

Issue

11

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Head's Message

Investing in the Future : Producing graduates of quality and excellence

Professor Sophia SC Chan
Professor and Head



In the context of the international and local shortage of nurses, the Department of Nursing Studies is happy to embrace once again an increase in our Bachelor of Nursing student numbers. Since its beginnings in 1995 with an intake of 40 students, the Department has grown steadily year by year. We enrolled 168 beginning students this year, and are planning an intake of 180 next year and possibly over 200 in the following year. Any increase in student numbers, even in the graduated way in which it has been managed at HK, places pressure upon a range of areas in the University. Examples impacting directly upon the Department of Nursing Studies include the need for additional classrooms, laboratory facilities, and clinical places. An increase in students leads to an increase in staff which matches with the University and Faculty's Centenary Recruitment Plan.

Of paramount importance to the Department under these circumstances is the necessity of ensuring that the quality of the programme is not compromised in any way. Growth has to be managed well to make certain that the excellent reputation of the programme is not only maintained, but also enhanced. It is imperative therefore, that the Department also takes a leadership role in

preparing its graduates to meet the requirements of a workforce suffering from chronic skills shortages.

The Department of Nursing Studies is well prepared to meet this challenge. The curriculum has been designed so as to emphasise the close relationship between theory and practice. The quality of the evidence based approach to teaching, together with the excellence of the Problem Based clinical education program ensures that students are prepared with the level of clinical decision making skills to enable them to be competent work ready practitioners upon graduation. Additionally, they are provided with broad skills to enable them to develop leadership roles in the future. Of note here is the expanding student exchange program which develops their international perspective and encourages them to become informed citizens of the world. The liberal education to which our students are exposed enables them to become broadly educated professionals, rather than simply being narrowly trained to undertake a set of technical tasks.

We live in a time of changing health demographics, changing consumer expectations, changing information and health care technologies and changing global imperatives. These all point to the need for well educated and well rounded nurses with a sound knowledge and skill base who are willing to invest in their future learning so they can continue to build upon the foundation that their undergraduate degree in nursing provided.

The Department of Nursing Studies is committed to quality, to ensuring its graduates can exercise the social mandate of professional nursing at the highest level. The strategies we have set in place will ensure that we will continue to produce more and more graduates of excellence to meet the demands of the nursing workforce. **N**



Department of
Nursing Studies
The University of
Hong Kong

Smoking Behaviors and Effectiveness of a Proactive Telephone-based Smoking Cessation Intervention among Parents with Young Children in Hong Kong

In Hong Kong, smoking is the single most preventable cause of death, accounting for about one fifth of all deaths with about 6,000 people dying from cigarette smoking per year. Parental smoking is associated with a significant increase in morbidity and mortality among children, especially those younger than 5 years. Therefore, cessation of smoking has a major impact on the smoking parents' health as well as the health of their young children. Both proactive (Britt, Curry, McBride, Grothaus, & Louie, 1994; Zhu et al., 1996) and reactive approaches (Borland, Segan, Livingston, & Owen, 2001; Ossip-Klein et al., 1991) have been shown in several studies to be effective in promoting smoking cessation treatment to a large number of smokers. Proactive telephone counseling involves trained smoking cessation clinicians initiating the intervention to reach the smoker. This approach can reach more smokers including those who are not ready to initiate help for quitting. Reactive telephone counseling in a smoking cessation program usually involves a smoker initiating a call to a smoking cessation helpline or hotline.

There is insufficient information, however, regarding the smoking and quitting practices of parents in Hong Kong. There is also lack of evidence on the effectiveness of proactive counseling among non-motivated smokers. Therefore, a randomized controlled trial was conducted to examine the smoking behaviors of parents with young children and to compare the effectiveness of a proactive telephone-based counseling program based on Prochaska's transtheoretical model of behavior change together with educational materials to help the parents to quit with a control group receiving no intervention.

Methods

Smoking parents with young children from a 1997 birth cohort were re-contacted via telephone interviews and invited to take part in a telephone-based smoking cessation program. Consented smoking parents were randomized into two groups: intervention group received printed self-help materials and three sessions of telephone-based smoking cessation counseling delivered by trained counselors. Information on the health consequences of smoking emphasized the benefits of quitting on smokers and their children and encouragement to give

up smoking were provided during the counseling session which last for 10-15 minutes each time; whereas control group received printed self-help materials only.

Results

Of the 1,420 eligible parents contacted, 1,149 parents (80.9%) from 1,049 families completed the proactive telephone interview. Of these 952 (82.9%) accepted the invitation to the trial, with 467 parents randomized to the intervention group and 485 to the control group.

Among the 1,149 smoking parents who completed the baseline interview, 14.6% were mothers, and 85.4% were fathers. About half (54.7%) of the smoking parents were aged 36-45 years, 34.0% were aged 35 or younger and 11.3% were aged 46 or older. The majority (1,066 or 92.8%) were daily smokers. They consumed an average of 15.2 cigarettes per day (SD = 8.6, range: 0.02-80), with 467 (40.9%), 554 (48.5%) and 122 (10.7%) consuming 10 or fewer, 11-20, and 21 or more respectively. According to the Fagerstrom Test of Nicotine Dependency, the parents were considered to have high (n=206, 18.1%), moderate (n=281, 24.7%) and low (n=652, 57.2%) dependency levels. About half of the smoking parents (52.1%) had started smoking in their teens (15-19), and 165 (14.5%) had started even before the age of 15. Of the 1,149 smoking parents, about 13.1% (137) had smoking spouses. Most of the smoking parents (790, i.e. 68.9%) had attempted to quit smoking in the previous year.

The majority of them (71.8%) had no intention to quit smoking within the coming 6 months, about one-fifth (19.8%) had thought about quitting within 6 months but not in one month, only 3.7% were prepared to quit and 4.7% were taking action to quit. Slightly fewer than half (529, or 47.6%) of the parents perceived the importance of quitting, but 592 (53.3%) perceived it as difficult and only 399 (36.7%) were confident of being able to quit smoking.

Among the 1,049 families, 898 (85.6%) young children were exposed to Secondhand Smoke due to their parents smoking at home. Of these 898 families, 339 (37.8%) children had parents who smoked at home but not within 3 metres of them, and 559 (62.2%) children had parents smoked at home without any restrictions.



Dr Mak Yim Wah
Assistant Professor

The analysis showed that the predictors of participation in a proactive smoking cessation program are: a middle-income household, currently employed, having recently had a medical consultation or been hospitalized, contemplating a change in behavior, and perceiving the importance of quitting smoking.

Using analysis by the 'intention to treat' principle, the 7-day point prevalence quit rate at the 6-month follow-up was statistically significantly higher in the intervention group (17.6%, 82/467) than the control group (10.5%, 51/485) (p<0.005). The absolute risk reduction was 7.1% (95% CI: 2.7-11.5%). The number needed to treat to get one additional smoker to quit was 14 (95% CI: 9 to 37). The odds ratio of quitting was 1.8 (95% CI: 1.2-2.6), adjusted for age, number of years smoked, alcohol dependency and marital locus of control. A stepwise logistic regression model identified the significant predictors of quitting as being randomized to the intervention group, being at the 'action stage' at baseline, smoking 10 or fewer cigarettes daily in the previous month, having the index child with frequent morning cough, and having confidence in one's ability to quit.

Conclusion and Implications

According to the study, a high proportion of smoking parents with young children have smoked at home daily. The findings show that proactive telephone counseling is acceptable and effective in helping smoking parents of young children to quit in Hong Kong. Health professionals should consider adopting telephone cessation counseling program for their clients.

References

Borland, R., Mullins, R., Trotter, L., & White, V. (1999). Trends in environmental tobacco smoke restrictions in the home in Victoria, Australia. *Tobacco Control*, 8, 266-271.

Britt, J., Curry, S. J., McBride, C., Grothaus, L., & Louie, D. (1994). Implementation and Acceptance of Outreach Telephone Counseling for Smoking Cessation with Nonvolunteer Smokers. *Health Education Quarterly*, 21, 55-68. **N**

An Online Platform for Teaching and Learning of Medical Statistics

The Need of New Teaching Paradigm

Teaching medical statistics to nursing and medical students has always been a challenge. Mentioning of the word “statistics” to nursing or medical students used to bring on moaning and groaning. Yet, most quantitative research, in any medical or health discipline, is fundamentally underpinned by statistical principles and concepts. Therefore, acquiring practical skills in medical statistics will facilitate good understanding and practice in statistics and will definitely develop students’ critical appraisal skills on the statistical validity of reported research findings.

Traditional teaching of medical statistics often focuses on only probability and how to operationalise a particular test without much emphasis on the use and interpretation of statistics in real-life research studies. Moreover, stereotypically nursing and medical students are very keen to learn how to practise clinical medicine or nursing care, in which for any given disease, the causes, symptoms and treatment need to be learnt. Therefore, with these competing demands, it is often difficult to persuade nursing and medical students of the importance of statistics. The relevance of a course in statistics, especially at introductory level, is often not immediately apparent. This often leads to low learning motivation and retention of knowledge.

In view of these, we have developed an online platform for teaching and learning of statistics (Figure 1). The development was financially supported by the Teaching Development Grants (Faculty-based Funding) of The University of Hong Kong and the Leung Kau Kui Research and Teaching Endowment Fund - Teaching Grants.

The Online Platform of Teaching and Learning

The current on-line platform is known as Statistics Laboratory to students at introductory level of statistics and Statistics Tank to students seeking practical skills in statistics (Figure 2). The Statistics Tank additionally includes materials on statistical topics commonly encountered in practice, and otherwise identical to Statistics Laboratory.

The platform features a Training Room with over 20 scenarios made up from the nursing and



Figure 1

medical literature as well as real life problems in the press. For each scenario, students are challenged on the use of statistics in practice and alerted how misleading messages may be delivered if statistics is not properly used. Indeed, these scenarios serve as triggers of problem-based learning to facilitate the integration of statistics into nursing and medicine.

Besides, the platform also offers a Discussion Room where students may raise and discuss statistical issues that they encounter in class or the scenarios. Moreover, students may also assess their skills in the Test Room with newly developed questions. There are also self-learning materials, Frequently Asked Questions, and Glossary to help students recalling concepts and terminologies in statistics.

Integration of the Online Platform into the Nursing Curriculum

Since 2007, the platform has been integrated into all statistical courses of our nursing curricula. It is worthy to note this platform does not replace in-class teaching which is essential to assure systematic delivery of content and physical interaction with students. Rather, it is used to assist students on learning the use of statistics in practice.

A total of 181 undergraduate nursing students and 42 postgraduate nursing students have used

Dr Daniel YT Fong
Assistant Professor



Figure 2

this platform. Up to mid Jan 2008, a total of 3,566 hits from these students (i.e. 16 per student, on average) were recorded. A total of 186 different topics (i.e. 0.8 per student, on average) were raised in the Discussion Room. Indeed, we found the Discussion Room serves as a good alternative to small group tutorials where students are encouraged to discuss statistical issues.

An evaluation was performed at the end of the courses. There were 90% of students indicated the platform helped their learning, 82% agreed it helped recalling terminologies, 76% found their critical thinking skills enhanced, and 93% recommended its use in the curriculum. The platform appears to be effective and well-accepted by students.

Future Development

Maintenance of the online platform is resource demanding. Nevertheless, the online platform will continue to evolve to enhance teaching and learning of medical statistics. Apart from the addition of new scenarios, test questions, FAQs and glossary terms, other new developments are on the way. For example, interactive flash materials are being developed to illustrate statistical concepts and to stimulate learning of statistical skills. **N**

Departmental Retreat

A Department Retreat was held on 16 February 2008 for teaching staff members to discuss the future directions and development of the Department. We are very honoured to have Professor Gabriel Leung, Department of Community Medicine, to lead the team building exercise as a start-up for our Retreat. After the warm-up lap, our staff members were in full gear to discuss and work out various strategies for a number of focused areas. These included the implications of additional student number for the Bachelor of Nursing (Full-time) Programme, the 3+3+4 Curriculum Reform, portraying an

image of HKU nursing students and related networking and public relations issues, and the Departmental Business Plan for 2008/09 - 2010/11. After a long day of constructive dialogue and active deliberation on the critical issues, the Retreat ended with an excellent seafood dinner at Lamma Island for the participating staff members.



2nd Hong Kong Nursing Forum

The 2nd Hong Kong Nursing Forum will be held on **24 May, 2008** in the Cheung Kung Conference Centre, William MW Mong Block, Faculty of Medicine Building, 21 Sassoon Road, Pokfulam, Hong Kong. The theme of the Forum is Prevention and Care of Chronic Illness. Four Keynote and Plenary speakers have been invited. These are:

- Dr. Don Matheson
Regional Adviser, Non Communicable Diseases, Western Pacific Regional Office, WHO
- Prof. Susanna L. Cunningham
Professor, Department of Behavioral Nursing and Health Systems, School of Nursing, University of Washington, U.S.A.
- Dr. Susie Lum
Chief Manager (Nursing) / Chief Nurse Executive, Hospital Authority, HKSAR

- Dr T.H. Leung
Head, Surveillance & Epidemiology Branch, Centre for Health Protection, Department of Health, HKSAR

Additionally 10 more speakers will present in 2 afternoon concurrent sessions.



The Organizing Committee of 2nd Hong Kong Nursing Forum held the meeting regularly for discussing the arrangement of the coming Forum.

Educational Symposium of the 14th HK International Cancer Congress 2007

The 14th Hong Kong International Cancer Congress was held on 14-16 November 2007. As a part of the team, the Department actively participated in organizing the congress and hosted an education symposium entitled "Symptom management for breast cancer patients: from research to practice". Four prestigious local speakers from both academic and clinical institutions were invited to share their research studies and clinical experience of how to provide better quality of care to patients in various stages of breast cancer. The symposium was successful and well-received by the participants.



From the left:
Ms Suzanne MAK, Nurse Specialist, Department Clinical Oncology, Prince of Wales Hospital
Ms CHAN Lai Ngor, Nurse Specialist, Haven of Hope Hospital
Prof Sophia Chan, Head, Department of Nursing Studies, The University of Hong Kong
Ms. NG Shun Hing Clara, Advanced Practice Nurse (W&U Mg)/SUR, North District Hospital
Dr Winnie SO, Assistant Professor, Department of Nursing Studies, The University of Hong Kong

Incoming Visitors

A group of 6 undergraduate and 1 postgraduate students from the School of Nursing, Peking University, China visited our Department from 21 to 26 January 2008. We introduced our departmental facilities to them and provided them with a tour of the Medical Library Tour. They were also invited to attend some of our lectures during their visit. To show our gesture of welcome, we had the departure lunch with them after the main campus tour. It was really a great opportunity to exchange our teaching and learning experience with all the visitors from Peking University. We do look forward having more collaboration with them in future!



Visitors from School of Nursing, Peking University

Four academics and fourteen students from the School of Nursing, Peking Union Medical College visited the Department on 28 February 2008. Dr Felix Yuen, Dr Winnie So, Dr Elizabeth Hui and Ms Idy Fu joined the welcoming meeting with the visitors and exchanged views about our nursing programmes and clinical practicum. Mr Lee Chun Fan and Ms Hesta Ho,



Visitors from School of Nursing, Peking Union Medical College

the PhD and MPhil students of our Department, were invited to attend the meeting to share their learning experiences with the visitors. Additionally, two undergraduate students, Ms Tam Tsz Ying and Ms Cheung Tsz Yan, who are going to join the exchange programme to PUMC in June 2008, also joined the meeting.

Events organized by Social Sub-committee: Christmas Party, Hiking, Marathon

Christmas Party 2007

The Christmas party 2007 was held on 21 December, 2007 (Friday) in Tricolour Restaurant, Cyberport which is very close to our Department. Our staff very much enjoyed the French food together with colleagues' pleasant company. During the delicious meal, members of the Social Committee and some of our staff sang some lovely Christmas carols to express their joy with everyone.

The Social Sub-committee also organized games and a fun karaoke singing contest in which participating teams showed their excellent performance and won the great cash prizes! It was really a joyful party and everyone won a prize from the lucky draw. Some of the staff also won the special prizes donated by Professor Sophia Chan!

The Christmas Party 2007 was a wonderful and memorable time for all our staff and the Social Sub-committee wish all colleagues a blessed year of 2008.



Members of Social Committee and some of our staff sang the lovely Christmas carols to express their joy with everyone

Hiking in Sai Kung

As nurse educators, researchers, and scientist practitioners, we are dedicated to take on new challenges, do our best to enhance quality research, and provide holistic nursing education. At the same time, we also need to strengthen our physical fitness and show exceptional endurance so as to continuously strive for excellence.

The social subcommittee organized a hiking activity in Sai Kung, the Cheung Sheung Country Trail, on January 12, 2007. It is a pleasant route with beautiful views and picturesque scenery along the route. Although we all felt fatigue and shortness of breath, we at last managed to climb up to the 280 metre-high Cheung Sheung highland. We could not wait to enjoy the famous herbal tea and 'dou fu fa' (sweet bean curd) in a store located on the hill. After that, we walked down hill through the 'Jacob's Ladder' ('sky stairs' in Cantonese) towards Yung Shue O. On the way, we got a grand view of the wonderful scenery of Kei Ling Ha Hoi. The most exciting moment was having seafood in Sai Kung right after the walk. We all impressed by the irresistible delicious seafood there and at last, we understand what does the expression, "No pain, no gain" mean. It was really a relaxing and enjoyable journey.



The Vice-Chancellor Professor Lap-Chee Tsui, and Professor Sophia Chan and staff of the Department of Nursing Studies

United We Run and We've Made it Again !!

"United We Run! And, United We've MADE IT again!" Yes, The University of Hong Kong made it again winning the top prize of the most supportive group award in the 2008 Marathon!

This is the third consecutive year we've won the top prize and this would not have been possible without the great team spirit of the HKU family. All units and related members of the big family have contributed to the success and this includes our Department of Nursing Studies.

The Marathon this year was held successfully on 17 February 2008. It was really a good temperature for running (13°C) with the rounds of runs starting very early in the morning.

According to the HKU Marathon web (www.marathon.hku.hk/), there were a total of 2,103 alumni, students, staff, and their families of the HKU who joined the great event this year (15% more than 1,812 last year). Our Department has been a great fan of this event and participant of the HKU Marathon supporting group. Fourteen staff members in the Department including our Department Head Professor Sophia Chan joined the 10km, the half and full Marathon runs, or the Cheering Team of HKU this year. All of us finished the runs uneventfully and enjoyed them very much. Social Sub-committee of the Department had also organized a yum-cha gathering after the runs and participating staff enjoyed the occasion as much as the runs and cheering. And trust us, if you don't prefer to be a runner for this event, cheering is just as much great fun (and our yum-cha, too!) **N**

Graduate's Message



Ms Lo Ka Yee

(Graduate 1999, Bachelor of Nursing (part-time),
(Graduate 2004, Master of Nursing)

Current Post :

Advanced Practice Nurse, Queen Mary Hospital

I am delighted to share my feeling after graduating from the part-time Master of Nursing program at the University of Hong Kong. The diverse modules prepared me very well to meet the demands and challenges of complex nursing practice and advanced nursing roles. The course I undertook in advanced health assessment, pathophysiology, pharmacology, and legal issues in the advance practice stream have enabled me to provide better quality of nursing care to my clients. The program also provided me a chance to participate in a research project. I was also pleased to have the opportunity to attend seminars on public health issues and discuss health care systems and nursing practices with students from the University of Pennsylvania in the comparative health system module. Through this masters program, which focused on critical thinking, my

decision making skills were enhanced. Overall, the valuable input from the lecturers, precious experiences shared among classmates and different exposures all widened my perspectives on nursing.

Striking a balance between the family life and work was not an easy task for a part-time student. Looking back, many moments are still worthy of memorizing. Especially during the SARS outbreak in 2003, the rapport and encouragement among the classmates made the difficult time much easier and the study became more meaningful.

Moreover, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Marie Tarrant for her excellent support and supervision in my thesis writing. **N**

Department Highlights

120th Anniversary Dinner of Faculty of Medicine

The University of Hong Kong Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine organized an Anniversary Dinner on December 14, 2007 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre to celebrate its excellence in medical education for 120 years. The Anniversary Dinner marked the final curtain of the "Celebrating 120 Years of Medical Education" campaign in 2007 in commemoration of the 120th Anniversary of the Faculty's establishment. The event was co-organized by the Queen Mary Hospital, which also celebrated its 70th Anniversary in 2007.

Filling the Grand Hall of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, over 2,500 distinguished guests, staff members, alumni, students and friends of the Medical Faculty and Queen Mary Hospital joined the Anniversary Dinner. Professor Sophia Chan, Head of the Department, invited our donors, clinical partners, and staff to join and share their valuable memories and achievements in this meaningful event.



From the left: Dr Agnes Tiwari, Professor Sophia Chan, and Ms Beatrice Law



Our staff joined this joyful event and shared their valuable memories and achievements with the guests.



Prof Sophia Chan (middle) photographed with (from the left) Dr Hon Leong Che-hung, Ms Nancy Kit, Ms Amy Chan, and Mr WU Ting-yuk, Anthony.



The Dinner was honored by the presence of government officials, academics and celebrities as our VIP guests.



The programmes of the Dinner included performances by choir of over 250 students and staff.



The Department co-hosted some tables with Queen Mary Hospital to express our sincere thanks to the nursing clinicians for their unfailing support to the community.



Message from the Nursing Society

It has been some time since the activities of the Nursing Society last appeared in the Nursletter. A number of activities have been held over the past few months and in the following, I will introduce some of them.

In July, there was an Elderly Camp held with the Social Service Group and Social Work Society in which our members participated as group leaders for the elderly.



In August, there was the main hit of our Society, the Orientation Camp for the freshmen who

joined our Department in the academic year 07-08. There was one Information Talk held on the first Register Day and there were two ice-breaking days held with the Medical Society and the Chinese Medicine Society. Our main focus was the Orientation Camp which lasted for three days at a campsite in Saikung. The event was a great success and the feedback of the freshmen was positive. The event greatly helped freshmen to adapt to University life, and provided a chance for them to develop a relationship with higher year students.

Then, there were demonstrations of new books for freshmen and the annual survey which collects members' opinion of our Society.



There was a new function called "Halloween Greetings" to our members in the form of "Trick or Treat". Members were positive about this function and we took lots of interesting photos that day.

Lastly, at the end of the time of the Nursing Society, MS, HKUSU Session 2007, the new cabinet was recruited and successfully elected. Congratulations to A&E, the new cabinet of the Society! I hereby represent all the executive committees of Vulcan to wish A&E the every success in the coming year, and thank you for all members and staff for the Department's support. **N**



Lau Siu In, Chairperson, Nursing Society, MS, HKUSU Session 2007

In the Media

Programme in RTHK- Nursing Series

Professor Sophia Chan, Head of the Department, was invited to co-host the health programme "精靈一點" at Radio 1 of RTHK on Mondays at 13:00 - 15:00 from December 2007 to February 2008, with Simon Siu and Wendy Cheung. The programme aims to introduce the contribution of nurses in professional development, clinical practice, and nursing research to the Hong Kong public

through a relaxing atmosphere. Professor Chan highlighted the history and achievements of the Department of Nursing Studies, and invited key clinical partners and our academic staff to share their good work and contribution to the community. The programme started on 28 December 2007 and we have received very positive feedback from the community. **N**



(from the left, front row) Ms Sylvia Fung, Dr Susie Lum and Prof Sophia Chan photographed with the hosts, Mr Simon Siu and Ms Wendy Cheung.



Prof Sophia Chan (second from left), Dr Agnes Tiwari (middle) and Dr Sharron Leung (second from right) introduced domestic violence and post-natal depression in the the programme.

In the past few months, some staff members were reported or interviewed by the media on their research, achievements and expertise:



Dec 2007
Prof Sophia Chan
Smoking Cessation for Families with Smokers
Oriental Daily News



Jan 2008
Dr Angela Leung
Students Learn from our Seniors
Ta Kung Pao

New Faces



Dr Chan Ya Fan (詹雅芬)
Research Assistant Professor

I joined the Department as a Research Assistant Professor in January 2008. Prior to relocating to Hong Kong, I worked as a Research Scientist in the US, and obtained doctoral training in Mental Health with concentration in Psychiatric Epidemiology and a masters degrees in Biostatistics and Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing. My research interests focus on substance use, mental health and developmental psychopathology.



Ms Shum Jasmine Wai Sze (岑蕙詩)
Executive Officer (Programme)

I joined the Department as Executive Officer in December 2007. Please do not think that I am a stranger in HKU since I have spent three years here undertaking my first degree. All staff and students endeavor to accomplish world-class standard of teaching and research, and maintain the prestige of the university. I am really proud to be one of them. I enjoy traveling and had visited Jiuzhangou before. I will never forget the breathtaking scenery and the difficulty in gasping the air (smile). So my next destination may be...

Congratulations

Best Oral Presentation Award

Professor Sophia Chan, Dr Agnes Tiwari, Dr NG Patil, Dr Doris Leung and Dr Emmy Wong

"Best Oral Presentation" Award for the paper "Clinical problem based learning in undergraduate nursing curriculum: An evaluation of students' critical thinking" in the 5th Asia Pacific Medical Education Conference (APMEC), 26-27 Jan 2008.



Promotion

Ms Chung Joyce Oi Kwan, who joined the Department as Clinical Instructor in 2003, has recently been promoted to Teaching Consultant.

Award of Research Grants

The following staff members are the Chief Investigators on projects recently awarded by local funding bodies:

Health and Health Services Research Fund (HHSRF)

Prof Sophia SC Chan A proactive family smoking cessation intervention for parents of children 0-18 months: A randomized controlled trial

Small Project Funding

Prof Sophia SC Chan Evaluating the impact of the new anti-smoking legislation on the community and health care professionals in Hong Kong: A longitudinal qualitative study

Dr Doris YP Leung Association between personality and cessation behaviors among Chinese adult smokers

Dr Sharron SK Leung Stress and social support of pregnant women with depressive symptoms

Dr Yim Wah Mak Understanding influences of spousal support on quitting behaviors: a longitudinal study

Dr Winnie KW So Information needs of breast cancer women in Hong Kong

Dr Marie Tarrant Infant Feeding Patterns Among Hong Kong Mothers from 1992 to 2002

Seed Funding Programme for Basic Research

Dr William HC Li The development of a measurement tool in assessing Chinese children's coping behavior towards surgery

Department of Nursing Studies

4/F, William M.W. Mong Block
21 Sassoon Road, Pokfulam, Hong Kong

The University of Hong Kong

Tel: (852) 2819 2600
Fax: (852) 2872 6079
Email: nursing@hkucc.hku.hk
Website: www.hku.hk/nursing

Editorial Board
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