

# ACA NEWSFILE

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

**Editor:** Dr S S Lee, ACA Secretariat

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## Calendar.

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

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

**XXIst Meeting of the Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA)**  
2:30pm 11 April 1997

**XXIVth Meeting of the Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS (CEPAIDS)**  
5:30pm 23 May 1997

## The 21st Meeting

of the Advisory Council on AIDS will be held on 11 April. At the meeting, Members will examine a preliminary plan drawn up for reviewing the AIDS programme in Hong Kong. Other issues to be deliberated at the same meeting are (a) the AIDS publicity and education plan for the year 1997, which had been discussed at the last meeting of the Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS and (b) discussion on the use of condom as a means of preventing HIV transmission. ❄



## ASDC met

The XIIth meeting of AIDS Services Development Committee was held on 10 March. Members were briefed on the progress made by AIDS Concern on its service development. They were particularly interested in their initiative of bringing soup to patients and organising transport services for those who need to attend follow-up at clinics in the public service. At the same meeting, representatives of the Council of Social Service gave a summary of its efforts in stimulating and coordinating the participation of voluntary agencies in the care of people living with HIV/AIDS, as well as its education programmes. ❄

## We're moving

THE Secretariat of the Advisory Council on AIDS will be relocated to first floor of Wang Tau Home Jockey Club Clinic from 15 April 1997. ❄

**AIDS HOTLINE 2780 2211**  
**DR SEX HOTLINE 2337 2121**

Advisory Council on AIDS Secretariat

21/F., Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Hong Kong. Tel.: (852) 2961 8549

## Activities

### Seminar for Health Care Workers

AN open seminar was organised jointly by the Department of Health's AIDS Unit and Queen Elizabeth Hospital for health care workers on two 'hot topics' on HIV management - prevention of perinatal HIV transmission and combination antiretroviral treatment for HIV infection. Two leading experts gave presentations at the seminar - Professor David Cooper from St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, and Dr John Ziegler from Sydney Children's Hospital. The function was held on 27 March at Queen Elizabeth Hospital with the participation of some 50 doctors and nurses from various hospitals and clinical units. ❀

#### **WATCH OUT**

**for the official opening  
of the Red Ribbon  
Centre to be held later  
in May...**

### CALENDAR

THE Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS (CEPAIDS) is working on a activity calendar to better coordinate efforts of the community. The calendar highlights activities organised by the government and various non-governmental organisations on AIDS in Hong Kong. The Committee plans to table an updated calendar at each CEPAIDS meeting. Organisers are requested to submit information of their activities to Dr Thomas Chung, secretary of CEPAIDS, if they feel that their functions should be included. In order that the calendar will be of a manageable size, regular activities will not be listed. ❀

### Targeting travellers

ON 21 March, Mr CK Cheung led the Task Force on Media and Publicity to launch a new campaign at the Lo Wu Checkpoint to remind travellers of the threat of AIDS. Passport holders containing AIDS messages were distributed, together with condom flyers and postcards. About 2000 sets of publicity materials had been given out.

Mr CK Cheung is the convener of the Task Force under of the Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS (CEPAIDS). ❀

### Course for Nurses

FOR the fifth consecutive year, an introductory course on AIDS is organised jointly by the Department of Health and the School for Professional and Continuing Education (SPACE) of the University of Hong Kong.

For this year, the course will run from July to September. The number of participants will be limited to 80. The deadline for application is 2 June 1997.

Enquiries: 2975 5683 (SPACE) ❀



# What's on

## Professor Luc Montagnier,

discoverer of the AIDS virus, was in Hong Kong lately as an invited speaker of the IX Asian Congress of Paediatrics. He gave a plenary lecture on the advances of the virology of AIDS on 25 March. He also gave a presentation at a workshop on the same day. Other overseas speakers at the workshop are: Dr John Ziegler from Sydney, and Prof Usa Thisyakorn from Bangkok. ❀



## SEX HOTLINE

ON 21 March 1997, the Hong Kong Sex Education Association and the Department of Health jointly held a press meeting to announce the very satisfactory response of the public towards the Dr Sex Hotline. Since its launching on 20 July 1996, the interactive hotline has received a total of 200,000 calls. About half of the callers are aged between 11

and 20, whereas children at or under the age of 10 accounts for 17.8%. The physiological, psychological and behavioural aspects of sex are the most popular messages chosen by the callers. Messages on STD and AIDS can also be accessed through the same Hotline.

The Hotline is one of the means of integrating STD/AIDS education in the wider context of sex education in the community. Starting from March 1997, the hotline messages can be heard not only in Cantonese and English but also in Putonghua. ❀

	<i>total</i>	<i>(AIDS)</i>
<b>Gender</b>	male	683 (225)
	female	93 (20)
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Chinese	534 (183)
	non-Chinese	242 (62)
<b>Transmission</b>	heterosexual	389 (127)
	homosexual	195 (67)
	bisexual	46 (20)
	Injecting drug use	14 (4)
	blood/bl products	66 (14)
	perinatal	4 (2)
	undetermined	62 (11)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>776 (245)</b>

*Department of Health, Hong Kong*

## Seeing is believing

**Focus**

ON 17 March 1997, members of AIDS Services Development Committee visited new services under development for people living with HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong. Two hospices were visited - the hospice unit of Haven of Hope Hospital and "The Lookout" of the Society for AIDS Care.

Located in Tseung Kwan O, the Haven of Hope Hospital houses one of the oldest hospice units in Hong Kong. Originally planned for taking in cancer patients, the unit now has a total of 23 hospice beds. The unit also takes in patients with other diseases, e.g. Motor Neurone Disease. In June 1996, the first AIDS patient was admitted. The Unit was beginning to look after the fourth patient.

In preparing the

'new' service, Haven of Hope Hospital conducted training for all levels of staff. Overseas training was arranged for professional staff of the hospital. The administration is pleased that staff have been very receptive of the new initiative. The unit is prepared to take in 8-10 AIDS patients in the coming year.

The Lookout is located in Tai Po. Run by the Society for AIDS Care, the facility is designed specifically for AIDS patients. Five beds would be used in the first phase beginning the end of March 1997. The Lookout provides a comfortable and homely environment for patients. It is staffed by two doctors and a team of nurses of the Society.

Members also took the chance to go past the building sites of two

projects of the Department of Health where services for HIV/AIDS patients will be provided. These are the primary health care centres in Kowloon Bay and Fanling. Outside the Kowloon Bay site, banners had been set up by residents in protest against the construction.

The trip has been a useful one for members to familiarise with the actual operation of AIDS services and their development in Hong Kong. The visit covered designated services and integrated services, and from primary and day care to hospice services. ❁



**AIDS Unit On-Line**

**<http://www.info.gov.hk/health/aids>**

**- over 6000 visitors have visited us, have you?**