

## .Calendar.

**XXIVth Meeting of the  
Advisory Council on  
AIDS (ACA)**

2:30pm 6 January 1998

**XXVIIth Meeting of  
the Committee on  
Education and Publicity  
on AIDS (CEPAIDS)**

5:30pm 9 February 1998

**XVth Meeting of AIDS  
Services Development  
Committee (ASDC)**

date to be confirmed

**XIIInd Scientific  
Committee on AIDS**

(SCA) date to be confirmed

**The Chairman  
of the Council  
wishes every  
reader a  
Happy New  
Year**



## *The Fifth Year*

WELCOME to the 49th issue of *ACA Newsfile*. What originally thought to be an irregular newsletter has become our monthly publication. In order to keep members updated on Hong Kong's AIDS programmes, the Council Secretariat is determined to honour the tradition of producing this little newsletter every month.

1998 will be another busy year for the Advisory Council (ACA) and its committees. The ACA review will be conducted in two phases - the internal assessment part by the Council Secretariat in January to March, whereas external consultancies would be organised in May. A final composite report will be submitted to the Council in June.

The Scientific Committee will be examining both new and existing issues on the technical side of HIV prevention, treatment and control. The AIDS Services Development Committee will be looking at service provision of the Government and the community. The Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS will shortly undergo facelifting. Its Planning and Evaluation sub-committee is considering a restructuring to bring CEPAIDS to a better position to advise on prevention strategy.

The Council is planning to hold the second Hong Kong AIDS Conference towards the end of the year. Your support is needed.

How about *ACA Newsfile*? There have been suggestions that a bilingual newsletter is perhaps more desirable. In view of the time and resource constraint, we have to apologise that this will not be possible, at least in the coming year. ❄

**AIDS  
HOTLINE  
27802211**

## Council News / Activities

### The coming meeting

THE following items would be on the agenda of the coming meeting of the Advisory Council on AIDS: (1) World AIDS Campaign 1997; (2) the final plan for reviewing the AIDS situation and programmes in Hong Kong; (3) report on the IVth International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific; (4) AIDS programmes indicators development in Hong Kong; and (5) a proposal on holding the second Hong Kong AIDS Conference.

The Advisory Council on AIDS was first appointed in 1990. The January meeting will be the 24th one held so far. ❁

### annual report

MEMBERS should have, by now, received a copy of the Council's annual report for 1996/97. Do let the Secretariat know if yours have not yet arrived. A Chinese version of the Report is currently under preparation. ❁

## VISITORS

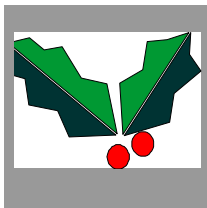
THE Red Ribbon Centre has received many visitors recently - Dr Coleman from the University of Minnesota on 25 November, Dr David Ho of Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Centre, New York on 9 (and 11) December, a Mainland group participating in a workshop organised by Hong Kong AIDS Foundation on 16 December, and another study group from the Fujian Province on 21 December.

The Centre is also providing venue for education activities organised by various organisations working on AIDS in Hong Kong. ❁

## AIDS Advocacy Group

ON 27 November, Dr Conrad Lam and Dr Homer Tso of the Council met with representatives of the newly formed AIDS Advocacy Group to exchange views on the subject of medical treatment for people living

with HIV/AIDS. The Group presented their care principles, copies of which had been distributed to members of the Council. ❁



## BYOL

THE next BYOL Seminar will be presented by Mr Rodney Jones at the Red Ribbon Centre on 5 December (1-2pm). The presentation is titled *Focus Group Responses to 1996 AIDS APIs*.

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. ❁

# Activities

## David Ho in Hong Kong

IN the second week of December 1997, Dr David Ho delivered five lectures to members of the public, health workers and the business communities. Over 1000 persons have

listened to his presentations. He held discussion with some 30 persons living with HIV/AIDS; provided input as an adviser at the joint meeting of the AIDS Services Development

Committee and Scientific Committee on AIDS; met with representatives of NGOs; visited the Red Ribbon Centre, hospitals and designated AIDS services run by the Department of Health and Hospital Authority. He was interviewed numerous times by the media.

Before leaving Hong Kong, Dr Ho joined our SAR Chief Executive Mr CW Tung for lunch.

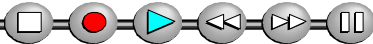
Dr Ho was invited to Hong Kong by the Advisory Council on AIDS, Lions Clubs International District 303 Hong Kong & Macau, and United College, Chinese University of Hong Kong as Distinguished Visiting Scholar. ACA wishes to thank everyone who has helped in making Dr Ho's trip possible. ❄

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

		total	(AIDS)
<b>Gender</b>	male	787	(261)
	female	120	(29)
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Chinese	626	(216)
	non-Chinese	281	(74)
<b>Transmission</b>	heterosexual	473	(159)
	homosexual	217	(71)
	bisexual	54	(22)
	Injecting drug use	16	(5)
	blood/bl products	67	(15)
	perinatal	4	(2)
	undetermined	76	(16)

**TOTAL** 907 (290)

Department of Health, Hong Kong



Dr Sex Hotline  
23372121

**Visit the New Hong Kong Virtual AIDS Office  
of Advisory Council on AIDS and DH AIDS  
Unit <http://www.info.gov.hk/aids>**

**Dr Conrad Lam meets with Dr Joseph Lau, Director of Centre for Clinical Trials and Epidemiological Research on 15 December. The following is a summary of the discussion.**



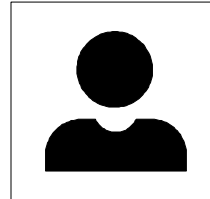
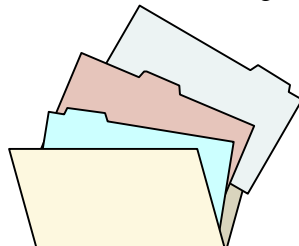
DR JOSEPH LAU is currently a member of the Committee on Education and Publicity on AIDS (CEPAIDS) and a co-convenor of its Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee.

Dr Lau is keen to see CEPAIDS taking a more proactive role in Hong Kong's AIDS programmes. He feels that Committee meetings are becoming dominated by routine reporting of activities, leaving little time for the development of strategies. "There are areas which deserve more attention, for example, condom use, travellers, safer sex in commercial sex trade, needs of PWA (people living with AIDS)....."

Through the Community Research Programme on AIDS of the Chinese University, Dr Lau has conducted numerous studies on the awareness, attitude and

behaviour of community like students, health workers, social workers and travellers. As a researcher and a local AIDS watcher for years, Dr Lau is convinced that public awareness has improved. Nevertheless, merely a higher level of awareness is insufficient. "There needs to be more innovative means to bring about behavioural modification. Though many organisations are working on AIDS prevention and education, the attention on risk behaviours is just not adequate."

He is pleased that the AIDS Trust Fund has been supporting research activities on AIDS. The mechanism of assessing



research proposal may need to be streamlined in order to ensure a high quality of the research results. It is crucial that our future programmes have a solid foundation built on research. "It is very important to develop indicators to monitor risk behaviours and the effectiveness of programmes in Hong Kong, otherwise we have no way to tell whether we are on the right track."

What else is needed? "We also need new blood," suggested Dr Lau. "We have been relying on almost the same people to work on AIDS in the last years. It's time that we actively seek new members to build up the team for Hong Kong." ❄