Part I Optometrists Participate Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme
PART I OPTOMETRISTS PARTICIPATE
ELDERLY HEALTH CARE VOUCHER SCHEME

The Hong Kong Government has extended the Elderly Health Care Voucher Pilot Scheme for another three years from 1 January 2012 and allowed Part I Optometrists to join. This means that eligible Hong Kong elders can now use their vouchers to procure primary eye care from approved Optometrists. Optometrists who wish to join can apply via the Health Care Voucher website (www.hcv.gov.hk).

The three-year Elderly Health Care Voucher Pilot Scheme was launched in 2008. It entitled people aged 70 years or above to five $50 vouchers each year to subsidize their visits to specific types of private health care providers. Under the extension, each eligible elder can have ten vouchers annually. These vouchers, however, are not to be used to buy products, such as spectacles or other optical goods.

In the initial three-year period, authorized health care providers were restricted to physicians, traditional Chinese medicine practitioners, dentists, chiropractors, registered nurses and enrolled nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, radiographers and medical laboratory technologists.

The inclusion of Part I Optometrists is a major milestone for our profession because it signifies that the Government recognizes the value and role of Optometry in providing eye health services in the community for the elderly. The ultimate winners are the aged, who now have wider and more affordable access to primary eye care in their own neighbourhoods.

The opening up of the Scheme to Part I Optometrists is the result of a long and concerted effort by many parties and individuals. We would like to take this opportunity to thank in particular PolyU’s School of Optometry, The Hong Kong Society of Professional Optometrists (HKSPO) and The Hong Kong Private Practice Optometrists (HKAPPO) for their persistent lobbying of the Department of Health and the Food and Health Bureau to allow Part I Optometrists to take part in the Scheme for the benefit of Hong Kong’s elderly.

Prof. George Woo
Visiting Chair Professor of Optometry
and Emeritus Professor

Mr. Peter Pang
Associate Consultant Optometrist
School of Optometry
The 9th Joint Eye Research Day

The 9th Joint Eye Research Day was co-organized by the State Key Laboratory of Ophthalmology, Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center, Sun Yat-sen University, and The Hong Kong Polytechnic University’s School of Optometry on 7 January 2012 at PolyU’s Hotel ICON. The one-day research symposium aims to provide a platform for academic exchange between scholars and a valuable learning experience for postgraduates to present their work. More than 80 staff and students from leading eye research centres in Hong Kong, mainland China and Taiwan came together to share and discuss their latest research findings. The programme featured various talks in the field of ophthalmology and vision research, including macular degeneration, glaucoma, myopia development, contact lenses and orthokeratology.

Training Workshop on “Visual Development in Children”

By Ms Bibianna Yu, Optometrist

A workshop on “Visual Development in Children” was organized by the Hospital Authority from 9 to 12 January 2012 at the Hong Kong Eye Hospital. At the event, Prof. Lea Hyvärinen shared her knowledge of visual assessment and rehabilitation in children. Her vast body of work and experiences with children with visual impairment and other developmental disabilities impressed all of the participants and highlighted the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration. In the sharing session by local organizations, I was honoured to represent the School of Optometry and speak to the paediatric specialists about our recent findings on the ocular characteristics of children with special needs. And I’m happy to report some good news: a working group comprising representatives from all the specialties present has been formed by the Hospital Authority to enable us to plan how we can work in a more integrated way to help visually impaired children in the future.
Annual School Retreat

On 19 December 2011, around 50 staff and Advisory Committee members participated in the annual retreat themed “2012 — New Structure of Optometry Curriculum” off campus. Mr. Jimmy Wu, Senior Manager (Allied Health) of the Hospital Authority, was invited to talk about the career progression model for allied health professions in the Hospital Authority. Miss Mavis Fung, Ms. Rita Sum and Miss Carol Wong, Optometrists at our School, also shared their experiences of offering hospital-based optometric services, including diabetic retinopathy screening, triage service and cataract care service. A highlight of the event was a presentation on global perspectives in optometric education given by our Visiting Chair Professor of Optometry and Emeritus Professor George Woo. Last but not least, Mr. Peter Pang, Associate Consultant Optometrist at the School, provided attendees with an update of the launch of our new Optometry Clinic Management System (OCMS) and the adoption of the Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme at the clinic.

School Helps Special Olympians in Hong Kong

For many years, our School has taken part in the annual Opening Eyes vision screening of the Special Olympics’ Healthy Athletes programme in Hong Kong. This year, our Optometrists and students, together with volunteers from the profession, screened 129 intellectually disabled athletes at a sports event on 11 February 2012. Although nearly half of the participants have failed the vision tests we administered, the prescription of new glasses has helped to improve the vision of these athletes. Intellectually disabled athletes in general tend to be at a high risk for eye problems like large refractive errors as well as cataract. The School is proud to be involved with the Special Olympics and will continue to support this meaningful movement in the future.
School's Staff Help Faculty Win on PolyU Staff Games Day 2011

Over 20 staff members from the School took part in several athletic and fun events at the PolyU Staff Games Day during the warm and sunny morning of 11 December 2011 as part of the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences squad. Our team spirit shone through as we helped our Faculty to win both the Best Team Award and the Most Supportive Team Award. Congratulations to everyone from the School who took part!

Visit to Singapore and Thailand

Prof. George Woo visited Singapore Polytechnic’s University of Manchester Optometry Degree Program and met Dr. Thomas Chai, Senior Director of Singapore Polytechnic, Dr. Tan Kah-ooi, Director of the Program, and some friends from Hong Kong who are now working in the institution. In addition, Prof. George Woo also visited Dr. Danai Tonketmonghon, Optometry Program Head of the Institute of Health Science, Ramkhamhaeng University in Bangkok.

Donations to the School

HOYA Lens Hong Kong Ltd. donated two TrueView tablets worth HK$43,600 to the School’s Optometry Clinic.
Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital Ltd. donated a non-mydriatic fundus camera and accessories to the School.
Our People

Honorary Appointments of the School

Honorary Professors:

Prof. Hermann Barry Collin  
(re-appointment)  
(University of New South Wales)

Prof. Ge Jian  
(re-appointment)  
(Sun Yat-sen University)

Prof. Liu Yizhi  
(new appointment)  
(Sun Yat-sen University)

Prof. Liu Yizhi is the Director of Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center (ZOC) and President of the Zhongshan Eye Hospital. His research interest and expertise are in cataract. As one of the experts in China who has initiated the operation of cataract phacoemulsification with intraocular lens implantation, Prof. Liu has been committed to the medical care, teaching, and research on cataract and blindness-prevention for over 20 years.

Adjunct Professor:

Prof. Yip Hing-fai Jeffrey  
(re-appointment)  
(Private Optometrist)

PolyU Long Service Awards

Prof. Carly Lam, Miss Jupy Chow, Mr. Andy Kong, Mr. Jimmy Pang and Ms. Linda Liu from the School received Long Service Awards from PolyU. Congratulations to them!

Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2012

Mr. Andy Kong, Technician, entered the 10K Challenge race of the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2012 on 5 February 2012. His net finishing time earned him the 1st runner-up prize in the male staff category of the PolyU Running Team. Well done!

Visitors to the School of Optometry

Prof. Thomas Freddo  
Professor, School of Optometry, University of Waterloo, Canada, and Departmental Academic Advisor, School of Optometry, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University  
Date: 20-22 Feb 2012

Dr. Cindy Tromans  
Immediate Past President, The College of Optometrists, UK, and Consultant Optometrist, Department of Optometry, Manchester Royal Eye Hospital, UK  
Date: 22-27 Apr 2012
In 2005, our research team published findings in “Current Eye Research” journal on the use of orthokeratology for controlling the progression of myopia. Our results presented clinical evidence that orthokeratology may have a potential for controlling the progression of myopia in children. This prompted collaborative research agreements between PolyU and Menicon Co. Ltd (Japan) to confirm whether orthokeratology can indeed slow the progression of myopia in children. In 2008, two clinical trials, ROMIO (Retardation Of Myopia In Orthokeratology) and TO-SEE (Toric Orthokeratology — Slowing Eyeball Elongation), were conducted.

The ROMIO study is the first completed, randomized, single-masked study in the world to investigate the effectiveness of orthokeratology for myopic control in children. Children aged 7 to 10 years old, with myopia not more than 4.00D, were recruited and randomly assigned to either the orthokeratology group or the spectacle group. A total of 77 children (40 in the spectacle group, 37 in the orthokeratology group) completed the study. To monitor any changes in myopia, the eyeball lengths of the children were measured before the commencement of the treatment and every 6 months thereafter for 24 months. At the end of 24 months, an increase in eyeball length of 0.63 mm was found in the spectacle group and 0.36 mm in the orthokeratology group. In other words, the increase in eyeball length in children wearing orthokeratology lenses was about 43% slower than in those who were wearing spectacles.

In the TO-SEE study, 37 children aged 6 to 12 years old, with myopia not more than 4.50D and astigmatism between 1.25D and 3.50D, completed the study. Toric design orthokeratology effectively reduced the astigmatism by 79% after one month of lens wear and the increase in eyeball length in this group of children was 0.31 mm at the end of 24 months.

In summary, our studies present scientific evidence that orthokeratology is effective in slowing the progression of myopia in children with low to moderate myopia by at least 40%. A press briefing was arranged on 8 January 2012 at the Optometry Clinic to announce the results of these two studies.

Research Student’s Work On “Vision Research” Journal Cover

An image from our PhD student Mr. Geoffrey Chu’s research work was featured on the cover of the February 2012 issue of “Vision Research”. 
## Conference Presentations

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<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Conference</th>
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<td>Mr. Sam Cheng</td>
<td>The 18th Asia Pacific Optometric Congress (Singapore), 24-26 November 2011</td>
<td>Prevalence and risk factors of myopic related retinal changes among Hong Kong Chinese teenagers with high myopia</td>
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<td>Ms. Bibianna Yu</td>
<td>Hospital Authority Commissioned Training Workshop on “Visual development in children” (Hong Kong), 9-12 January 2012</td>
<td>Ocular characteristics of children with special needs in Hong Kong</td>
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<td>Mr. Vincent Chui</td>
<td>Global Specialty Lens Symposium (USA), 26-29 January 2012</td>
<td>Unilateral corneal staining in an orthokeratology case</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Jimmy Tse</td>
<td>Global Specialty Lens Symposium (USA), 26-29 January 2012</td>
<td>Contact lenses induced intra-corneal hemorrhage secondary to corneal neo-vascularization</td>
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<td>Dr. Larry Ng</td>
<td>CLAO/CLAO Education and Research Foundation Symposium and Congress (USA), 26-28 January 2012</td>
<td>Reduction in axial length after long-term overnight orthokeratology lens wear: Case reports</td>
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| Prof. George Woo   | World Ophthalmology Congress 2012 (United Arab Emirates), 16-20 February 2012 | 1. Development of a subjective refraction system with a Stenopaic slit  
2. Anthocyanin-rich bilberry extract supplements for dry eyes: A pilot study                                                                          |
| Prof. Pauline Cho  | 3rd Asia Orthokeratology & Specialty Lens Conference (China), 30-31 March 2012 | 1. Orthokeratology for myopic control for myopic and astigmatic children (ROMIO & TO-SEE studies)  
2. High myopia - partial reduction orthokeratology (HM-PRO) study                                                                                        |
| Prof. Pauline Cho  | 12th International Congress of Ophthalmology and Optometry China (COOC) (China), 30 March-1 April 2012 | 角膜塑形術控制近視加深                                                                                                                                 |
| Ms. Lee Tsui-tsui  | 3rd Asia Orthokeratology & Specialty Lens Conference (China), 30-31 March 2012 | Changes in relative peripheral refraction in children after thirteen months of orthokeratology lens wear                                               |
| Mr. Chan Ka-yin    | 3rd Asia Orthokeratology & Specialty Lens Conference (China), 30-31 March 2012 | Orthokeratology for slowing myopic progression in a pair of identical twins                                                                             |
| Ms. Connie Chen    | 3rd Asia Orthokeratology & Specialty Lens Conference (China), 30-31 March 2012 | Corneal biomechanical changes in long-term orthokeratology wear on myopic and astigmatic children                                                        |
| Ms. Peggy Cheung   | 3rd Asia Orthokeratology & Specialty Lens Conference (China), 30-31 March 2012 | 1. Anterior segment length in orthokeratology  
2. Parents’ perspective on myopic control treatment options                                                                                                |
| Mr. Roger Chiu     | European Academy 2012 Dublin (Ireland), 20-22 April 2012                    | Case study: Successful lid crutches fitting in patient with bilateral ptosis                                                                           |
| Ms. Rita Sum       | 19th Wonca Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Korea (Korea), 24-27 May 2012 | How does optometrist service in general out-patient clinic affect referral pattern to ophthalmologists?                                                     |
New Papers


Upcoming Conferences / Seminars / Workshops

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<td>Conferences</td>
<td>The 10th Hong Kong Optometric Conference</td>
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<td>8 November 2012 Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong</td>
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<td>School Seminars</td>
<td>Measurement of corneal elasticity using an OCT-based air jet indentation system by Miss Hon Ying, Research Student, School of Optometry, PolyU</td>
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<td>30 May 2012 Venue: Room BC215</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 June 2012 Venue: Room BC215</td>
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<tr>
<td>The cause(s) of myopia and the efforts that have been made to prevent it by Prof. Jacob Sivak, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, University of Waterloo, Canada</td>
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</table>
The new 19th OPTDS executive committee, WIF-EYE (衛視界), was elected and formed on 1 March 2012. The committee members would like to thank all the members of the society for their participation and support. To enhance the sense of belonging and congeniality among members, the new committee will be organizing many social activities in the year ahead.

WIF-EYE Executive Committee:

> Back row (from left to right):
  1. Miss Mak Ka-yan, Kay  
     (Promotions Secretary)
  2. Mr. Leung Chi-wing, Neo  
     (Financial Secretary)
  3. Mr. Chong Tsz-pong  
     (Welfare Secretary)
  4. Mr. Lam Chun-wang, Ivan  
     (General Secretary)
  5. Miss Szeto Ka-hei, Kimberley  
     (Sports Secretary)
  6. Miss Wong Ka-man, Zita  
     (External Secretary)
  7. Mr. Lo Tsz-hin, Andy  
     (Information Technology Secretary)
  8. Mr. Kwan Chun-hin, Sam  
     (Internal Secretary)

> Front row (from left to right):
  9. Mr. Lee Chun-wing  
     (External Vice President)
  10. Mr. Ko Man-chung, Kelvin  
     (President)
  11. Miss Cheng Wing-lam  
     (Internal Vice President)
OPTDS Cup 2012

The Optometry Departmental Society (OPTDS) Cup is an annual event that encourages members of the society and staff to get to know one another informally through sports-related fun. The competitions this year were in soccer, basketball, badminton, dodgeball, and the soccer video game “Winning Eleven 2010”.

The champions were:

**Soccer**: Staff

**Basketball**: Year 2 Students

**Badminton (Singles)**: Mr. Gilford Wong (Year 2)

**Badminton (Mixed)**: Mr. Li Yat-hei (Year 3), Miss Kimberley Szeto (Year 1)

**Dodgeball**: Year 1 Students

**Winning Eleven**: Mr. Lee Chun-wing (Year 1)
25th Anniversary of the 1st Professional Diploma Graduation Class

By Mr. Daven Ngai, 1987 Graduate, Professional Diploma in Optometry

If it wasn’t for an alum who called me up and told me about this anniversary, I would have almost certainly forgotten that I’d graduated 25 years ago from the then new Professional Diploma in Optometry course!

Sometimes you just choose not to mention anything that could give your age away, especially for something happened in the LAST CENTURY! However, I feel quite proud to say that I graduated 25 years ago and that I’m still alive and kicking in our profession!

I remember there were altogether 31 graduates in that landmark class of 1987. Fortunately, about half of us are still practicing in either Hong Kong or abroad. A few have been working as civil servants and some as professors in universities around the world. Oh, and one has retired and is living in New Zealand!

Although most of us are busy with our own lives, I’m glad that most of us have tried our best to attend gatherings and reunion events over the years. It’s fun and enjoyable to talk and share memories, especially about our old student days, with a group of old friends who have known one another for almost 30 years. Above all, it’s always amazing to learn that the son or daughter of this or that friend has graduated from university!

Looking back, we’ve realised that our feelings as Optometrists have changed over the years. After graduation, in the first 10 years, we were passionate and excited. In the second 10 years, our contentment became confusion with a dose of feeling lost. In the third 10 years, however, we were happy-go-lucky. I’m not yet sure what our dominant feeling will be in our fourth decade, but I’ll keep you informed. We won’t have to wait long — just 5 more years!