

⌘ Calendar ⌘

XLIX Meeting of the
Advisory Council on AIDS
(ACA)

2:30 pm 7 January 2005

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 26 November 2004

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

2:30 pm 24 November 2004



HIV in an imperfect world



Professor Roy Anderson is the 2004/2005 Sir Edward Youde Visiting Professor of the University of Hong Kong. He delivered a presentation titled "The AIDS pandemic: what are the options for the control of transmission, morbidity and mortality in 2004" at the University's Cheung Kung Hai Conference Centre on 19 October 2004. The lecture turned out to be a comprehensive history of HIV/AIDS, including its biology, evolution and epidemiology. Professor Anderson highlighted many of the lessons that had been learned over the last twenty plus years, giving examples supported by scientific data collected by his and other researchers around the world.

Professor Anderson's lecture ended with his interpretation of the impacts of vaccines under development, which in fact are all imperfect. He cautioned against relying on an imperfect vaccine to control the epidemic. Throughout his lecture, there were examples of many imperfect strategies - condom promotion that had not been effectively promoted; escalating infections in drug users despite knowledge of how that can be controlled; effective antiretroviral treatment requiring good adherence that's almost impossible to achieve; poor access to treatment in some countries, to name a few. In the real world each person or each group can only attend to one (his/her) area of work, while easily ignoring the overall picture of prevention, care and control. It requires somebody like Professor Anderson, a multidisciplinary researcher, or researcher with multidisciplinary perspectives, to continually inform us of our limitation, in an imperfect world.

The Sir Edward Youde Visiting Professorship Lecture was attended by invited guests, including Dr Homer Tso, Chairman of the ACA, Mr Graham Smith of AIDS Concern, Dr CH Leong of Hong Kong AIDS Foundation, and many of us working on AIDS in Hong Kong, contributing our efforts in this imperfect world.

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

48th ACA Meeting

The ACA met at its 48th meeting on 8 October 2004. There were five main items on the agenda.


(1) For the construction of the first set of core indicators (CIs) for monitoring Hong Kong's AIDS programmes, members noted the final report which set out the core indicators using the data collected mainly in the year 2003. The compiled CI would provide a baseline for monitoring the progress of our response to curb the epidemic. It was agreed that after putting the finishing touches to the report, the secretariat would put it online for public viewing and distribute the report to relevant Government departments, NGOs and international partners for reference.

(2) As regards planning the future of the Advisory Council on AIDS, members examined two papers which proposed a schema for reviewing the fifth term of office of the ACA and a plan to enhance the roles of the Scientific Committee on AIDS (SCA) respectively. Under the schema, four tasks were proposed to meet the objectives of the review: (a) to describe the work of the ACA; (b) to examine factors affecting the operation of the ACA; (c) to conduct a questionnaire survey; and (d) to derive recommendations. Members generally felt that a review would be needed and approved of the tasks proposed. Looking at the future development of the SCA, members were aware of the co-sponsor of the SCA by both the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) and the ACA effective from 1 June 2004 and the expansion of its scope of work to cover sexually transmitted infections (STI) as well. Members would keep in view of the review at the ensuing meetings.

(3) Immersion in the historical review of the LegCo and AIDS in Hong Kong, members were given a detailed account of how lawmakers in

Hong Kong responded to the epidemic since the groundbreaking adjournment debate on "AIDS in Hong Kong" in February 1993 until the end of 2002. Members praised the paper as comprehensive and informative. The paper began with the adjournment debate, then the development of AIDS policy in Hong Kong. It also covered the formation of the AIDS Trust Fund in relation with HIV infected haemophilia. Access to care and fighting discrimination as well as the effectiveness of HIV preventive measures were also lucidly laid out in the paper. It was agreed to put the paper online and distribute it to members of the three committees for information.


(4) "The Forgotten Tragedy The Unforgettable Trauma" was the title of the final report on addressing the needs of people affected by haemophilia and HIV infection in Hong Kong. The report documented the study methods, described the study process and actions arising from the study. The study results and recommended strategies were also clearly set out in the report. Members endorsed the report and agreed that the Chairman should present the final report to the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau for follow-up action. The English report would also be translated into Chinese for wider circulation.

(5) Finally, members noted the meeting schedules for the ACA and its committees in 2005. 

↵ Panel on Health Services Meeting ↵

The Panel on Health Services of the LegCo will discuss the subject on HIV/AIDS at its seconds meeting on Monday, 8 November 2004. The agenda item to be discussed is "The Government's response to HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong 1984-2004"



Dr Homer Tso,
the ACA Chairman delivering a speech at the
9th Anniversary Celebration  of the St.
John's Cathedral HIV Education Centre on
22 September 2004

Speech of Dr Homer Tso at the 9th anniversary of St John's Cathedral HIV Education Centre

2004 marks the twentieth year since HIV was first reported in Hong Kong. On this occasion marking the 9th anniversary of St John's Cathedral HIV Education centre, I realise that it's also been over ten years since I have joined you and others in the community on a common mission against HIV/AIDS.

Looking back over the last two decades, I am reminded of some familiar names: **Father Alfred Deignan** was affiliated with the Advisory Council on AIDS in its days of inception, and has chaired the Expert Panel on HIV and Health Care workers for ten years; **Sister Maureen McGinley** founded the Society for AIDS Care; **Rev Chu Yiu Ming** resolved

the conflicts at the Kowloon Bay Integrated Treatment Centre for HIV patients, and has been leading the Red Ribbon Centre to this day. One common feature of our noble forerunners is their religious background.

Naturally, it's not just individuals but organisations that have shaped Hong Kong's AIDS programmes. **St John's Cathedral HIV Education Centre** has, over the years, evolved to become a leader in HIV prevention in women. The theme of the upcoming World AIDS Day, as proclaimed by UNAIDS, is *women, Girls, HIV and AIDS*. I am sure that with your contribution, the issue of HIV in women can be highlighted and brought to the attention of Hong Kong.

As the chairman of the Advisory Council, I feel proud of being associated with devoted Christians, Buddhists and believers in other religions on our humanitarian mission to

combat HIV/AIDS. More recently Hong Kong based organisations are setting up projects in Mainland China on HIV prevention and care- quite a number of these are Christian organisations.

With the changing landscape of HIV epidemiology, the Asian focus is becoming more visible. While our emphasis is HIV in Hong Kong, the regional dimension cannot be ignored and is gradually posing a new challenge to us all. I look forward to working closely with you all in response to the new challenges ahead.

