



Editorial Board

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~ Calendar ~

**81st ACA Meeting
11 January 2013**

A Summary of the 80th ACA Meeting held on 5 October 2012

World AIDS Day 2012

Members noted that the Red Ribbon Centre (DH) had collaborated with RTHK Radio 2 on activities for World AIDS Day 2012 on the theme of accepting people living with HIV/AIDS. On 30 November 2012 (Friday) 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., a 20-minutes short film would be premiered in the auditorium of The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Group in Quarry Bay. The story was about an MSM and a secondary school female student found/suspected to be HIV positive. RTHK was considering to invite some of the participating artists to share their views about the films during the ceremony.



to be continued

more about 80th ACA Meeting held on 5 October 2012

Review on specific areas pertaining to HIV infection and health care workers – by Expert Panel on HIV Infection of Health Care Workers

Members noted that during the 78th ACA Meeting held on 12 April 2012, the subject of HIV infection of health care workers was revisited and it was agreed that a review of the existing ACA guidelines on HIV infection and the health care workers (Reprint, 2003) should be conducted. In this connection, the Expert Panel on HIV Infection of Health Care Workers had been invited to provide input on relevant international developments. The latest available information considered by the Expert Panel was summarized in a discussion paper for general reference.

ACA Recommended Guidelines on HIV infection and health care workers – an Update to the 2003 print version [draft]



Members were briefed on the Recommended Guidelines which were based on the existing ACA Guidelines, revised and updated in the light of the Expert Panel's input. Following active discussion, further amendments were proposed for the sections on general principles, infection control, rights and responsibilities of HIV infected health care worker, responding to the public as well as Appendices II & III. After the ACA Meeting, the Recommended Guidelines were further revised and sent on 1 November 2012, together with a proposed consultation list, to members for examination and comments.

Report of the 26th Meeting of the Community Forum on AIDS

Members were briefed on the major discussion of the 26th CFA Meeting held on 5 September 2012 (and a summary of this CFA Meeting was given in the ACA Newsfile issued in November 2012).



A Summary of the 25th SCAS Meeting

A summary of the 25th Meeting of the SCAS held on 28 August 2012 was tabled at the meeting for members' general reference.

Progress of Life skills-based education on HIV/AIDS and sex education in Hong Kong

Members noted that the First Meeting of the Task Force for Development of life skills-based education on HIV and sexual health in secondary schools in Hong Kong had been held on 2 August 2012. The meeting proposed to ride on the existing strengths and opportunities of the education system, set more concrete guidelines for the curriculum and assessment of students on acquisition of life skills, and engage more parties such as Integrated Family Service Centres and uniform groups for providing the education programmes.

As agreed during the previous ACA meeting, a baseline survey on the life-skills based HIV/AIDS and sex education in junior secondary schools would be conducted as the first step to assess the current position in Hong Kong. Education Bureau (EDB) also agreed to write a covering letter to invite schools to participate in the survey. In this connection, the Social Sciences Research Centre of The University of Hong Kong (HKU) had been commissioned by the Department of Health (DH) to conduct the survey and action was in hand to draft the questionnaire of the survey. It was anticipated that the survey would be conducted in late 2012.

A Report on the XIX International AIDS Conference at Washington DC, USA during the period from 22 to 27 July 2012



Members were briefed on the highlights of the XIX International AIDS Conference in Washington DC, USA from 22 to 27 July 2012.

81st ACA Meeting

Date : 11 January 2013 (Friday)
Time : 2:30 pm
Venue : Conference Room, Department of Health, 21/F, Wu Chung House
213 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong

Three main items on the Agenda

- ✧ Self HIV test and its relevance to Hong Kong
- ✧ An update on HIV/AIDS epidemiology and surveillance among drug users in Hong Kong
- ✧ World AIDS Campaign in Hong Kong 2012

Hong Kong Symposium on HIV/AIDS 2012 held on 13-14 November 2012

Exploring New Ways of HIV Prevention

- by HKU AIDS Institute Dr. Zhiwei Chen



On November 13-14, 2012, with the endorsement of HKU-LKS Faculty of Medicine and the Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA) of Hong Kong government, HKU-AIDS Institute successfully hosted the Hong Kong Symposium on HIV/AIDS 2012 in collaboration with Hong Kong AIDS Foundation.

This symposium is a timely response to the recent record high of HIV infections in Hong Kong and to the theme of “Getting to Zero” (zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths) of the World’s AIDS Day on December 1, 2012. The specific objective of this symposium is to provide an opportunity for internationally renowned scientists and our local HIV/AIDS workers to gather, and to share their latest research discoveries and life experiences on HIV prevention, treatment and care.

Over 200 participants attended the symposium including scientists, physicians, nurses, university students, government officers and AIDS social activists of various non-government organizations of Hong Kong and mainland China. The dean of HKU-LKS Faculty of Medicine Professor SP Lee, the Chairman of HKU Council and Hong Kong AIDS Foundation Dr. CH Leong and ACA Chairperson Dr. Susan Fan made opening remarks with emphasis on the importance of evidence-based novel strategies of AIDS prevention. The honorary director of HKU-AIDS Institute, Dr. David Ho gave the keynote speech entitled “Passive Immunization for HIV Prevention”. Other speakers included Robert Schooley, George Shaw, Linqi Zhang, KH Wong, Zhiwei Chen, Patrick Li, Xiaoping Chen, Wing-Ho Lee, Wai-Yee Chung, KM Ho, Florence Chan and others gave lectures covering the topics of: “Biomedical Prevention of HIV/AIDS”, “Early Events of HIV/HCV Infection”, “Humoral Immunity during HIV Infection”, “Recent Progress in Antiretroviral Treatment”, “Care and Nursing of HIV-infected Individuals”, “Rights and Equal Opportunity of HIV-infected People”, and “Experience Sharing of People Living with HIV”.

Although exciting scientific progresses have been made in recent years, there is still neither an effective vaccine nor a therapeutic cure against HIV/AIDS. In order to achieve “Getting to Zero”, comprehensive preventive strategies must be promoted, which include: 1) committing resources to enhance scientific discoveries; 2) strengthening existing effective measures (e.g. youth education, condom promotion, male circumcision); 3) promoting voluntary consultation and testing while reducing stigma and discrimination; 4) in-time implementation of effective bio-medical ways for HIV prevention (e.g. treatment as prevention); 5) encouraging collaboration of public and private medical professionals in finding and caring infected patients; and 6) recognizing the critical role of community involvement in HIV prevention. Importantly, the significantly increased number of HIV infection among MSM in Hong Kong has likely led to the record high of the local epidemic. Whether or not the “second-wave” MSM infections may lead to a larger epidemic by heterosexual transmission will largely depend on the effective implementation of comprehensive preventive strategies in Hong Kong. To this end, the leadership role of our Hong Kong government is absolutely essential for preventing the possible “second-wave” heterosexual infections among our general populations in coming years.

***About HKU AIDS Institute:** HKU AIDS Institute was officially established on November 22, 2007, as HKU’s strategic research direction in the area of infectious diseases. Ever since, the Institute has produced numerous scientific publications and has obtained 28 external research grants locally and internationally. Importantly, two candidate vaccine and microbicide co-invented by the institute will be tested in humans under our nation’s 12-5 mega projects for HIV prevention. The institute has been playing an active role in promoting HIV research, education, training and prevention in Hong Kong and mainland China.*