

ACA NEWSFILE

(Publication of the Advisory Council on AIDS, Hong Kong)

Editor: Dr S S Lee, ACA Secretariat

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**XIIth Meeting of the
AIDS Services
Development
Committee (ASDC)**
2:30pm 10 March 1997

**Xth Meeting of the
Scientific Committee on
AIDS (SCA)**
date to be announced

**XXth Meeting of the
Advisory Council on
AIDS (ACA)**
2:30pm 10 January 1997

**XXIVth Meeting of the
Committee on
Education and Publicity
on AIDS (CEPAIDS)**
5:30pm 26 February 1997

ASDC resolutions

THE AIDS Services Development Committee has met on 3 December 1996. The Committee examined reports on progress made in the provision of services for people living with HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong. The following resolutions were made at the end of the meeting:

(1) The Committee supports the Government's aim of integrating AIDS services into other health programmes in Hong Kong, through the establishment of suitable health care services.

(2) The Committee is concerned about objections against the Kowloon Bay Primary Health Care Centre & Nursing Home for the Elderly. This may result in unnecessary delays in the provision of much needed services planned for people living with HIV/AIDS and those with other health needs.

(3) The Committee notes the progress made by Hospital Authority and the community in planning for the provision of hospice care to people living with HIV/AIDS. The Committee will review the progress from time to time. £

**Happy ✨
New Year**

THE Editor of *ACA Newsfile* wishes everyone another fruitful new year.



Congratulations

MS Carlye Tsui, JP, chairman of CEPAIDS and member of ACA received her MBE on New Year Day. Mrs Diana Wong of ACA and Rev Chu Yiu Ming of CEPAIDS were awarded Badge of Honour on the same day. Congratulations ! £

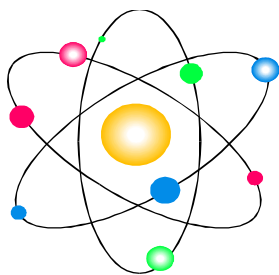
**AIDSHOTLINE 2780 2211
DRSEXHOTLINE 2337 2121**

Council News

New Proposals

THE Scientific Committee on AIDS (SCA) had made proposals to revise guidelines for managing occupational exposure to contaminated blood and blood products. The subject was raised at the Committee's meeting on 10 December, following recommendations published by the US Public Health Service earlier this year. The new proposal underlined the importance of anti-retroviral treatment following risky exposures to blood through, for example, needlestick injuries.

The Committee also recommended the combination of antiviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection, and the use of viral load measurement in the monitoring of the disease process. Coincidentally, Dr David Ho, pioneer of the latter work on combination treatment and viral load measurement, was named "Man of the Year" by *Time* at the end of December 1996! ‡



Deputy-chair

PROFESSOR YL LAU was elected deputy chairman of the Scientific Committee on AIDS (SCA) at a recent meeting of the Committee on 10 December 1996. Professor Lau is a professor of the Department of Paediatrics of the University of Hong Kong. He has been a member of the Committee since 1993, and member of the Advisory Council on AIDS since mid-1996. ‡

Cumulative HIV/AIDS Statistics in Hong Kong updated 30 September 1996

	<i>total</i>	<i>(AIDS)</i>
Gender	male	652 (209)
	female	86 (19)
Ethnicity	Chinese	504 (166)
	non-Chinese	234 (62)
Transmission	heterosexual	364 (111)
	homosexual	190 (66)
	bisexual	44 (20)
	Injecting drug use	14 (4)
	blood/bl products	66 (14)
	perinatal	3 (2)
	undetermined	57 (11)

TOTAL	738 (228)
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Department of Health, Hong Kong

What's on

RED RIBBON CENTRE



RED RIBBON CENTRE had its 'soft' opening after World AIDS Day last month. A special Opening Day was organised for members of the Advisory Council and its committees on 7 December 1996. Dr Conrad Lam, chairman of the Council and Dr Margaret Chan, vice-chairman of the Council were at the function. Members were introduced to the different facilities installed at the Centre.

Currently two exhibitions are on display at the Red Ribbon Centre - one on *Community Charter on AIDS* by Department of Health and Lions, and the other on *safer sex* by AIDS Concern. Visitors may now use the library which houses a good collection of AIDS-related literature and educational materials. Non-governmental organisations may apply to use the office space and training facilities for organising education programmes on AIDS. Interested parties or individuals may ring up Mr Mak, the Centre Manager for assistance. The number is 23046268. Or you may wish to just drop in at time convenient to you. The opening hours are 10am to 6pm from Monday to Friday and 9am to 12noon on Saturdays.

Renovation work of the Red Ribbon Centre has been made possible through a grant from the AIDS Trust Fund. Its day-to-day administration comes under Department of Health's AIDS Unit. £

CaseBook



THE Task Force on Youth (formerly Youth Working Group) of CEPAIDS has published a CaseBook on projects organised through its Funding Scheme on AIDS. A copy is delivered to each member of the Council and its committees for reference. £

Making

CHOICE

THE Consumer Council of Hong Kong released the results its new round of tests on locally-available male condoms on 16 December. The results were published in CHOICE, the official magazine of Consumer Council. The public has been reminded of the importance of choosing a quality condom and using it properly in preventing HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. £



Do you have...

THE RED RIBBON CENTRE is taking stock of all local publications on AIDS. If you have something which you feel should be kept in the Centre's library, please kindly let its staff know. Some examples are project reports, periodicals, research papers. Overseas publications of interest to local people are also welcome. £

Interviewing Professor M H Ng

PROFESSOR M H Ng has been a member of the Advisory Council on AIDS since 1990. He became the chairman of the Council's Scientific Committee on AIDS in 1993, and was reappointed to head the Committee again when the Council reconvened in mid-1996. Professor Ng is the professor and head of Department of Microbiology of University of Hong Kong. He is a member of Equal Opportunities Commission, and is serving on numerous public and professional bodies.

IS Professor Ng worried about the HIV/AIDS situation in Hong Kong? "Yes." "AIDS has and still is a time-bomb in the middle of us all. Even though the number is small, its rising trend mimicks that in many developing countries where an explosive epidemic has ocured." Though basically a heterosexual infection, it's dominated by male in our society. What it means is many men are taking risk and are on sex trips somewhere."

How about Hong

Kong's AIDS programme? What is Professor Ng's general feeling about it?

"Like other health issues, Hong Kong has been largely reactive in its AIDS programme." "We are, unfortunately, crisis-driven" "We need to be more proactive and explicit in our work. There should be more emphasis on targeting high risk behaviours and in promoting condom use."

Any comments on the work of the Council todate? "The Council and the committees have been working very hard to identify problems and in

Profile

Profile is devoted to introducing members of the Council to all readers. This is the third in the series.

- the editor

providing policy advice, knowing that there's hardly any designated resource support for the tedious work." "There is clearly a gap between problem identification and the implementation of appropriate interventions." Professor Ng is concerned with the risk behaviours of teenagers in Hong Kong. "We badly need an all-front tailored intervention programme."

How can Hong Kong be more effective in fighting against this deadly epidemic? "A truly multisectoral - not lip service - approach is desirable. An example would be having a task force to bridge all servises in the private and public sectors. Executive power is crucial - an omission in our current programme."£

AIDS Unit On-Line
<http://www.info.gov.hk/health/aids>