

⌘ Calendar ⌘

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

2:30 pm 8 October 2004

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

2:30 pm 14 December 2004

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

6:30 pm 3 December 2004

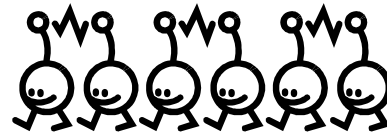
**XVI Meeting of the
Committee on Promoting
Acceptance of People
Living with HIV/AIDS
(CPA)**

2:30 pm 24 November 2004

48TH

ACA

Meeting



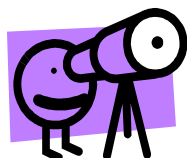
The Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA) will meet on 8 October 2004 at its 48th meeting. There will be five main items on the agenda:

- (1) Construction of core indicators for monitoring Hong Kong's AIDS programme (Final Report)
- (2) Planning the future of the Advisory Council on AIDS
 - (a) Proposed schema for the review of the fifth term of office of the Advisory Council on AIDS
 - (b) Planning of a new role for the Scientific Committee on AIDS
- (3) LegCo adjournment debate on AIDS – ten years on
- (4) Study on the needs of HIV infected Haemophiliacs in Hong Kong (Final Report)
- (5) Proposed meeting schedules for the ACA and its Committees in 2005

Details of the discussions will be covered at the next issue of the ACA Newsfile ~

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Web site: <http://www.aca-hk.com>

*~Lecture by Prof. Roy
M Anderson FRS ~*



Prof. Roy M Anderson FRS
will give a lecture on
**“Epidemiology and control of
HIV/AIDS”**

on 19 October 2004 (Tuesday)
at 6:00 pm at the Faculty of
Medicine Building, HKU.
Interested readers may contact
Ms Cecilia Sie at 2819 9911
for further information.

► HIV/AIDS situation in second quarter 2004 ◀

73 people were tested positive for the HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) antibody in the second quarter of 2004, bringing the cumulative total of reported HIV infections to 2,384. The 73 cases comprised 53 males and 20 females.

13 new AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) cases were reported in the same quarter. This brings to 689 the total number of confirmed AIDS cases reported since 1985.

Of the 73 new HIV cases reported, 39 acquired the infection via heterosexual contact, 16 via homosexual or bisexual contact and four through intravenous drug use. The routes

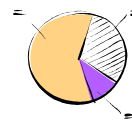
of transmission of the remaining 14 cases were undetermined due to inadequate data.

Of the 2,384 cumulative total of HIV infections since 1984, around 79 per cent have acquired the infection through sexual contact, of those 70 per cent resulted from heterosexual transmission. 74 infections have occurred among injection drug users.

The newly diagnosed cases for this quarter were reported by four major sources: public hospitals and clinics (33), private hospitals and clinics (9), Social Hygiene Clinics (12) and the Department of Health AIDS Counselling Service (13).

Cumulatively, the four sources have accounted for 43.4%, 22.4%, 15.6% and 13.3% of all reported infections.

Of the newly reported cases in this quarter, 49(67.1%) have received care at the HIV specialist services of the Department of Health or the Hospital Authority. 74% of the reported cases in 2003 have attended these services where effective antiretroviral treatment is offered according to clinical indication.



香港愛滋病病毒感染及愛滋病統計數字 HIV/AIDS STATISTICS IN HONG KONG 截至二零零四年六月三十日 updated 30 June 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	53	12	1920	595
女 Female	20	1	464	94
種族 Ethnicity 華裔 Chinese	50	9	1658	538
非華裔 Non-Chinese	23	4	726	151
傳染途徑 性行為 Sexual Contacts	55	12	1893	612
Route of Transmission				
異性性接觸 Heterosexual	39	8	1329	465
同性性接觸 Homosexual	15	4	462	117
雙性性接觸 Bisexual	1	0	102	30
注射毒品人士 Injecting drug use	4	0	74	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	14	1	334	40
總數 Total	73	13	2384	689

Committees Meetings

CPA

The Committee on Promoting Acceptance of People Living with HIV/AIDS (CPA) met at its 15th meeting held on 2 September 2004. There were three major agenda items.

On “Final version of ethical principles on partner counseling and referral for HIV infected individuals in Hong Kong”, members made tremendous contribution to the formulation of a set of recommended ethical principles. After several rounds of discussions, the Committee finally came up with the following principles:

Principle ONE: PCRS should be conducted by health professionals who are taking care of HIV infected patients. Appropriately conducted PCRS is beneficial to HIV infected individuals, their partners and the community.

Principle TWO: Approaches to provide PCRS is diversified with different pros and cons. Health professionals should work with the patient to decide on the most appropriate approach.

Principle THREE: The conduct of PCRS should always comply with the local law and professional codes.

Principle FOUR: PCRS protocol should be developed by individual health service taking care of HIV infected patients. In case of doubt when handling difficult cases, advice from relevant authority should be sought.

It was agreed to send the recommended ethical principles to relevant professional bodies for reference and to upload them online on the virtual AIDS office for public viewing.

On “Final report on social and support services to people with HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong”, the Chairman of the AIDS Social and Support Services Working Group presented the final report to the Committee. The working group had examined the current level of provision of 8 non-clinical services and identified 5 specific areas of services needed improvement. They were i. funeral services; ii. special concern for HIV infected haemophilia patients; iii. peer counseling and self help activities; iv. residential care services; and v. employment and vocational training. After discussion, the working group would further explore the possibility of regarding HIV infected people as people with chronic

illness and subsuming them under the umbrella of the Commissioner for Rehabilitation.

On “Preliminary results report on assessment of stresses and coping strategies in people living with haemophilia and HIV infection in Hong Kong”, members learnt of the condition of the 32 patients identified for the study. The patients usually encountered the following problems: i. isolation from society; ii. mobility; iii access to care; and iv. financial needs.

APCC

The 17th AIDS Prevention and Care Committee (APCC) meeting was held on 10 September 2004. The focus of the meeting was on HIV infection and its prevention in Men having Sex with Men (MSM) in Hong Kong.

Dr MAK Wai-lai of the Red Ribbon Centre presented the paper on “HIV situation in MSM in Hong Kong” with the PowerPoint. He highlighted that the cumulative number of HIV infections reported as of the end of the 2nd quarter of year 2004 was 2384. Five hundred and sixty four (564) cases (23.7%) acquired the infection through homosexual or bisexual contact. The proportion of MSM among newly reported HIV patient had remained at 20% recently. Four salient features were revealed:

1. MSM still accounted for a significant proportion in HIV cases.
2. The number of HIV cases reported in MSM was rising in recent years.
3. Chinese ethnics and age of 25-44 were the two main factors for the increase.
4. In one of the studies, young MSM and aged 15-24 engaged in risky behaviour more frequently.

Mr Paul Louey shared with members the HIV preventive programme in MSM carried out by the AIDS Concern in particular the preventive activities in the gay sauna. It was reassuring that the programme was effective and would be continued.

Members were also informed of the Red Ribbon Centre’s preparatory work for the “World AIDS Day (WAD) 2004”, the theme of this year’s World AIDS Campaign is “Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS”. To mark the 20th year ... ➤ *to be continued on page 40*

► ► ► of Hong Kong's response to HIV/AIDS, it would publish a commemorative booklet and collaborate with Ming Pao in organizing the "0.2 – Most Inspiring Persons in Hong Kong AIDS Epidemic" Poll. In connection with the WAD 2004, the meeting also agreed that the secretariat should collect information from various organizations on all AIDS related activities in Hong Kong and put together an activities calendar for public and media use.

At last, members noted the two information papers with the titles "APCC occasional review: HIV infection and its prevention in elderly people in Hong Kong" and "Seventh International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific".

SCA

The 33rd meeting of the Scientific Committee on AIDS (SCA) was held on 21 September 2004. Members discussed the following three main items on the agenda: (a) Draft recommendations on infection control practice for the prevention of HIV in health care setting; (b) Clinical governance and audit of HIV medicine – experience at the ITC; and (c) An agenda for supporting HIV/AIDS research in Hong Kong.

As usual, members reviewed the up-to-date progress of the action plan at the end of the meeting. They were pleased to note that almost all actions were right on target.



	<h3>'0.2 - Most Inspiring Persons in Hong Kong AIDS Epidemic' Poll</h3>
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Have you made your nomination for "Most Inspiring Persons in Hong Kong AIDS Epidemic"? The Red Ribbon Centre has collaborated with Ming Pao in "0.2 – Most Inspiring Persons in Hong Kong AIDS Epidemic" Poll.

The first HIV case was reported in Hong Kong twenty years ago. A novel disease at that time, HIV infection was met with panic and fear. It was a death sentence to the HIV infected. Throughout the years, a better understanding of the disease has been gained and there have been changes in areas of HIV research, treatment and care, acceptance level and the quality of life of people with HIV infection.

Members of the public are now invited to select their most inspiring persons in the Hong Kong AIDS epidemic. It is hoping that from

these inspiring persons and their stories, we can raise awareness in the community by reflecting on lessons learnt in the last 0.2 century, and preparing for the challenges with HIV infection in Hong Kong ahead.

The Poll is divided into two phases - the nomination phase (20 September to 2 October) and the polling phase (19 October to 5 November).

Individuals and organizations can make their nomination between September 20 and October 2 on the website www.mingpao.com/redribbon/nomination.htm, by fax (2505 3479) or by mail to Ming Pao Marketing Department.

A vetting panel has been formed to select the 10 most inspiring persons

based on how inspiring the persons are and how well their stories raise awareness and promote acceptance in the society. Souvenirs would be awarded to those who have nominated the selected persons.

The Poll will run between 19 October and 5 November. Individuals can add a poll to the most inspiring persons among these 10 selected persons online. The polling website is www.mingpao.com/redribbon/voting.htm. Participants will be given the 'Love under the Sun' VCD as a token of thanks.

Poll results will be announced around mid-November. Awards will be given to the 10 most inspiring persons on the World AIDS Day on the first of December this year.