

Report on the Hong Kong Pharmacy Conference 2012



The Hong Kong Pharmacy Conference (HKPC) has been an important partner to the Hong Kong pharmacy profession for over 20 years since the first one being held in 1988; and this year is no exception. Being the 24th HKPC ever being held, HKPC 2012 was held on 4th-5th February, 2012, in the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Same as previous years, the Conference this year was jointly organized by the three professional pharmaceutical bodies (namely SHPHK, PSHK and PPAHK), Hospital Authority, Department of Health and the School of Pharmacy, CUHK; while in this year, Mr. Ewan Yiu-wah SO, President of SHPHK, has become the chairman of the HKPC Organizing Committee.

The theme for HKPC 2012 is "Pharmacist: Your Healthcare Partner" (藥劑師 – 健康之侶). The Conference began with a fabulous lighting ceremony officiated by Mr. Richard YUEN Ming-fai, JP, Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Health), together with representatives from the 6 organizing bodies of the HKPC. During the two-day Conference, over 420 guests, which included local practising pharmacists from different sectors, members from other medical professionals in town, as well as delegates from the mainland China and other overseas countries, joined hand in hand to promote cooperation and partnership between different healthcare professions and the local population.

The accessibility of pharmacists is definitely an advantage for us to become partners with the community for their health-related issues. This partnership with our community comes step by step; but the first step to begin with must be having enough pharmacists for partnership with the vast community in Hong Kong. Professor Ian WONG, Professor of Pharmacology & Pharmacy, HKU, took the lead in the first theme speech to share his experience in training our future pharmacists in Hong Kong with the new pharmacy school. Speakers of the remaining theme speeches then offered us insights on what pharmacists can offer to our community: Dr. NG Sze-hong, Associate Consultant of the Hong Kong Poison Information Centre, presented us with his knowledge on environmental toxins, so that we are better prepared for the future chemical-related public panic; and Professor Martin WONG, Associate Professor of the CUHK School of Public Health and Primary Care, shared his view on how pharmacists can offer their great help to the public, with old but never out-of-date roles such as ensuring drug compliance. While the economic and political partnership between Hong Kong and the mainland China has become closer than ever, the final theme speech, delivered by Mr. ZHANG Xiaole, Associate Chief Pharmacist of the Peking University 3rd Hospital, offered his insight on our possible partnership in enhancing medication safety in hospital pharmacies across the boundaries.

Three concurrent sessions, namely IT, community practice and hospital practice, are held on Day Two of the Conference, so that pharmacists with different fields of interest can always attend to the talks which makes them better partners of the population they are serving. The community practice sessions are new to this year's Conference, aiming to equip our pharmacists with more alternative skills that they require in the community besides of their in-depth drug knowledge; besides, the hospital practice sessions have also been redesigned so as to let us understand more what the physicians think when making their diagnoses. Day Two finally concluded by a plenary session delivered by representatives of the newly established Drug Office, Department of Health, on the current and



future legal regulations on pharmaceutical products, a topic which concerns most pharmacists for the impacts on their daily practice.

For those who don't like sitting down and listen, an interactive talk with the poster presenters on their studies and projects may also give you some brilliant ideas on the quality improvement initiatives in your hospital.

It was always the tradition for the Conference dinner to be held at the evening of Day One, both for the reunion and socialization between delegates, as well as for relaxation after a day of lectures. While enjoying the pre-dinner show jointly prepared by pharmacy students from CUHK and HKU and the entertaining games in the dinner, guests also treasured their time in meeting old friends and making new ones.



Know ahead!

HKPC 2013 will be hosted by the Hospital Authority (HA), with Mr. Michael LING being the chairperson of the HKPC 2013 Organizing Committee. See you next year!

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