

Editorial Board

Executive Editor: Mr WONG Man-kong ACA Secretariat

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Schedule

53rd ACA Meeting
6 January 2006

website:

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

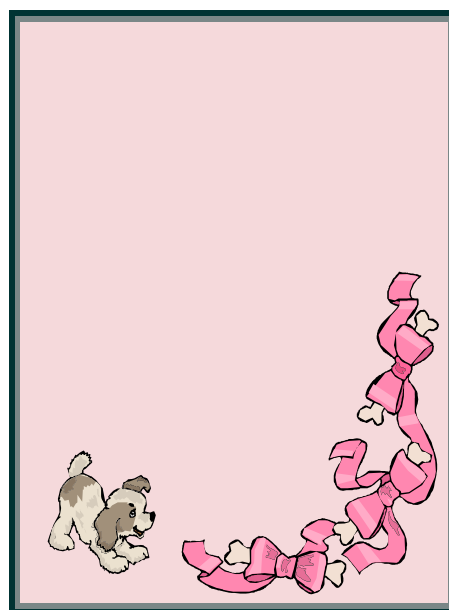
5 3 ^r ^d A C A M e e t i n g

The 53rd ACA meeting will be held on 6 January 2006 (Friday) at 2:30 pm at the DH Conference Room, 21/F Wu Chung House, Wan Chai. There are four main items on the agenda:

1. Public Health Update on Rising HIV Situation in MSM Community
2. Review on “Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2002-2006”
3. An Update on Mainland and International Development in HIV/AIDS Strategy and Response
4. Opinion Survey on AIDS Programme and 2002-2006 Strategies in Hong Kong

Interested readers may watch for the next issue of the Newsfile for more details.

Kung Hei Fat Choy



Wishing you Peace and Prosperity in the Year of the Dog!



Appointment of ACA member

~ W E L C O M E ~

Dr CHU Chung-man, Ferrick (朱崇文博士) has been appointed as a member of the ACA since 16 December 2005. Dr Chu works in the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC). He assumed the post as the Chief Equal Opportunities Officer (Operations) from 1996 to 2003. He has been working as the Head of Policy and Research in EOC since November 2003.

His AIDS related experiences included: assisted in coordinating the *Case Study of Kowloon Bay Health Centre* conducted by the

EOC in 1999; attended the *Sixth International Congress on AIDS in the Asia and Pacific Region* in 2001; attended the *HIV/AIDS and Human Rights: The Role of National Human Rights Institutions in the Asia Pacific* organised by the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions in 2001; and attended **CPA meetings** on behalf of the Chair of EOC since May 2002.

The Editorial Board welcomes Dr Chu to the ACA.

STATISTICS

HIV/AIDS STATISTICS IN HONG KONG (updated 30 September 2005)					
		This Quarter		Cumulative	
		<u>HIV</u>	<u>AIDS</u>	<u>HIV</u>	<u>AIDS</u>
Sex	Male	76	14	2196	655
	Female	15	3	542	105
Ethnicity	Chinese	63	15	1898	596
	Non-Chinese	28	2	840	164
Route of Transmission	Sexual Contacts	64	11	2126	671
	Heterosexual	28	6	1455	509
	Homosexual	32	3	556	129
	Bisexual	4	2	115	33
	Injecting drug use	4	0	99	13
	Blood/blood products recipients	2	1	72	21
	Perinatal	2	0	17	6
	Undetermined	19	5	424	49
Total		91	17	2738	760



The First Meeting of the Community Forum on AIDS (CFA)

The first CFA meeting was held on 6 December 2005. There were three main items on the agenda. The following is a summary of the discussion:

(A) The objectives of setting up the CFA and its membership were presented. These terms of reference were adopted:

- (i) enhance communication between the ACA and frontline HIV/AIDS service delivery organisations and workers;
- (ii) examine needs and identify gaps in the community;
- (iii) recommend measures conducive to promoting acceptance of people living with HIV/AIDS; and
- (iv) provide a platform for collaboration in combating HIV/AIDS epidemic.

(B) On preparing the next set of Hong Kong AIDS Strategies, members had diverse views on the number of groups that would require in-depth community assessment and evaluation. Based on local epidemiologic situation, HIV vulnerability, and uniqueness of certain at-risk communities, it was agreed that community assessment and evaluation would be carried out for the following seven groups: Commercial sex workers and clients; Men having sex with men; Injecting drug users; Women and children; People living with HIV/AIDS; Youth and Travellers. CFA members were urged to join the seven working groups which would be working

to a very tight schedule.

(C) Members were updated on the global and local HIV situation in MSM community from a public health perspective. The potential high risk of HIV transmission and the reasons for increase in HIV infections in MSM were noted with concern. 5 future tasks in the fight against HIV infections in MSM were highlighted:

- (i) To obtain reliable and time-trend epidemiological and surveillance information;
- (ii) To deliver HIV prevention messages to young and adolescent MSM;
- (iii) To improve society's acceptance of homosexuality;
- (iv) To increase prevalence of MSM practicing safer sex through awareness and behavioural modification programmes; and
- (v) To work closely with collaborative community partners and intensify action to implement preventive and surveillance programmes in MSM community.

*The outcome of this meeting will be reported to the ACA at its next meeting on 6 January 2006. The CFA will meet again in **March 2006**.*



[Visit to CHAIN and UNAIDS China Office in Beijing](#)

China HIV/AIDS Information Network (CHAIN) is a national resource for the collection and dissemination of best practice HIV/AIDS information, administratively attached to the Ministry of Health's Chinese Center for Disease Control. With the invitation from CHAIN, Dr. Albert Au and Dr. Darwin Mak, [Secretary of Community Forum on AIDS](#), attended the National HIV/AIDS Integrating Prevention Information Communication & Media Training Workshop on 18-19 December 2005 in Beijing.

The workshop was organised by National Institute of Health Education, China CDC, National Association on STD/AIDS Prevention and Control and China AIDS Roadmap Tactical Support Project Office (CHARTS), SCAWCO. The objectives of the workshop are to promote multi-section information communication network and channels on HIV/AIDS, to promote the communication and sharing of HIV/AIDS prevention experiences and best practices, to provide the information support for mass media on HIV/AIDS and to set up a platform on multi-section co-operation and information resource sharing for public and media.

The workshop was divided into two parts – [a plenary session and workshop sessions](#) on individual topics. Several community leaders from Central Communist Youth League shared their experience in delivering HIV/AIDS information in the community. Dr. Mak

introduced the risk communication strategy of Red Ribbon Centre in the plenary session. The occasion also served as the opening ceremony of CHAIN Website and distribution ceremony of the book: HIV/AIDS Resource Guide for Media Personnel. The book is an interesting resource that covers the basic HIV/AIDS knowledge in each at-risk population and illustrates myths and misconceptions in media reports with real examples.

The purpose of this trip was more than to attend the workshop. Dr. Au and Dr. Mak visited the resource centre and library of CHAIN. The resource centre, as a clearinghouse, collected and produced lots of health education materials and translated several HIV policy and best practice guidelines. It also established an information distribution network with various provinces and cities through both mail and internet. In the meeting with officials of CHAIN and CHARTS, several further collaborations were established. CHARTS will organise a study tour from Ministry of Health on the HIV health care model and policy in Hong Kong in January 2006. Red Ribbon Centre will work more closely with CHAIN by establishing a channel for information exchange and identifying some collaborating internet projects.

Dr. Au and Dr. Mak also visited UNAIDS China Office and discussed the role of Red Ribbon Centre as a UNAIDS Collaborating Centre. UNAIDS China Office shared that with growing number of HIV/AIDS services established in mainland, more and more health education materials were published locally in a culture-specific context. UNAIDS China Office will enhance communicate with Red Ribbon Centre and provide some feedbacks on the projects of Red Ribbon Centre as a UNAIDS Collaborating Centre (technical support). Red Ribbon Centre also invited Dr. Joel Rehnstrom, Country Coordinator of UNAIDS China Office, to officiate the opening ceremony of Red Ribbon Centre extension in May 2006