



ead's Message

Healthcare Reform in Hong Kong:

Implications for Nursing





S taff members of the Department of Nursing Studies have read with interest the Consultation Document on Healthcare Reform "Your Health Your Life" released by the Government recently. This is an important document which sets out a number of options for ensuring the sustainability and responsiveness of healthcare and a better health care system for the Hong Kong community. The health of the people of Hong Kong is among the best in the world and the Government is keen to ensure that the high standards of healthcare currently enjoyed are continued. However, it is faced with greater demands on the system stemming from the ageing of the population and from the cost of advanced medical technologies. Additionally there are ever increasing demands upon the healthcare system from the community expecting to access top quality care. While public spending on medical and health services has increased, it has become clear that a simple infusion of additional funds will not solve the problems ahead.

Thus what is proposed is a range of financing options with the aim of ensuring a safety net of health care for everyone and also increasing both choice and flexibility. Additionally public-private partnerships are being proposed, the development of an electronic health card and a number of primary care initiatives. Included among these last mentioned will be age/gender specific services with emphasis on preventive care, and strengthening public health education and public health promotion.

Initiatives that emphasise preventive care and health promotion and education are warmly welcomed by the Department of Nursing Studies. Our Bachelor of Nursing curriculum has a very strong primary health focus in recognition of the key role that nurses can play in preventive health and in health education across the lifespan. The programme focuses very strongly from the outset on the concept of wellness and the nurse's role in utilising knowledge and skills so as to promote health as well as provide continuing care.

Students are enabled to study issues surrounding health promotion and health maintenance across the lifespan. They focus particularly on health issues faced by mothers and children and families with specific health needs. They also gain a focused understanding of community health and health promotion in relation to the specific needs of older people. Also of central importance in the education experience of students is a strong grounding in methods of teaching and learning. This enables them to engage in direct health teaching activities among various community groups and also participate in broad community health promotion initiatives. Nurses who go onto study at the Masters level have opportunity to gain specialised knowledge and skills in public health and to take leadership roles in public health nursing. Members of the Department also engage in action research in service of the community through integrating practice and research for health promotion.

Nurses play a major role in maintaining and promoting the health of the community and the Department is particularly well positioned to produce graduates who will ably contribute to the reformed health care system. Quality university programme are important to prepare nurses to take active roles in the future healthcare system.

eatures

Research

Prenatal Adaptation:

What Helps and What Doesn't?

R eported here are the findings from a study which sought to identify factors predictive of psychosocial adaptation to pregnancy. A framework integrating theories by Mishel (1984) and Selder (1989) was utilized which indicate that adaptation is enhanced through positive engagement in information-seeking, motherhood normalization (maternal behaviors in regard to socio-cultural customs), efficacy (feeling of competence about one's ability to perform a role or task), and commitment to pregnancy. However, little is known about the predictive factors associated with adaptation.

The study used a non-experimental, crosssectional, and prospective design with a convenience sample of women with low medical risks who attended for antenatal checkups in three major public clinics in Hong Kong. Variables identified in the theories were measured by self-reported questionnaire. An overview of the measurement scales is given in Table 1.

RESULTS

These women received less information support (15.45) than other modes of support (affect 19. 40, affirmation 18.76, aid 18.59). As expected, the spouse was the first person named on the support list by almost all women (91.6%). The woman's own mother was named second (36. 9%).

Uncertainty

Subscales comparison (ambiguity 2.69, complexity 2.33, inconsistency 2.55), suggested the women's uncertainty was mainly caused by unpredictability about the progress of the pregnancy (2.92).

Commitment to pregnancy

The mean score was 18.82 (possible scores ranged from 5 to 25). This indicated the women's desire to be a mother was quite high.

Psychological distress

The median of the CHO 12 was 3 with interquartile range 3.5. The scores were diversified to a wide range (minimum 0, maximum 12). This indicated most women were not distressed with the pregnancy. However 13.6% of the women scored between 7 and 12, with 7 as the cut off point for having distress.

Dr Elizabeth Hui

Teaching Consultant

Table 1

Measurement Scales for the Variables			
Variable	Measurement		
Social support	Norbeck's Social Support Questionnaire (PSEQ)		
Demographic & obstetric	Medical records		
characteristics	Demographic & obstetric inventory		
Uncertainty	Mishel's Uncertainty in Illness Scale (MUIS OB)		
Information-seeking	Miller Behavioral Style Scale (MBSS)		
	Education session attendance		
	Formulation of motherhood		
Motherhood normalization	Motherhood Normalization Scale		
	(developed by the author)		
Efficacy	Chinese Generalized Self-efficacy Scale (CGSS)		
	Fetal Health locus of Control (FHLOC)		
Commitment to pregnancy	Commitment Scale		
Psychosocial adaptation	Prenatal Self-evaluation Questionnaire (PSEQ II)		
Psychological distress	Chinese Health Questionnaire (CHQ 12)		

Predictors of psychosocial adaptation

Based on stepwise multiple regression analysis, the four predictors that explained 68% of the total variance of adaptation were uncertainty, commitment to pregnancy, psychological distress, and social support. Summary of the R-squares of the constructed model is given in Table 2.

Summary of R-squares of the Constructed Model				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.70	0.49	0.49	19.94
2	0.77	0.59	0.59	17.94
3	0.82	0.67	0.66	16.21
4	0.82	0.68	0.67	15.96

- Predictors: (Constant), uncertainty
- Predictors: (Constant), uncertainty, commitment to pregnancy
- Predictors: (Constant), uncertainty, commitment to pregnancy, psychological distress
- Predictors: (Constant), uncertainty, commitment to pregnancy, psychological distress, social support

Collectively, with the identified predictors, effective interventions to improve prenatal psychosocial adaptation as well as prediction of psychosocial health after childbirth are made possible.

Mishel, M. H. (1984). Perceived perception of uncertainty and stress in illness. Research in Nursing & Health, 7, 163-171.

Selder, F. (1989). Life transitional theory: The resolution of uncertainty. Nursing and Health Care, 10(8), 437-451.

Teaching and Learning

What is the Real World in Aging?

ing ssor

Dr Angela Leung Assistant Professor

o meet the challenges of caring for older adults, our Department has responded by enriching our curricula in gerontological nursing. Our students learn specific skills and knowledge for caring older adults through lectures, site visits, group discussions and a project. In September, 2007, a team of teachers (Professor Sophia Chan, Dr. Sharron Leung, Dr. Daniel Fong and I) also developed an out-ofclassroom program for our students to experience the real world of older adults. The title of this innovative program is "Generations as Partners in Education (GAPIE): A service learning project in gerontology" and it also welcomes medical students to participate. This project was funded by K. K. Leung Teaching and Development Fund and was one of the community projects to celebrate the 120th anniversary of our Faculty.

Key components of GAPIE

In the GAPIE program, each student matches with a community-dwelling older adult. The matching is made according to their residential addresses so as to reduce the need of transportation when they meet. In the beginning, a half-day introductory workshop was run for all participants to highlight the essential components in communication between the generations. In the subsequent period of 10 weeks, older adults who act as learning partners introduce their lifestyles to the medical/nursing students and invite them to engage in their daily activities. Through these activities, students learn about the real world in aging. At the end of the program, the two generations attended a sharing workshop and shared their experiences and feelings about the activities in which they engaged.

Benefits to students

Through participation in this service-learning program, medical/nursing students are able to contact older adults periodically. On one hand, they learn about the wisdom of older generations. On the other hand, they are encouraged to dispel the myths of aging and

build up confidence to communicate with older adults. Some of the students admitted that they develop confidence to deal with older adults and sense of civic responsibility to the aging population. Below are some of the quotations from students' reflective journals:

"I enjoy listening to what the older generation says. Their life experiences and perceptions of lives are inspiring." (N1S19)

"Before joining this program, I seldom have spare time to keep in touch with elders. In my mind, loneliness, boring and stubbornness are terms to describe them. However, after the visit with my partner, I discovered that elders are fun and full of energy. They join the activities in their community center actively and attend many kinds of talks to enrich their knowledge on their current health problems. It totally changes my own definition of elders." (NIS32)



Conclusion

One of the crucial steps in educating our future nurses to care for older adults is to diminish the influence of negative stereotypes they may hold about older people. GAPIE serves as an important platform for students to learn about gerontology and possibly change their attitude towards older adults. (N)



We thanked our seniors for participating in the project.

epartment Highlights



The 2nd Hong Kong Nursing Forum

The Nursing Forum is an annual scientific meeting of the Department, designed to provide a forum for scholars, scientists, clinicians, and policy makers, to share ideas, experiences, research, and clinical practice. The 2nd Nursing Forum was held on 24 May, 2008 in the Cheung Kung Hai Conference Centre, William MW Mong Block. Over 200 delegates joined this stimulating and enlightening Nursing Forum which was very successful and well-received by the participants.

The theme of the 2nd Nursing Forum was "Prevention and Care of Chronic Illness", which is one of the research thematic priorities of the Department. We were privileged to have two internationally renowned scholars and two distinguished local speakers, to address the existing challenges and key issues in chronic illness, the global strategies to address the problem and the evidence-base for nursing practice aimed at preventing and managing chronic illness.

Professor Sophia Chan, Head of Department of Nursing Studies, started off the conference with a warm welcoming speech. The opening address was then given by Professor Lap Chee Tsui, ViceChancellor and President, the University of Hong Kong and Professor Raymond Liang, Dean, Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, the University of Hong Kong.

In the morning session, Dr. Don. Matheson, Regional Adviser, Non-communicable Diseases from Western Pacific Regional Office, World Health Organization gave the Grace Tien Lecture entitled "Where prevention meets care - global and local approaches to chronic diseases". Dr. Matheson described the essential elements of a primary health care approach, universal access, patient and people empowerment, continuity of care through different layers of a health system and the systematic use of guidelines to accurately assess and manage chronic diseases. He also highlighted the important contribution that primary health care teams can make, with strong nursing representation as professionals of equal power and influence to other health professionals in the health team.

In the plenary session, two keynote speakers, Dr. Susie Lum, Chief Manager (Nursing) / Chief Nurse Executive, Hospital Authority, HKSAR, and Dr. T.H. Leung, Head, Surveillance & Epidemiology Branch Centre for Health



Keynote speaker, Dr Don Matheson, regional advisor, Noncommunicable Disease, Western Pacific Regional Office from WHO, gave the Grace Tien Lecture entitled "Where Prevention Meets Care - Global and Local Approaches to Chronic Diseases".



Prof Susanna Cunningham, Professor of the Department of Biobehavioral Nursing and Health Systems, School of Nursing, University of Washington, U.S.A., was invited as our keynote speaker to address "State of the Heart: Building Science to Improve Women's Cardiovascular Health".



Prof Lap Chee Tsui, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong, presented the souvenirs to keynote and plenary speakers in the opening ceremony. (From the left: Dr Sharron Leung, Prof Sophia Chan, Prof Raymond Liang, Dr T.H. Leung, Dr Susie Lum, Prof Susanna Cunningham, Dr Don Matheson and Prof Lap Chee Tsui)



Dr Susie Lum and Dr T.H. Leung were the plenary speakers who presented the challenges of Chronic Illness on Hong Kong Health Care Services.

Protection, Department of Health, HKSAR, gave presentations to address the theme of "Challenges of chronic illness on Hong Kong health care services". Dr. Susie Lum shared her views on the establishment of the Hong Kong Academy of Nursing for accrediting training and credentialing practices both of which are vital in the pursuit of excellence in nursing professionalism. Dr. T.H. Leung noted that Hong Kong, with its ageing population, faces many challenges imposed by an increasing burden of non-communicable diseases. He emphasized that it is time for the whole community to act together in combating non-communicable diseases.

In the afternoon session, another distinguished international speaker, Professor Susanna L. Cunningham, Professor at the Department of Biobehavioral Nursing and Health Systems from the University of Washington gave the keynote

lecture on "Challenges of chronic illness: International perspectives". She presented some interesting data on potential lifestyle risk factors and risk-reducing behaviours. She also discussed some strategies for improving women's cardiovascular health.

In addition to the key-note presentations, there were two afternoon concurrent sessions with ten prestigious local speakers from both academic and clinical institutions who presented their cutting-edge research studies and findings in relation to these critical issues.

All presentations in the Forum were informative and inspiring. It stimulated very fruitful discussion among participants from both clinical and academic areas. The Forum has indeed provided a very constructive platform for participants to share their views and experience on the issues of prevention and care of chronic illness.



A Forum Dinner was held at Hong Kong Club. (From the left: Dr Marie Tarrant, Prof Raymond Cheung, Prof Sophia Chan, Prof Gabriel Leung, Prof Tai Hing Lam, Dr Sharron Leung. From the left, Front roll: Dr Janice Johnston, Prof Niv Patil, Dr Susie Lum, Dr Don Matheson, Prof Susanna Cunningham)

The Organizing Committee would like to give heartfelt thanks to all our distinguish guests and delegates. Without their presence and active participation, the Forum would not have been the great success as it was.

Professional Visit to Clifford Hospital

fter a busy week, what is the best thing to do for leisure, special cuisines, or even something to extend our professional view and knowledge at the same time? How can we have the best of all worlds? The answer we found was a relaxing short tour to the Clifford Estate (祈福新邨) at Panyu (番禺) near Guangzhou (廣州).

Clifford Estate is well known for its lovely living environment, club house facilities and entertainment. The even more exciting thing for us was a professional visit to Clifford Hospital in the Estate. The Hospital is a special setting of health care where the Chinese tradition of medical practice, Western medicine and alternative therapies are located altogether in one place for the treatment of patients.

After a day of work on Friday the 28th of March, 21 staff members and two alumni of the Department traveled directly to Clifford Estate on a chartered bus. With the very interesting and funny introduction to our tour by our voluntary guide Dr. William Li (Assistant Professor), we all enjoyed the bus ride despite encountering a traffic jam as we entered the Panyu area. On arrival in the evening we were delighted to have a lovely dinner together and many of us later found ourselves fully relaxed and enjoying different types of massage of our individual choices in the Estate's club house. The more exciting visit was yet to come the following morning.

This is when we visited the Clifford Hospital and we were warmly welcomed by the Vice Superintendent Dr. Zhao (趙鵬圖副院長) and his staff. The Hospital was the first in Mainland China accredited by Joint Commission International (JCI) in 2003 and later again in 2006. We saw the amalgamation of traditional Chinese and Western medical practice in the hospital. And even more interesting and innovative was the Clifford Alternative Medicine Clinic, which provides the patients with alternative therapies like thermo-therapy for the treatment of cancer, medical fumigation, light wave bath, acupuncture and massage therapies, etc.

In the afternoon we had a very special lunch at an herbal cuisine restaurant (葯謄坊) opposite the Clifford Hospital. This is one of only five of this kind in China and each dish on the menu is specially designed to treat a physical imbalance, or to prevent one. The prime ingredients are



The Head Professor Sophia Chan was presenting a souvenir to Dr. Zhao, Vice Superintendent of the Clifford Hospital.



Dr. Zhao (2nd row, 4th from the right) pictured with the Head and staff of the Department of Nursing Studies, HKU, in front of the Clifford Alternative Medicine Clinic.

many of the same herbs that usually make us pinch the nose, close our eyes, and force ourselves to swallow in the form of rancid-tasting Chinese medicinal preparations. But strangely enough they form part of a cuisine of great taste when prepared with other food by this specialist restaurant. This was truly the restaurant of a life time which we could not afford to miss. After lunch we enjoyed inspecting the new development in Clifford area, while some of us took pleasure sailing on the lagoon for fun. We finished our day by having dinner toegther in an exclusive restaurant at Lo Wu Commerical City and returned home after some shopping with a lot of satisfaction and good memories. What better way could we make use of the short weekend to enjoy good companionship and fun with a great team? I'm surely looking forward to it again, and in particular with more alumni joining us next time.

Retirement Dinner in Honor of Dr Susie Lum, Chief Manager (Nursing) / Chief Nursing Executive of the Hospital Authority

The Hospital Authority organized a retirement dinner for Dr Susie Lum on 28 May 2008 at 6:00 pm at the Hong Kong International Trade and Exhibition Centre. As Dr Lum is also our Honorary Associate Professor and she has been very supportive to our Department in the past years, Professor Sophia Chan and our colleagues attended the farewell dinner to celebrate Dr Lum's years of hard work and dedication to patient care.



Luncheon with Secondary School Principals

E leven Principals and Career Masters/Mistresses from 8 top-ranked local secondary schools met with the Head of the Department and BN(FT) programme team members at the Alumni Chamber on 20 February 2008. Professor Raymond Liang, Acting Dean of the LKS Faculty of Medicine and Professor Sophia Chan, Head of Department of Nursing warmly welcomed the guests before information about the BN(FT) programme was presented.

At the luncheon, ideas and information of the prospective curriculum reform, JUPAS admission, teaching experience as well as student performance were exchanged and the luncheon was greeted with great enthusiasm.

Following to the luncheon, two visits were organized for F.6 students of St. Francis Canossian College and Leung Shek Chee College on 7 and 8 April respectively. During the visits, students were arranged to attend briefing session of Bachelor of Nursing (Full-time) Programme, some lectures and lab sessions as well as visiting clinical laboratory and medical library. They were also invited in the sharing session to discuss the nursing programme.

We look forward to another successful luncheon meeting.



A group of secondary school students and teacher from St Francis Canossian College visit our Department and join the lecture.



A group photo of our guests and colleagues



We introduced the Yu Chun Keung Medical Library to the students and teacher from Leung Shek Chee College.

Incoming Visitors

Visitor from Shangdong University

Prof. Lou Fenglan, Dean of School Nursing, Shangdong University, China visited our Department on 19 February 2008. The Department Head, Prof. Sophia Chan, Dr. Felix Yuen and Ms Idy Fu met with Prof. Lou for exploring more opportunities for future collaboration.



Visitors from Mahidol University, Thailand

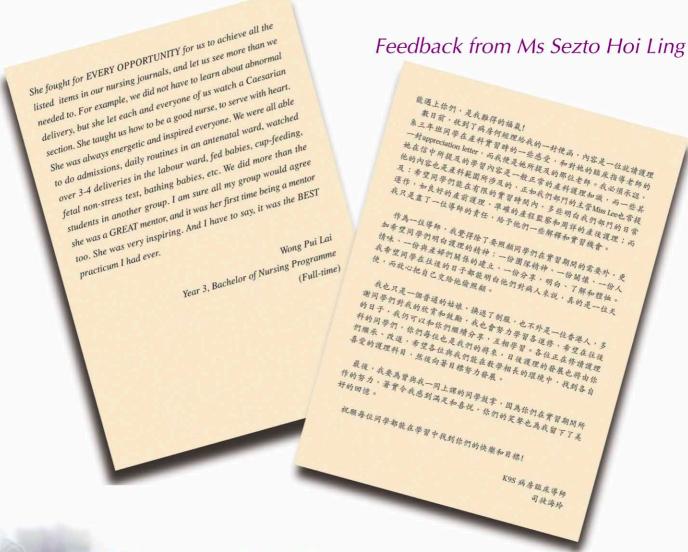


Thirteen academic staff from School of Nursing, Mahidol University, Thailand visited the Department on 26 February 2008. We held a welcoming meeting for the visitors and exchanged our views on the management of teaching and learning in both baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs and explored collaboration opportunities. After the meeting, we gave them a tour of the Departmental and Medical Library.

Clinical Mentor: Note of Appreciation and Response

Appreciation for our Mentor -

Ms Sezto Hoi Ling, Obstetrics Department, Queen Mary Hospital



Feedback from Ms Szeto Hoi Ling

- I hope students can learn more about the daily operation of Obstetrics Department within the
 tight practicum schedule, such as, good prenatal care, accurate antenatal checkup and detailed
 postnatal care. I have only tried my best to be a responsible mentor to give students more
 demonstrations and opportunities for practice.
- Being a mentor, I not only hope to take care of the students' needs during the practicum, but
 also let them know the spirits of nursing: team spirit, care, human touch, relationship between
 nurses and mother-to-be, sharing and understanding.
- I hope students will understand that they are "angels" for the patients. And the patients will feel
 relieved under their professional care.
- I hope all nursing students can inherit and advance the development of nursing. I also sincerely
 hope that both mentors and nursing students can profit from each other, and find out their
 favorite nursing area for pursuing further development.
- I would like to express my appreciation for all those students who showed their effort during
 their practicum with me. The students' performance really made me feel satisfied and pleased,
 and their joy will be kept in my memory.

n the Media

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

> May 2008 **Prof Sophia Chan** Smoking Cessation for Women Smokers Metro Daily





April 2008 Dr Winnie So **Cancer Related Fatigue** Metro Daily





June 2008 **Prof Sophia Chan Smoking Cessation** Oriental Daily News

Feb 2008 **Dr Agnes Tiwari** Women's Abuse Hong Kong **Economic Times**

Congratulations

Award of Fellowship

Professor Sophia Chan, Head & Professor of the Department, has been awarded the Fellowship of Public Health by the Faculty

of Public Health of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom.



Promotion

Ms Chan Polly Siu Ling, 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 project recently awarded through local and international funding bodies:

Cancer Research United Kingdom

Prof Sophia SC Chan

Smoking cessation and advocacy training among health professionals in Beijing and Guangzhou, China

Teaching and Development Grant 2007-2008

Dr Angela YM Leung

Building e-health literacy among University students

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust

Dr Angela YM Leung

Health literacy programme for improving physical exercise among Chinese older adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus



ew Faces



Dr Hong Wai Lin, Athena (康慧蓮) **Teaching Consultant**

t is my great pleasure to join in the Department of Nursing Studies, the University of Hong Kong. I obtained my BAppS (Nursing) from the University of Sydney and MHA from the University of New South Wales in Australia. After that, I graduated with my PhD from the Department of Community and Family Medicine at the CUHK. For my PhD I studied and compared the health benefits of Tai Chi and resistance exercise, in 180 healthy Chinese subjects. As a result, I have developed a strong research interest in the field of long term elderly care. I plan to further develop this interest. I look forward to sharing my expertise and further enriching myself intellectually.



Ms Chung Shuk Yee, Winnie (鍾淑儀) Clinical Instructor

joined the Department of Nursing studies as a Clinical Instructor in February, 2008. I obtained my RN qualification from the Government's School of General Nursing at Caritas Medical Centre Hospital. After working as an RN in Queen Mary Hospital, I have the experience in surgical, paediatric care and endoscopy care. I obtained my Bachelor of Nursing in the Oxford Brookes University, UK, 2007. I feel warm in this department because all staff are so nice and I feel well supported. I am proud to be one of them and I also enjoy travelling and had visited Clifford Hospital.



Ms Pun Wai Ming, Maggie (潘慧明) Clinical Instructor

joined the Department as a Clinical Instructor in Feb 2008. I have been immersed in the nursing field for more than 10 years and attained both my Bachelor of Nursing and Master of Nursing at The University of Hong Kong, and the Diploma of Occupational and Health at The Open University. I possess clinical nursing experience in Operating Theatre, Accident and Emergency nursing, Medical and Geriatric nursing, as well as Intensive Care nursing in St. Teresa's hospital. I am glad to have joined the Department which has a strong commitment to preparing nursing graduates as competent nursing leaders in Hong Kong.

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