

# ACA NEWSFILE

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

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

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## .Calendar.

**XXIIIrd Meeting of  
the Advisory Council  
on AIDS (ACA)**  
2:30pm 6 October 1997

**XXVIIth Meeting of  
the Committee on  
Education and Publicity  
on AIDS (CEPAIDS)**  
5:30pm 21 November 1997

**Joint Meeting  
of AIDS Services  
Development  
Committee and  
Scientific Committee  
on AIDS**  
10 December 1997  
[to be confirmed]

## Conference

MORE than 20 persons from Hong Kong will be participating in the coming Manila Conference. The 4th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific will run from 25 to 29 of October. Representatives from various local NGOs will be joining the function, together with government staff from various departments.

## Sex/AIDS Education

THE first ever joint programme on sex education and AIDS education will be held in October. The 3-day event will comprise exhibitions, seminars and performances. Experts from Hong Kong and the Mainland have been invited to join the new initiative. Organised by the Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS and Hong Kong Sex Education Association, the Hong Kong Sex and AIDS Education Expo 1997 is launched to promote integration of the two broad areas of education work in the community. The Honourable C H Leong of the Provisional Legislative Council will officiate at the opening of the Expo.

The Expo will last from 17 to 19 October at the Science Museum, Tsim Sha Tsui. We look forward to the support and active participation of Council Members. ❁

The Conference will feature presentations, exhibitions, workshops, and satellite programmes, and would provide a good forum for workers in the region to share their views and experience. Dr Homer Tso (chairman of ASDC) and Miss Carlye Tsui (chairman of CEPAIDS) of the Advisory Council on AIDS will be at the Conference. ❁

**Red Ribbon  
Centre  
23046268**

## New AIDS Scenario

PROFESSOR James Chin presented his revised scenario on the HIV/AIDS situation in Hong Kong at the Scientific Committee meeting on 25 September. He later discussed his approach and findings to participants of a special seminar in the same afternoon at Red Ribbon Centre. The report will be submitted to the Advisory Council on AIDS at its upcoming meeting on 6 October. ❁

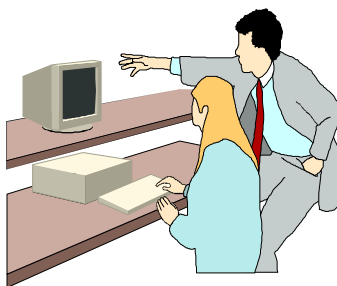
## Council News / Activities

### The Hong Kong AIDS Information Network

WAS launched officially on 25 September. Inaugurated by Dr Conrad Lam, Chairman of Advisory Council on AIDS and Dr N K Leung, Chairman of the Council for the AIDS Trust Fund, it is a new one-stop website aiming to build a virtual community fighting AIDS in Hong Kong. Visitors can be

linked to other AIDS websites of local NGOs and the government.

The network's *Red Ribbon Corner* allows visitors to browse through some of the PWA (People living with HIV/AIDS) homepages and be a "net-pal" to them. The Project is organised by the Center for Clinical Trials and Epidemiological Research of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. The website address is <http://www.csu.med.cuhk.edu.hk/hkaids> ☼



**AIDS  
HOTLINE 2780  
2211**

**DR SEX  
HOTLINE  
2337 2121**



### Survey on

### STD

THE first Hong Kong Dermatology & Venereology Symposium was held on 20 and 21 September at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Dr K M Ho of the Social Hygiene Service reported the results of a survey conducted in February. It was a questionnaire survey on local medical practitioners for collecting data on the epidemiology and management of STDs in Hong Kong. It was estimated that about 4/5 of all local STD patients seek

treatment in the private sector. Some 34% of the respondents gave HIV education/counselling to STD patients consistently.

The Symposium was organised by the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Social Hygiene Service, Department of Health. ☼

## BYOL

THE next BYOL Seminar will be presented by Miss O C Lin of Hong Kong AIDS Foundation at the Red Ribbon Centre on 3 October (1-2pm). Miss Lin will be reviewing a journal article *Preventing burnout among social workers employed in the field of AIDS/HIV* Social Worker in Health Care 1993 Vol 18

BYOL (bring-your-own-lunch) is an update continuing education series run on a monthly basis for those working in the field of HIV/AIDS. ☼

## WELCOME

ON behalf of the Council, we wish to welcome Dr N K Leung to Hong Kong's "Family" of AIDS efforts. Dr Leung was appointed Chairman of the Council for the AIDS Trust Fund in August. For those of us in the health care field Dr Leung is surely no stranger. He is an experienced consultant paediatrician, a teacher of many local young doctors, and now Hospital Chief Executive of Princess Margaret Hospital. ✿

## Conference in Hanzhou

THE *Community Research Programme on AIDS* of the Chinese University of Hong Kong and *China AIDS Network* are jointly hosting a Conference in

Hanzhou from 2-5 November. The Conference emphasises on the behavioural aspects of AIDS studies and counselling skills, and also aims at developing



collaborative research in the future. The organisers now invite submissions for oral and poster presentations. ✿ [For details please contact Dr Joseph Lau or Dr Joe Thomas at 26323783 or email [ccter@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:ccter@cuhk.edu.hk)]

### Cumulative HIV/AIDS Statistics in Hong Kong updated 30 June 1997

		total	(AIDS)
<b>Gender</b>	male	748	(249)
	female	107	(25)
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Chinese	590	(205)
	non-Chinese	265	(69)
<b>Transmission</b>	heterosexual	432	(147)
	homosexual	211	(68)
	bisexual	54	(22)
	Injecting drug use	16	(5)
	blood/bl products	67	(15)
	perinatal	4	(2)
	undetermined	71	(15)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>855</b>	<b>(274)</b>

Department of Health, Hong Kong

**AIDS UNIT ON-LINE**

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

**AIDS Situation update, documents for downloading, gallery, ACA Newsfile, Red Ribbon Centre.**

**Dr Conrad Lam, Council chairman, met with a group of HIV/AIDS patients on 28 August to understand their concerns on various aspects on living with the infection in Hong Kong. Dr Lam shares his feeling with us here.**

*Dialogue*

THIS is actually my second meeting with a group of people living with HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong. Thanks to the help of AIDS Unit, about 20 of them joined the very interesting discussion on a Friday evening. Compared with the first meeting some months back, I could sense the optimistic atmosphere in them.

One told me how his body weight had increased from a mere 80lbs to over 100lbs after being started on combination antiretroviral therapy. Another talked of going back to work and making plan for future, something he dared not even dream of for years. Though still experimental in some ways, new forms of treatment are definitely beginning to make a difference. Some months ago before 1 July, many were worried about access to treatment after sovereignty changeover.

On a complex issue

like AIDS, I cannot not expect everyone to be optimistic. One expressed his views on euthanasia when his final days come. It is encouraging, however, in hearing a response from another patient that one should be more hopeful about life and should strive to live on. That, perhaps, is the whole idea of mutual support. Though I understand the difficulties of running support groups, this is not impossible in at least some patients.

Life means more than receiving medical treatment. It is most disheartening to hear that some still faced discrimination in seeking health services. One patient was actually advised by a hospital staff to discharge himself and seek better

forms of treatment in another hospital.

Perhaps we have known too much dissatisfaction about our local health system. Let's hear some words of encouragement. Some patients saluted the high-spirited doctors and nurses working for them. One said he was impressed that his doctor did not wear any gloves (why should he?) when caring for him. He could feel the warmth when turning up for consultation. Publications for patients are important, as they help them understand the options ahead.

HIV treatment now carries a very different meaning for patients. We are now managing a controllable disease instead of an incurable one. The key questions, of course, are how to uphold the standard on one hand, and to ensure access to all on the other. ❀

