

## *.Calendar.*

### **XLIV Meeting of the Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA)**

2:30pm 3 October 2003

### **XXIX Meeting of the Scientific Committee on AIDS (SCA)**

2:30pm 30 September 2003

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

5:30pm 19 September 2003

### **XI Meeting of Committee on Promoting Acceptance of People living with HIV/AIDS (CPA)**

2:30pm 4 September 2003

**THE COUNCIL welcomes Dr PY Lam, Director of Health, to be the new Vice-chairman of the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS; and says goodbye to Dr Margaret Chan.....**

### ***Letter from the Chairman to Dr Margaret Chan***

THE Advisory Council on AIDS is still in a state of disbelief ever since the news of your retirement broke out couples of weeks ago. Certainly, the Council has, over the years, benefited from your participation as a vice-chairman, with your foresight, determination and community spirit. We are pleased also to witness the maturation of Hong Kong's AIDS programme under your leadership as the Director of Health.

It is with mixed feeling that I, on behalf of the Council, congratulate you on your new appointment with the World Health Organization. With the challenges of AIDS ahead, we are sure that you would continue to take an active interest on an international horizon, with your heart in Hong Kong and Mainland China.

With best wishes to a friend and long time partner.

### ***Reply from Dr Margaret Chan to the Chairman***

*IT has indeed been my pleasure and honour to serve as the Vice-chairman of the Hong Kong advisory Council on AIDS in the past years. The time has come for me to say goodbye as I will be leaving Hong Kong for Geneva shortly.*

*Over the past years, I have seen the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS growing from strength to strength and have served the community with dedication and professionalism. I will miss you all and I look forward to working with you again in future.*

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## **Council Meeting**

## **Resignation**

MS Anna Wu, ex-chairperson of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), submitted her resignation to the chairman of the Committee on Promoting Acceptance of People living with HIV/AIDS (CPA), before the new EOC chairman Mr Michael Wong assumed office on 1 August 2003.

Ms Wu has been an active member of the Committee ever since its formation in 1999. She has made remarkable contribution in resolving the crisis centering on the

protest of residents against the setting up of the Kowloon Bay Health Centre that serves HIV patients. Interested members may wish to read the report titled *Resistance of the Neighbourhood Community to the AIDS Treatment Facilities - Case Study of Kowloon Bay Health Centre*, which can be downloaded from the Virtual AIDS Office at [www.info.gov.hk/aids/english/publications/index.htm](http://www.info.gov.hk/aids/english/publications/index.htm). ♂

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# Second Quarter Statistics

## Surveillance Update

Forty-nine persons were positive in HIV antibody tests in the second quarter of 2003, bringing the cumulative total number of reported HIV infections to 2 116, the Department of Health (DH) announced on August 12.

Fourteen new AIDS cases were reported in the same quarter. This brings to a total of 641 confirmed AIDS cases reported since 1985.

The Senior Medical Officer (Special Preventive Programme) of DH, Dr Chan Kam-tim explained that of the 49 new HIV cases reported, 20 acquired the infection via heterosexual contacts, 14 via homosexual or bisexual contacts and two cases of injection drug use. The routes of transmission of the remaining 13 cases were undetermined due to inadequate

data. The 49 cases comprised 40 males and nine females.

Dr Chan further elaborated that of the 2 116 cumulative total of HIV infections since 1984, around 80 per cent of all have acquired the infection through sexual contact, of them 70 per cent were resulted from heterosexual transmission and fifty-six infections have occurred among injection drug users.

The newly diagnosed cases of the second quarter were reported by four major sources: public hospitals and clinics (25), private hospitals and clinics (11), Social Hygiene Clinics (6) and the Department of Health AIDS Counselling Service (3).

Cumulatively, the four sources have accounted for 43.3 per cent, 23 per cent, 15.7 per cent and 13.6 per cent of all reported infections.

Of the newly reported cases in this quarter, 33 (67.3%) have received care at the HIV specialist services of the Department of Health or the Hospital Authority. Seventy-two per cent of the reported cases in first half year of 2003 have attended these services where effective antiretroviral treatment is offered according to clinical indication.

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

[*excerpted from DH Press Release 12.8. 2003*]

### Reported HIV/AIDS Statistics (updated 30 June 2003)

		HIV		AIDS	
		total / Q2 2003		total / Q2 2003	
<b>Gender</b>	male	1715	40	554	10
	female	401	9	87	4
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Chinese	1469	36	501	11
	non-Chinese	647	13	140	3
<b>Transmission</b>	heterosexual	1199	20	426	11
	homosexual	406	11	111	2
	bisexual	97	3	30	0
	injecting drug use	56	2	10	0
	blood/bl products	68	0	20	0
	perinatal	15	0	6	0
	undetermined	275	13	38	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2116</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>14</b>

**NOTE:**

The "total" refers to the cumulative total number reported since 1984, under the voluntary HIV/AIDS Reporting System. Q2 refers to the period April to June 2003. 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

### MTP Workshop

FOR the first time, a training workshop on methadone maintenance would be held in Hong Kong for participants from Asian Pacific countries. The Workshop will last from 22 to 24 October. It is designed for professionals involved

in or are planning to develop methadone programmes in their countries.

The three-day Workshop would feature presentations by Dr Robert Newman from New York, Dr



### Fellows 2003

PUBLIC health professionals from the Mainland are joining the Lions Red Ribbon Fellowship Scheme to network with Hong Kong counterparts, a collaborative effort aiming to strengthen ties in HIV prevention, care and control in the country. In August Mr Gao Yanning from Shanghai, Dr Hu Xiaoyun from Hubei, and Dr Cao Guanghua from Henan were in Hong Kong for a two-week visit. A seminar was held at the Red Ribbon Centre on 26 August to enable AIDS workers to exchange views on a range of subjects. Members of the Council were invited to participate in this meaningful forum, which has been made possible through the generous support of Lions Clubs International District 303 Hong Kong and Macau. ⚡

Andrew Byrne from Sydney and WHO experts. Professor CN Chen of the Advisory Council on AIDS, Dr Dennis Wong of the Red Ribbon Centre Management Advisory Committee, and methadone experts of the Department of Health would be joining as faculty. It is expected that some 80 participants from Mainland China, Indonesia, Vietnam, Myanmar, India will be joining the workshop, which would be officially opened by Mr Sandro Calvani of the UNODC in the morning of 22 October.

The Workshop was initially scheduled for April, but was postponed because of the SARS outbreak (*ACA Newsfile* April, 2003). This training was initiated by the UN Regional Task Force on Drug Use and HIV Vulnerability, and organised through the collaborative efforts of Red Ribbon Centre, WHO, UNODC and UNAIDS.

Further information about the Workshop can be available from the Harm Reduction Website at [www.harmreduction-hk.com](http://www.harmreduction-hk.com) ⚡

### GFATM

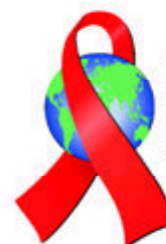
IN the progress report issued by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) in August 2003, it was noted that a total of US\$1.5 billion had been approved over two years to cover 150 programmes in 92 countries., following two proposal rounds.

In the distribution of the Fund, East Asia and Pacific accounted for 13% of the allocation. About half (46%) of the money went to drugs and commodities. AIDS was the most important condition that absorbed 59% of the funding. ⚡

### World AIDS Campaign

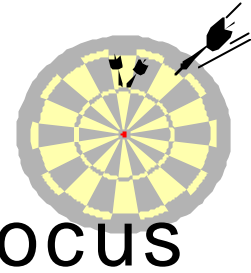
WHILE the World AIDS Campaign for 2003 continues with its focus on stigma and discrimination, the theme of the Campaign for 2004 would be **Women and HIV/AIDS**. This was disclosed in an electronic communication of the UNAIDS. The last time that women was made the theme of the then World AIDS Day was 1990.

The World AIDS Campaign has traditionally been an awareness raising campaign encouraging a global focus on specific issues. It is now looking to broaden its remit to also include political advocacy and resource mobilization campaigning under its umbrella by strengthening the involvement of civil society groups. ⚡



**Live and let live**  
World AIDS Campaign  
2002-2003

# SARS and HIV Testing Statistics



THERE was a falling trend of the number of HIV tests performed in the public service in the second quarter (Q2) of this year. Based on the workload statistics of the Department of Health Virus Laboratory, the total number of blood samples tested for HIV in Q2 2003 was 16,163 compared with 21,424 in Q1 2003 and 23,070 in Q2 2002 while the HIV positive cases detected by the same laboratory were 39(Q2 2003), 45(Q1 2003) and 53(Q2 2002) respectively. The samples submitted by the Social Hygiene Service (which provides STD treatment in the public service in Hong Kong) fell from 12082(Q1 2003) to 8824(Q2 2003). A similar trend

was also observed in the number of samples from the VCT (voluntary counselling and HIV testing) service, which fell from 482(Q1 2003) to 289(Q2 2003).

The trend was presented at the press meeting of the Department of Health on 12 August 2003. It was speculated that the number of people going for HIV tests had declined because of the SARS outbreak. The phenomenon was similar to that seen in other medical services with members of the public trying to avoid clinical facilities in the middle of the

