains information categorised under four programmes - clinical, HIV prevention and health promotion, surveillance, and policy development.

The VAO project was first launched in January 1996. In the first year, some 5000 hits were registered. The Page was revamped in 1997 and 2001. Information is now presented in English, traditional Chinese, and

simplified Chinese.

Members could access VAO either directly through the address [www.aids.gov.hk](http://www.aids.gov.hk), or the Council's designated webpage at [www.aca-hk.com](http://www.aca-hk.com). VAO is affiliated with three other sister websites: the 27802211.com (the AIDS Hotline webpage), DSonline.com.hk (Dr Sex online), and harmreduction-hk.com (harm reduction webpage). ☸

**Virtual AIDS Office** of Hong Kong  
**愛滋病網上辦公室**



## Quarterly Update

THE Department of Health announced on 27 January that the cumulative total number of reported HIV infections had passed the 2000 mark.

In the 4th quarter of the year 2002, 74 persons were positive in HIV antibody tests, bringing the cumulative total number of reported HIV infections in Hong Kong to 2015.

Ten new AIDS cases were reported in the same quarter. This brings to a total of 613 confirmed

AIDS cases reported since 1985.

Of the 74 new HIV cases reported, 39 acquired the infection via heterosexual contacts and 15 via homosexual or bisexual contacts. Two cases involved injection drug users. The route of transmission of the remaining 18 cases were undetermined due to inadequate data. The 74 cases comprised 55 males and 19 females.

Of the 2015 cumulative total of HIV infections since 1984, around 81 per cent of all have acquired the infection through sexual contact, with about 71 per cent of them through heterosexual transmission. Fifty-four infections have occurred among injection drug users.

The ten new AIDS cases involved five males and five females. Sixty per cent of them were related to heterosexual

## Epidemiology

contact.

In the fourth quarter, the most common presenting AIDS defining illness was *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia, closely followed by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection.

DH monitors the HIV/AIDS situation through a collection of surveillance mechanisms maintained by the Special Preventive programme (SPP). Apart from the voluntary reporting system that provides the data in this report, the other mechanism are: seroprevalence programme, STD surveillance, behavioural surveillance and other studies.

Quarterly surveillance reports can be viewed on the Virtual AIDS Office at [www.aids.gov.hk](http://www.aids.gov.hk). &

### Reported HIV/AIDS Statistics (updated 31 December 2002)

		HIV		AIDS	
		total	/ Q4 2002	total	/ Q4 2002
<b>Gender</b>	male	1637	55	532	5
	female	378	19	81	5
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Chinese	1399	48	478	4
	non-Chinese	616	26	135	6
<b>Transmission</b>	heterosexual	1149	39	406	6
	homosexual	382	12	105	2
	bisexual	94	3	30	1
	injecting drug use	54	2	10	1
	blood/b products	68	0	19	0
	perinatal	15	0	6	0
	undetermined	253	18	37	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2015</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>10</b>

**NOTE:**

The "total" refers to the cumulative total number reported since 1984, under the voluntary HIV/AIDS Reporting System. Q4 refers to the period October to December 2002. The "AIDS" number is a subset of the "HIV numbers" and the two should not be added.

**SOURCE:**

Special Preventive Programmes, Department of Health, Hong Kong SAR Government

in & around  
Hong Kong

## Shenzhen AIDS Strategies

SHENZHEN has released the *Circular of Shenzhen Municipal People's Government on Printing and Issuing the AIDS*

*Containment and Control Act, 2002--2005*. 深圳市人民政府關於印發深圳市遏制與防治艾滋病行動方案 The document (no. 206 2002) was published in the gazette of the Shenzhen Municipal People's Government on 6 January 2003.

Chinese version of the document can be viewed on [www.shenzhen.gov.cn](http://www.shenzhen.gov.cn) &



## A BIT FAR but....

AMERICA is certainly not "in and around Hong Kong". Two important conferences would however be held in the States in the coming weeks.

Members may however be interested in the *Community Planning Leadership Summit* (CPLS) 2003, now scheduled for 12 to 15 March in New York. The CPLS is a yearly event participated by individuals and agencies working on AIDS in USA. As Hong Kong has previously taken reference from the community planning process of the United States, the meeting therefore may have special bearing for us - if you don't consider New York too far, too expensive. Dr Homer Tso and Professor CN Chen had joined the CPLS in 2001 (*ACA Newsfile vol 8 no. 4*). Further information about the CPLS 2003 can be available on internet [www.nmac.org](http://www.nmac.org)

## 3rd Announcement

THE Third Announcement and Call for Abstract of the 7th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific is now available. Members may wish to visit the congress website at [www.icaap7.jp](http://www.icaap7.jp) for further information. The Congress is scheduled for 27 November to 1 December 2003 in Kobe, Japan.

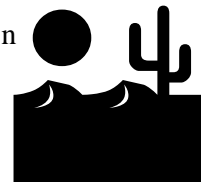
Please note the following deadlines if you are planning to join the meeting: scholarship application 1 April 2003; abstract submission 1 April 2003; early bird registration 30 June 2003. &



On the scientific front, the *10th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections* would be held in Boston on 10 to 14 February. The conference (rather than the International AIDS Conference) is considered one of the most important forum for the

scientific community on a global scale. The conference is chaired by Dr David Ho.

Further information is available from [www.retroconference.org/2003](http://www.retroconference.org/2003) &



## Ten top things to watch in 2003

IN the USA, the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors publishes each year (in their NASTAD HIV Prevention Bulletin) the ten top things that should be watched on HIV/AIDS in the country. While Hong Kong differs considerably from the States in AIDS situation and programme development, we could take reference from their priorities in context.

For 2003, the ten things are:

1. Funding crisis for HIV/AIDS programmes;
2. Protecting the Federal Investment in HIV prevention;
3. Prevention for men having sex with men;
4. Prevention for communities of colour;
5. Rapid testing and reassessing counselling, testing and referral programmes;
6. Smallpox;
7. Abstinence only education;
8. HIV prevention integration;
9. Broadening support for HIV and hepatitis prevention initiatives for IDUs;
10. New Health Department programme announcement and community planning guidance.

Electronic version of the Bulletin is available on the web: [www.nastad.org](http://www.nastad.org) &

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with HIV/AIDS. Special advisers are not members, but they would also be receiving all papers of the committees, and be asked to provide input on specific issues arising in the course of the committees' work.

Rev Chu presented the profile of the work of the Red Ribbon Centre in interacting with Mainland China. As the chairman of the Centre's Management Advisory Committee, he was thankful to the commitment of the Department of Health and Centre staff in the development of a range of programmes to build capacity of people working on HIV/AIDS, including those from Mainland China. There're five main types of capacity-building activities - fellowship for individuals, special workshops organised upon request, training courses, consultancies and technical forums. This has evolved to be a model for interfacing China,

an important strategy highlighted by the Council for the years 2002 to 2006. The Centre was keen to adopt a systematic approach in capacity-building that would not only be cost-effective, but could benefit technical people from both Hong Kong and Mainland China.

Finally, Members were briefed on the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS), a forum attended by 189 countries in 1991 that had led UNAIDS to propose the development of a set of core indicators for monitoring national and global progress. The Council resolved that Hong Kong should take this as an opportunity to adopt the same framework in monitoring AIDS activities in the territory. Department of Health would be charged with this responsibility, on the principle that, as far as possible, existing mechanisms should be tapped to collect the necessary data

for deriving the indicators.

The Council meeting was attended by Dr Homer Tso (chairman), Dr Margaret Chan (vice-chairman) and the following members: Prof CN Chen (chairman of Committee on Promoting Acceptance of People living with HIV/AIDS), Ms Christine Fang, Prof Diana Mak, Mrs Diana Wong (chairman of AIDS Prevention and Care Committee), Prof Wong Lung-tak, Dr Patrick Li, Prof Peter Lee, Dr Richard Tan, Prof Sara Ho, Dr Susan Fan, Prof TH Lam, Prof YL Lau (chairman of Scientific Committee on AIDS), Rev Chu Yiu-ming, Mr Thomas Yiu (representing Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food) Dr Lawrence Lai (representing Chief Executive of Hospital Authority), Ms Ophelia Chan (representing Director of Social Welfare Department) and Dr CH Lee (representing Secretary for Education and Manpower) ♂

## *revised* TERMS OF REFERENCE

### **Scientific Committee on AIDS**

1. To advise on the effective surveillance of HIV/AIDS, and the monitoring of the situation as it relates to Hong Kong;
2. To advise on the development of effective clinical and public health programmes on HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong;
3. To establish rationale and develop principles on the effective prevention, treatment and control of HIV infection in Hong Kong;
4. To promote the development of research agenda on HIV/AIDS and its related research areas in Hong Kong; and
5. To promote regional and international collaboration of research activities in HIV/AIDS.

### **AIDS Prevention and Care Committee**

1. To assess the needs of the community on prevention and care programmes on HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong;
2. To identify and promote best practices in HIV prevention and care; and
3. To network and harness the capacity of agencies on HIV prevention and care in Hong Kong.

