



**Calendar**

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

2:30 pm 8 July 2005

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

2:30 pm 28 June 2005

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

6:30 pm 17 June 2005

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

2:30 pm 8 June 2005



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

**Yao Ming and Magic Johnson promoting acceptance of people living with HIV/AIDS**

A **30-second** promotional film featuring basketball superstars Yao Ming and Earvin Johnson has been shown on local TV channels since 9 April 2005 to appeal for public acceptance of people living with HIV/AIDS.

**While** Yao will ask viewers to show understanding and care to people infected with HIV, Johnson will explain that HIV is not transmitted through ordinary social contact such as hugging, shaking hands or eating together. Johnson has been living with HIV since 1991.

**The** premiere of the film was held during the Hong Kong Silver Shield Basketball Tournament 2005 at Mong Kok's MacPherson Playground. It was jointly organized by the Committee on Promoting Acceptance of People Living HIV/AIDS (CPA) and the Department of Health.

**The** video clip is a local version of a promotional film on AIDS care produced by the China AIDS Media Project and the American National Basketball Association. The original film has been broadcast on the mainland since last year and been well received.



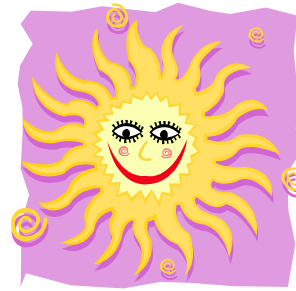
The video can be viewed on the website [www.aids.gov.hk](http://www.aids.gov.hk)



**Prof Chen Char-nie**, JP Chairman of the CPA presenting a souvenir to a player at the premiere.



## Welcome



### A new staff member of the SPP

Dr HO Lei-ming, Raymond has been transferred from the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH) to the Special Preventive Programme occupying a SMO post since 1 April 2005. Dr Ho will oversee SPP's prevention and health promotion as well as surveillance and epidemiology programmes.

## HIV/AIDS STATISTICS IN HONG KONG updated 31 December 2004

		This Quarter		2004		Cumulative	
		HIV	AIDS	HIV	AIDS	HIV	AIDS
<b>Sex</b>	Male	46	13	205	44	2017	620
	Female	9	2	63	5	495	98
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Chinese	37	9	185	37	1742	560
	Non-Chinese	18	6	83	12	770	158
<b>Route of Transmission</b>	Sexual Contacts	27	12	172	43	1965	637
	Heterosexual	16	11	107	35	1373	487
	Homosexual	9	1	59	8	487	120
	Bisexual	2	0	6	0	105	30
	Injecting drug use	5	2	21	3	86	13
	Blood/blood products recipients	0	0	0	0	68	20
	Perinatal	0	0	0	0	15	6
Undetermined	23	1	75	3	378	42	
<b>Total</b>		<b>55</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>2512</b>	<b>718</b>



## 50<sup>th</sup> ACA

### Meeting

The 50<sup>th</sup> ACA meeting was held on 8 April 2005. There were four main items on the agenda.

(1) **For** HIV/AIDS prevention, care and control programme of the Correctional Services Department, members learned that there were about 9300 sentenced prisoners by the end of 2004 and 26% of them were known to be drug addicts at the time of admission or with drug abuse history. Members were also made aware that the CSD's HIV/AIDS prevention, care and control programme was based on the following principles:

- No mandatory HIV tests for inmates;
- HIV status of inmates strictly confidential;
- No segregation or discrimination of HIV positive cases in institutional life;
- Emphasis of preventive education; and
- Universal precaution.

The CSD Medical Services Committee was responsible for overseeing the translation of those principles into daily routine in correctional institutions.

(2) **Regarding** prevention and

control of HIV/AIDS in prison settings- overseas experience, members noted the vulnerability of overseas prisons to rapid HIV spread chiefly through injecting drug use. They were also given to know the framework of HIV preventive and control measures in overseas prisons.

The measures included:

- Education for prisoners and prison staff about HIV/AIDS and the ways to prevent HIV transmission;
- Counselling and HIV testing;
- Preventing infection from injection by provision of bleach, provision of needle and syringes and substitution treatment programmes; and
- Preventing infection from sexual activities by discreet and easy access to condoms.

(3) **As** regards the introduction of a standard drug formulary in Hospital Authority, members were presented the paper prepared by the Hospital Authority and the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau for the discussion of the Legco health Services Panel in January 2005. Members noted the expressed concern by AIDS NGOs and people living with HIV/AIDS over the inclusion or exclusion of some of the commonly used

HIV/AIDS drugs in the proposed standard drug formulary. After explanation and clarification by HA representative at the meeting, it was understood that HIV/AIDS drugs which had not been registered in Hong Kong or had been prescribed on named-patients basis were not listed. However, the HA representative assured that there were existing procedures for attending doctors to continue prescription of such drugs to indicated HIV/AIDS patients. (See HA's written reply on page 20.)

(4) **Concerning** an evaluation of the work of the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS and its three Committees for the term 2002 to 2005, members were presented the findings of a questionnaire survey. The results indicated that the work of the ACA and the three committees including the secretariat was generally very effective.

A draft annual report capturing activities of the ACA and the three committees for the period from August 2003 to July 2004 was submitted to members for their comments before getting into print.

*~~The last ACA meeting in the current term of office will be held on 8 July 2005.~~*

### HA Standard Drug Formulary

Thank you for your letter dated 4 April enclosing the letters from Mr Marco Chau, Ms Alice Chan and Dr Susan Chiu relating their concerns on the inclusion or exclusion of some of the commonly used HIV/AIDS in the proposed HA Standard Drug Formulary.

As you are probably aware, the main objective of developing an HA-wide Standard Drug Formulary is to ensure equitable access to cost effective drugs of proven efficacy and safety, through standardization of drug policy and utilization in all HA hospitals and clinics. For the treatment of HIV/AIDS, the following drugs are at present listed in the proposed HA Standard Drug Formulary as general drugs for use in HIV/AIDS patients in accordance to the clinical assessment the doctor in charge.

Abacavir \*  
Atazanavir \*  
**Combivir**  
**Didanosine**  
**Indinavir**  
Kaletra \*  
**Lamivudine**  
Nelfinavir \*  
**Nevirapine**  
Ritonavir \*  
Saquinavir \*  
**Stavudine**  
Trizivir \*  
**Zalcitabine**  
**Zidovudine**

Apart from the above, there are drugs used for HIV/AIDS patients which are currently unregistered in Hong Kong or prescribed on named-patients basis and hence are not listed in the HA Drug formulary. However, please be assured that there are existing procedures for attending doctors to continue prescription of such drugs to indicated HIV/AIDS patients, as there is no intention for the HA to change from the existing practice of caring for HIV/AIDS patients.

Yours sincerely,



( Dr. Lawrence Lai )  
for Chief Executive  
Hospital Authority



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