

⌘ Calendar ⌘

XLVII Meeting of the
Advisory Council on AIDS
(ACA)

2:30 pm 30 July 2004

XXXIII Meeting of the
Scientific Committee on
AIDS (SCA)

2:30 pm 21 September 2004

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

6:30 pm 10 September 2004

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

2:30 pm 19 July 2004

Honours



Congratulations to **Dr Homer Tso, JP**, the Chairman of the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS on his award of the **Bronze Bauhinia Star** for his efforts on AIDS prevention, care and control in Hong Kong.

The following members of the Council and Committees have also been accorded awards of the Bronze Bauhinia Star in this year's Honours List:

- ❖ Dr LIM Wei-ling, Wilina
- ❖ Prof SZETO Wing-hong
- ❖ Miss CHAN Chiu-ling, Ophelia

Congratulations are also extended to Miss FANG Meng-sang, Christine and Dr LEE Shui-shan on their appointments as Justices of the Peace with effect from 1 July 2004.

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🌀 ACA Meeting Deferred 🌀

The 47th ACA meeting scheduled for 9 July 2004 has been put off until **30 July 2004**. The time and venue for the meeting will remain unchanged at 2:30pm at the DH conference room at Wu Chung House. The prime reason for postponing the meeting is to allow the Chairman to share his experiences of the XV International AIDS Conference with members at the earliest opportunity. The Chairman will attend the Conference, which will be held from 11 to 16 July 2004 at Bangkok, Thailand, on behalf of the ACA.

John Bartlett in Hong Kong

On 18 June 2004, Professor John Bartlett remarked on the HIV clinical care model in Hong Kong at a symposium hosted by Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The model was presented by Dr Michael Chan, Secretary of the Scientific Committee on AIDS (SCA), who described the framework proposed by the Committee for the advice of Professor Bartlett and attendees at the Symposium. Professor Bartlett was one of the four external consultants at the AIDS Programme Review commissioned by the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS in 1998.

Professor Bartlett was impressed by the progress made in the last six years in the delivery of HIV care to people living with the infection. He noted that two designated HIV services are now in operation, they are supported by the Government through the Department of Health (Integrated Treatment Centre) and the Hospital Authority (Special Medical Service of Queen Elizabeth Hospital). He reiterated the importance of providing specialized service through trained physicians. The incorporation of preventive services, including risk assessment, counseling and contact tracing, is an important move in the right direction. This is one of the principles proposed in the SCA framework. Quality assurance is another area that Professor Bartlett asked Hong Kong colleagues to focus on, together with efforts to document impacts of clinical treatment through the use of effective information systems.

The symposium was chaired by Dr Patrick Li, Consultant Physician of Queen Elizabeth Hospital and also an ACA member. Professor Bartlett gave a presentation of the prevention and treatment of opportunistic infections in HIV patients. His handbook on HIV treatment is a standard reference for HIV physicians in Hong Kong and other parts of the world.



Visit from Jiangmen Delegation

A 17-strong delegation headed by a vice-mayor of the Jiangmen 江門 city was in Hong Kong on 8 and 9 June to take reference of our HIV/AIDS control programmes. The delegation was composed of officials from the sectors of health, finance, and public security. They visited the Integrated Treatment Centre, Robert Black Methadone Clinic and Red Ribbon Centre during the brief visit. The focuses of the delegation were on HIV treatment and methadone maintenance. They were greeted by Dr Homer Tso, Chairman of the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS and Dr SS Lee of the Department of Health Centre for Health Protection.

Jiangmen is one of the cities of the Pearl River Delta Region. As of the end of the year 2003, a total of 776 cases of HIV infection had been reported (source: www.chinaids.org.cn). Sharing needles in injection drug users is the main route of HIV spread in Jiangmen.

Delegation from Jiangmen



The 32nd SCA Meeting

The 32nd Meeting of the Scientific Committee on AIDS (SCA) was held on 29 June 2004. Members discussed the following four main items on the agenda: (a) Draft recommendations on infection control practice for the prevention of HIV in health care setting, (b) Recommended framework for the delivery of HIV clinical care in Hong Kong, (c) A draft research agenda on basic science of HIV in Hong Kong, and (d) The second year report on the universal antenatal HIV testing programme in Hong Kong.

Under the matters arising, members reaffirmed their agreement to provide expert advisory service to the Centre for Health Protection under its scientific advisory structure. Under the structure, there are seven scientific committees (SC): namely SC on Advanced Data Analysis and Disease Modelling, SC on AIDS, SC on Emerging & Zoonotic Diseases, SC on Food-borne Diseases, SC on Infection Control, SC on Vaccine Preventable Diseases and SC on Vectorborne Diseases.



The 7th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific was originally scheduled to be held in Kobe, Japan, in 2003. The Congress was postponed because of SARS outbreak. This would be held between 1 and 5 July 2005 in the same city. A new official website would be launched shortly. <http://www.icaap7.jp>

香港愛滋病病毒感染及愛滋病統計數字 HIV/AIDS STATISTICS IN HONG KONG

截至二零零四年三月三十一日 updated 31 March 2004

		本季 This Quarter		累積個案 Cumulative	
		愛滋病病毒感染 HIV	愛滋病 AIDS	愛滋病病毒感染 HIV	愛滋病 AIDS
性別 Sex	男 Male	55	7	1867	583
	女 Female	12	0	444	93
種族 Ethnicity	華裔 Chinese	51	6	1608	529
	非華裔 Non-Chinese	16	1	703	147
傳染途徑 Route of Transmission	性行為 Sexual Contacts	45	6	1836	600
	異性性接觸 Heterosexual	25	5	1289	457
	同性性接觸 Homosexual	18	1	446	113
	雙性性接觸 Bisexual	2	0	101	30
	注射毒品人士 Injecting drug use	4	1	69	11
	輸入血液/血製品 Blood/blood products recipients	0	0	68	20
	母嬰傳播 Perinatal	0	0	15	6
	不詳 Undetermined	18	0	323	39
總數 Total		67	7	2311	676

APCC Meeting



The 16th meeting of the AIDS Prevention and Care Committee was held on 18 June 2004 and the focus of the meeting was on elderly HIV infection and elderly sex in Hong Kong. There were two main discussion items on the agenda: (a) Introduction to Elderly Health Services and (b) HIV infection and its prevention in elderly people in Hong Kong. The last item on the agenda was informative in nature: Hong Kong's participation in the XV International AIDS Conference.

For (a), Dr Ho Kin-sang, Consultant (Family Medicine) of the Department of Health, gave an introductory account of the Elderly Health Services (EHS) of the Department of Health. He highlighted the sex education for the elderly provided by EHS and the Visiting Health Teams of EHS. He then proceeded to present the results of the study on knowledge, attitude & sexual behaviour among Chinese elderly male in Hong Kong with the PowerPoint. 708 Chinese elderly male people were asked to respond with a participation of 528 people. The respondents are in the 65 – 95 age range with a median of 73. The study has drawn these conclusions:

- Sex is considered important by elders
- Many of them are still sexually active
- Some elders engage in risk taking

- behaviour in sex
- General lack of knowledge of drug use for sexual dysfunction
- Need a more focused health education and promotion on sex in elders

As regards (b), Dr SS Lee said that senior citizens had continued to account for a small but significant proportion of all HIV reported cases. Three possible reasons for the seemingly rising trend of elderly HIV infection in the last three years were (i) late diagnosis in the middle age causing many to be reported after 49 or 55, (ii) the increasing population of elderly people who remained physically well and sexually active, and (iii) rising trend of the practice of risk behaviours in the elderly. To achieve the aim of maintaining a low HIV prevalence in Hong Kong, three strategies were proposed: (i) enhancement of surveillance to improve understanding of HIV epidemiology in the elderly population, (ii) promotion of safer sex and HIV prevention through existing elderly health services, and (iii) supporting the HIV prevention efforts that targeted elderly by HIV Services. Members became aware of the HIV situation in elderly people in Hong Kong and supportive of the proposed strategies.

Regarding the information item, members were updated that AIDS Concern, Hong Kong AIDS Foundation, St John's Cathedral HIV Education Centre and Hong Kong Coalition AIDS Service Organization would participate in the coming XV International AIDS Conference at Bangkok. The musical "Love under the Sun" submitted by the Red Ribbon Centre had been accepted by the 2004 AIDS Film Festival and would be shown on 14 July at Lido Cinema to be followed by a 15-minute sharing session.

