

## Editorial Board

Executive Editor: Mr WONG Man-kong ACA Secretariat

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## Appointment to the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS



## 7<sup>th</sup> Term of ACA

Congratulations to Prof CHEN Char-nie, JP (陳佳驛教授太平紳士) on his appointment as the Chairman of the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA) for three years from 1 August 2008. Congratulations are also extended to the following persons on their appointment as Members to ACA for three years from 1 August 2008:

Prof CHAN Lai-wan, Cecilia, JP	陳麗雲教授太平紳士
Dr CHEN Zhi-wei	陳志偉博士
Dr CHU Chung-man, Ferrick	朱崇文博士
Ms CHU Kam-ying, Elsie	朱錦瑩女士
Prof FOK Tai-fai, JP	霍泰輝教授太平紳士
Ms HUI Mei-sheung, Tennessy	許美嫦女士
Mr KO Chun-wa, MH	顧振華先生
Dr LAI Sik-to, Thomas	黎錫滔醫生
Ms LAU Man-man, Lisa, MH, JP	劉文文女士太平紳士
Dr LEE Man-po	李文寶醫生
Mr PANG Shing-fook	彭盛福先生
Mr TO Chung-chi	杜宗智先生
Mr TONG Tai-wai	唐大威先生
Mr WONG Doon-yee, Charles	黃敦義先生
Miss YAU Ho-chun, Nora, MH, JP	邱可珍女士太平紳士
Dr YU Chung-toi, Samuel	俞宗岱博士
Director of Health (Vice-Chairman)	衛生署署長 (副主席)
Chief Executive of Hospital Authority or Representative	醫院管理局行政總裁或其代表
Director of Social Welfare or Representative	社會福利署署長或其代表
Secretary for Education or Representative	教育局局長或其代表
Secretary for Food and Health or Representative	食物及衛生局局長或其代表

***The 63<sup>rd</sup> ACA meeting was held on 4 July 2008. There were three major items on the agenda. A summary of the discussion at the meeting is shown on the right***

## *Summary Summary Summary*

### ● **Syphilis Awareness Campaign in MSM 2008**

Noting the increases in syphilis among MSM in various western cities over the past few years and a similar increasing trend on the incidence of infectious syphilis in SHC attendees in Hong Kong, the Red Ribbon Centre would launch a Syphilis Awareness Campaign for Men who have sex with men (MSM) in 2008. In partnership with the Social Hygiene Services and AIDS NGOs, the campaign aimed to increase the awareness of sexual health in the MSM community, in particular the prevention and treatment of syphilis, which was a treatable clinical condition and its effective prevention

and treatment would significantly reduce the risks of MSM acquiring other STIs and HIV. Members noted that the nine-month MSM HIV prevention campaign would consist of three parts: (a) Syphilis awareness programme, (b) Safer sex promotion, and (c) Syphilis testing promotion. They supported the initiative and agreed that campaign messages and activities should be sensitive to the MSM culture and acceptable to their community. Members also attached great importance to the campaign evaluation which should be set in at the planning stage of the campaign.

### ● **An Update on Universal HIV Urine Testing Programme at Methadone Clinics (2004-2007)**

Members noted that the aim of the methadone clinic universal HIV antibody urine testing programme (MUT programme) was to enhance access to voluntary HIV testing for drug users attending the methadone clinics. The results showed that about 9,000 urine samples were tested every year. The annual number of positive HIV tests ranged from 14 samples to 24 samples. Twenty-three urine samples were tested HIV positive in 2007. The 23 samples belonged to 20 methadone clinic attendees. Since 2003, a total of 64 drug users were tested positive under the MUT programme. Of 64 drug users diagnosed under the MUT programme, 56 were male and 8 were female. Chinese accounted for 73% of cases and the rest were Asian, non-Chinese. 17% were non-HKID card holders. The age at diagnosis ranged from 19 to 78 years, with a mean of 34.6.

### ● **Recapping the Work of Sixth Term ACA and Planning the Way Forward Plan**

Members briefly revisited the work of ACA from 2005 to 2008 and agreed that ACA had fulfilled its role in monitoring HIV trend and development, advising the government on prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, and coordinating and evaluating the AIDS response in Hong Kong. In the light of the success of the current 2-tier structure of ACA, members proposed a similar 2-tier structure of ACA in the next term.

XVII INTERNATIONAL

AIDS CONFERENCE

3-8 August Mexico

## Hong Kong Participants in the XVII International AIDS Conference

CFA Secretariat has compiled a list of Hong Kong participants attending the XVII International AIDS Conference to be held from 3 to 8 August 2008 in



Mexico City, Mexico with details of their accommodation for the purpose of better communication among them in the Conference. The names of the participants together with their organisations are showed below:

- AIDS Concern - **Mr PANG Wai-man, Mr CHAN Chun-chung**
- Chi Heng Foundation - **Mr Chung TO**
- Hong Kong AIDS Foundation - **Mr Brian WONG**
- St. John's Cathedral HIV Education Centre - **Revd. Desmond Cox, Ms Elijah FUNG, Mr LAU Wing-kan**
- School of Nursing, HK Poly U - **Mr Edmond TONG**
- School of Public Health, CHHK - **Prof Joseph LAU**
- AIDS Trust Fund Secretariat - **Dr Jaime SIN**
- Special Preventive Programme, DH - **Dr Darwin MAK**
- Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS - **Ms Elsie CHU, Mr KO Chun-wah, Miss Nora YAU**
- Queen Elizabeth Hospital - **Dr Patrick LI**

## Last ACA Meeting in the Sixth Term



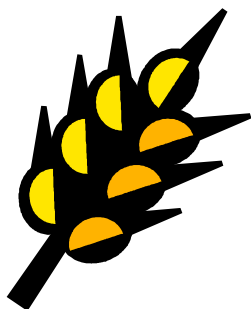
Last ACA Meeting in the 6<sup>th</sup> Term of Office on 4 July 2008

**GIS was used to measure the geographic coverage of methadone maintenance programme in Hong Kong**

Using a GIS-based methodological framework for the measurement of district-based geographic coverage, Prof SS Lee of the Stanley Ho Centre for Emerging Infectious Diseases of the Chinese University of Hong Kong examined the service effectiveness of methadone treatment programme (MTP) in Hong Kong. Population data and data of heroin addiction of the year 2001 were used, and interpolated by population-weighted and area-weighted algorithms. Standard overlay and proximity analytical functions were used to delineate altogether 20 accessible zones around each methadone clinic at a fixed 1.5 km Euclidean distance.

Geographic coverage defined as the percentage of heroin addicts covered by a methadone clinic within the accessible zone by district, was found to be at an average of

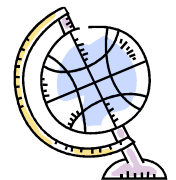
44.6% (range, 0-96%). Overall, 6413 out of 11000 reported heroin addicts are found geographically covered. It was considered that this simplified approach facilitated the handling of large volume data and relevant data analysis. Prof. Lee concluded that the number of methadone clinics was as important as their locations, and geographic coverage could become an important consideration for monitoring harm reduction.



*Pang TT, Lee SS. Measuring the geographic coverage of methadone maintenance programme in Hong Kong by using geographic information system (GIS). Int J Health Geogr. 2008 Jan 30;7:5*

**GIS was used to measure the geographic coverage of methadone maintenance programme in Hong Kong**

*Research Corner*



**GIS was used to measure the geographic coverage of**