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## COVER STORY

# RS held the 6<sup>th</sup> Elite Alumni Seminar online

The Department of Rehabilitation Sciences (RS) held the 6<sup>th</sup> Elite Alumni Seminar on 26 February 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the seminar had been changed to online mode. Still it attracted nearly 100 participants. We were very pleased to have Dr Miranda Lou (Executive Vice President of PolyU) deliver her welcome speech and Mr K.K. Ling's (Director of the Jockey Club Design Institute for Social Innovation, PolyU) presence in the event. Two elite alumni, Dr Julie Chow and Mr Schwinger Wong, were invited to be our guest speakers.

Dr Julie Chow graduated from the physiotherapy (PT) programme of RS and is now Director, Medical of Union Medical Healthcare Limited (UMH). Having served in senior managerial roles for over 30 years, she is a seasoned and passionate leader with extensive management experience and professional network in the hospital and healthcare industry in Hong Kong and China. During her presentation, she shared her success stories and encouraged the use of advanced technology in the healthcare sector in order to enhance the healthcare ecosystem.

Mr Schwinger Wong graduated from the occupational therapy (OT) programme of RS. He is currently Assistant Chief Executive of Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service - Hong Kong. Having over 23 years of experience in different social welfare organisations, he has contributed to the expansion of various service areas and the establishment of many innovative systems including the Dementia Care Mapping. He shared his experience in developing different career paths and hoped that his sharing would attract more young talents to dedicate themselves to rehabilitation services in the community.

After the two presentations, the participants raised questions and had active interactions with the guest speakers. At the end of the seminar, Prof. Hector Tsang (Cally Kwong Mei Wan Professor in Psychosocial Health, Chair Professor of Rehabilitation Sciences and Head of RS) delivered a vote of thanks. He expressed his warmest appreciation for the presence of Dr Miranda Lou and Mr K.K. Ling as well as the sharing of the two speakers. He also mentioned that it was good to have such a meaningful event which connected alumni with students of RS and hoped to hold similar seminars regularly in the near future.



(From left to right) Mr K.K. Ling's (Director of the Jockey Club Design Institute for Social Innovation, PolyU), Mr Schwinger Wong (Assistant Chief Executive, Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service - Hong Kong), Dr Miranda Lou (Executive Vice President of PolyU), Dr Julie Chow (Director, Medical of Union Medical Healthcare Limited) and Prof. Hector Tsang (Cally Kwong Mei Wan Professor in Psychosocial Health, Chair Professor of Rehabilitation Sciences and Head of RS)

## RS signed Memorandum of Understanding with Kunming Medical University

RS of PolyU signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kunming Medical University (KMU) via Zoom on 15 January 2021, as a record of both parties' understanding of their common will to discuss the opportunities for undertaking cooperative activities.

RS has maintained a collaborative relationship with KMU for more than 30 years. Under the leadership of Prof. Ao Lijuan, the Rehabilitation Medicine Department of KMU has been providing high-quality training to students, and has thereby achieved an ever-higher academic ranking in the country. The establishment of their new building for rehabilitation training shows the country's great support for rehabilitation education as well as the rapid expansion

of this profession. The signing of the MoU will strengthen the existing collaboration between the two parties on providing a new education platform and enhancing education in community rehabilitation.

There are three objectives of our new collaborative initiative:

1. To strengthen the mode of education in community rehabilitation service so as to enhance the existing curriculum and clinical education.
2. To build a brand-new "PolyU-KMU Community Rehabilitation Education Centre" with the aims to preserve valuable service data and to promote rehabilitation education to different stakeholders including teachers, students, professionals and the public.
3. To use the newly established centre as a core base for further promoting community rehabilitation education at a more professional level to the whole country. That means the promotion not only targets PolyU and KMU students, but also other institutions in the surrounding areas, as well as all those people who are interested in community rehabilitation service.

The ultimate goal of promoting rehabilitation education countrywide is to improve the teaching quality and enhance the development of community rehabilitation in the whole country. With these developments, we hope we could eventually create a positive impact on the lives of people with disabilities and help them to return to the community.



## Eight RS colleagues received Long Service Award

We are delighted to announce that eight staff members from our academic team, General Office, and technical support team, were honoured for their loyal service over the years. In the presentation ceremony, the awardees were presented with the Long Service Award individually in acknowledgement of their loyal service to RS for 15, 20, or 25 years. They each received a certificate and a prestigious souvenir as a token of appreciation from PolyU.

The PolyU Long Service Award scheme has been introduced since 1990 to foster a sense of belonging among PolyU staff members and to recognise their dedication and devotion to the University.



(From left to right) Mr Kin-Chung Tang, Prof. Kenneth Fong, Prof. Gladys Cheing, Dr Sharon Tsang, Prof. Hector Tsang (Cally Kwong Mei Wan Professor in Psychosocial Health, Chair Professor of Rehabilitation Sciences and Head of RS), Prof. Shamay Ng, Ms Gloria Man, Prof. Marco Pang, and Mr Philip Ng



## New publication by RS

We are happy to announce that our new publication, *Notes of Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists* (in Chinese), was released in March 2021. Prepared and written by the Department's PT and OT experts under the supervision of Prof. Hector Tsang, Head of Department, the book's contributors include professors at various levels, clinical associates, frontline physiotherapists and occupational therapists. The stories compiled in this amazing collection are all based on real clinical cases, vividly, intuitively related by the above-mentioned rehabilitation professionals in the form of therapy notes.

With the ageing population and growing life and work pressures, chronic diseases such as degeneration of knee joint, frozen shoulder, osteoporosis, stroke, dementia, depression, and occupational musculoskeletal disorder are increasingly common. This book aims to demonstrate, through interesting cases of common medical problems, how physiotherapists and occupational therapists apply professional techniques, equipment and technology to assist patients. Although their treatment methods differ from those adopted in conventional healthcare (e.g. injection, medication, surgery, etc), they are equally effective in relieving patients' suffering. Moreover, their treatments help to minimise the inconvenience that the diseases bring to the patients and their families, thereby enabling the patients to take a more positive attitude towards illness and life.

In addition to introducing the work of physiotherapists and occupational therapists, the book discusses some common diseases and shares practical medical knowledge. We believe that students and general readers who are interested in the two professions will benefit greatly by reading this book.

*Notes of Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists* (in Chinese) is now available in major bookstores. If you want to purchase the electronic version of this book, please scan the QR Code:



## Dr Sam Chan released results of Survey on Employment of People with Disabilities and Chronic Conditions under the Influence of the Covid-19 Pandemic

In view of the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the employment of people with disabilities (PwDs) and chronic conditions, Dr Sam Chan conducted a joint survey with the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation (HKSR) to examine the employment and job-seeking situation of these groups. The preliminary findings were disseminated at a press conference held at the Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service on 27 February 2021, and the event was covered in *Apply Daily* and *Hong Kong 01*.

Mr Mike Cheung, Manager of the Center for Research and Advocacy, HKSR, reported that 54% of the participants were employed during the Covid-19 pandemic, but 42.4% had their jobs modified or had been laid off. More than 30% indicated that they worried about sustaining their jobs. Among the 46% who reported being unemployed, more than half continued to seek jobs. More than 60% indicated that they lacked confidence in finding jobs in the coming months.



Based on a conceptual framework, Dr Sam Chan recommended that long-term planning of governmental policies, supportive working environment and inclusive community services need to be implemented to provide comprehensive support for the employment of PwDs. After Dr Chan's presentation, Mr Chun Hong Leung (Convenor, eConnect Employment Network) and Mr Wai Yip Tam (Representative, Alliance of Quota System for Employment of Persons with Disabilities) shared their views on how the government could facilitate PwDs to sustain employment and seek jobs in the difficult economic situation. The conference ended with sharing sessions by an employer in the catering industry and an employee with visual impairment. They shared their experience in surviving the unprecedentedly tough job market created by the COVID-19 pandemic. They hoped for better social support from the government.

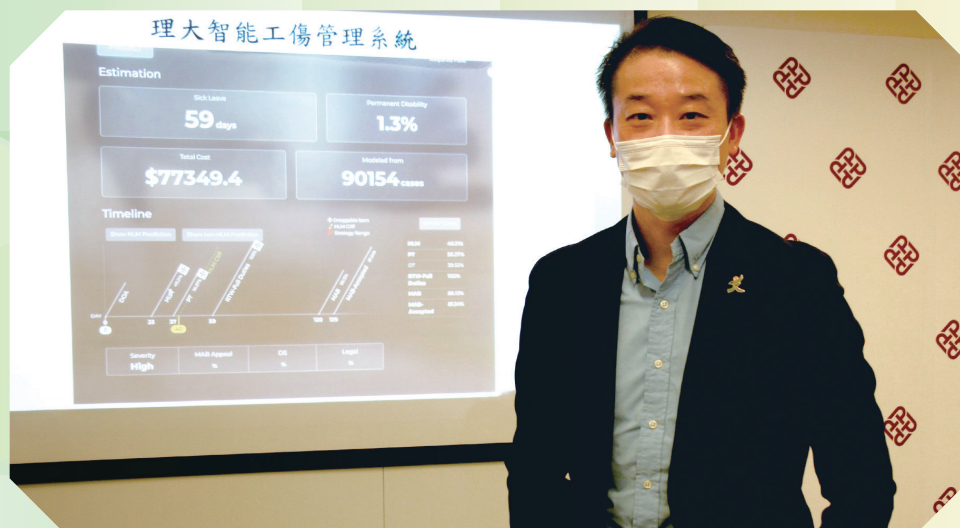
## ➤ A research team led by Dr Andy Cheng and Department of Computing at PolyU has established “Smart Work Injury Management System”

A joint research team of RS and the Department of Computing at PolyU has established the “Smart Work Injury Management System” (SWIM) to accurately predict with AI and big data the length of sick leave and the return-to-work trajectory in the case of work injuries.

Dr Andy Cheng, Associate Professor of RS, said the team fed the system with around 90,000 cases collected from 68 insurance companies to build up analytic models through machine learning. With basic information such as age, job nature, salary, injured area and cause of injury, SWIM is able to predict the severity of a case, what treatment should be received, the possibility of resuming work, and the insurance claims costs, etc.

In assessing the disability level and the number of days of sick leave, SWIM's prediction reaches 70% and 60% in accuracy respectively, both outperforming estimations conducted by humans. Dr Cheng said they hope SWIM's predictions can be used as a reference for stakeholders like employers, injured workers and insurance companies, to acquire more comprehensive information so as to develop better rehabilitation plans and reduce the risks of work-related injuries.

Six insurance companies have already expressed their interest in SWIM. Dr Cheng said they expect to launch a 6-month trial run for these companies in March 2021 at the earliest, and to put SWIM into use by the insurance and healthcare industries next year.



### Online coverage:

HK01 -  
Oriental Daily News -  
Ming Pao Daily News -  
Hong Kong Economic Times -  
Sing Tao Daily -  
am730 -  
Sky Post -  
Ta Kung Pao -  
Wen Wei Po -  
Economic Digest -  
U Lifestyle -  
Bastille Post -  
6do News -

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<http://bit.ly/3sWQyjL>  
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<http://bit.ly/2Me0hS1>



## Prof. Hector Tsang met with major PT and OT associations

To keep informing the rehabilitation sector of RS recent developments, Prof. Hector Tsang met with the representatives of major PT and OT associations. They had a fruitful discussion online through sharing updates on teaching and learning, renovation, and other achievements.



## People's Republic of China Ten Thousand People's Scheme 2021 (萬人計劃)

RS and the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at Sun Yat-Sen University have maintained a continuous mutual affiliate partnership in acupuncture teaching and evidence-based research practice for some years.

Dr Billy So of RS has recently succeeded in setting up a collaborative project under the People's Republic of China Ten Thousand People's Scheme 2021 (萬人計劃), with the support from the Ministry of Education. The project aims to promote and advance exchanges between the two universities in East-meets-West rehabilitation education.

Under this scheme, 32 students from our BSc (Hons) in Physiotherapy programme will be funded to participate in an acupuncture clinical internship programme at the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine of the Sixth Affiliated Hospital, Sun Yat-Sen University. The exchange programme will last for around one month, from 17 July to 14 August 2021. We aim to expose RS students to hands-on clinical application of acupuncture in the programme, and broaden their knowledge of East-meets-West rehabilitation.





## Dr Bolton Chau obtained funding support from PROCORE-France/Hong Kong Joint Research Scheme

Dr Bolton Chau, Assistant Professor of RS, has succeeded in obtaining funding support from PROCORE-France/Hong Kong Joint Research Scheme 2020/21.

Dr Chau's project, titled "Investigating the subjectivity of decision space represented in the prefrontal cortex", is the only successfully funded project among four eligible applications submitted by PolyU to the scheme this year. It will be a collaborative project involving Dr Chau and Mr Victor Chan of PolyU, Dr Emmanuelle Volle and Dr Alizée Lopez-Persem from Paris Brain Institute as well as Dr Robert Mok from the University of Cambridge, and it aims to examine the brain basis of the subjectivity of decision making.

PROCORE-France/Hong Kong Joint Research Scheme was introduced in 1998 by the Research Grants Council (RGC) and the Consulate General



of France (CGF) in Hong Kong. It is designed to promote research collaboration between Hong Kong and France by providing researchers in the two locations with one-year and two-year travel grants. By offering such support, the scheme aims to enable collaboration between Hong Kong and French researchers of similar fields so as to develop and disseminate new research works. The scheme received a total of 25 eligible applications this year and RGC and CGF jointly agreed to fund 12 projects out of the total applications.

## RS OT student Erina Chow was awarded For Our Future Scholarship

RS is pleased to announce that Chow Tsz-ching Erina, a year-3 student from the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Occupational Therapy programme, was selected as an awardee under the For Our Future Scholarship 2020-2021 scheme offered by the Greater Bay Area Homeland Youth Community Foundation.

Erina is among the 15 awardees selected by the Scholarship Selection Committee with distinguished members of the community. Each awardee will receive a scholarship of HK\$50,000. Erina stood out from the 300 applicants with her brilliant academic performance, achievements in personal development and contributions to society.

Prof. Hector Tsang (Cally Kwong Mei Wan Professor in Psychosocial Health, Chair Professor of Rehabilitation Sciences and Head of RS) and Prof. Kenneth Fong (Professor and Programme Leader of BSc [Hons] in Occupational Therapy) said they were proud that Erina was awarded this highly competitive and prestigious scholarship.

The For Our Future Scholarship is granted to local university students in recognition of their outstanding academic studies, personal development and contributions to the community. The awardees and 200 other applicants of the scholarship will be invited to join GBA exchange activities to explore opportunities in the area.



Prof. Hector Tsang, Chair Professor of Rehabilitation Sciences and Head of RS (left), and Chow Tsz-ching Erina (right)



## Welcome new faculty members

Dr Patrick Kwong attained his BSc (Hons) in Physiotherapy, MSc in Manipulative Physiotherapy and PhD degree from PolyU. He has gained diverse clinical experience while serving in public hospitals as well as community and private settings.

Dr Kwong's main research interests are stroke rehabilitation, balance and postural control, and gait biomechanics. Before joining PolyU, he had been appointed a postdoctoral research fellow in the Rehabilitation Research Institute of Singapore (RRIS). He was the co-investigator of the Ability Database project and Precision Rehabilitation project of RRIS, which aimed to develop data-driven rehabilitation solutions to facilitate motor recovery in people with disabilities.

His research has been published in recognised peer-reviewed international journals such as *Scientific Data*, *Journal of the American Heart Association*, *Clinical Rehabilitation*, and *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*.



**Dr Patrick Kwong**  
Assistant Professor (PT)



**Ms Sammi Chau**  
Clinical Associate (PT)

Ms Sammi Chau obtained a bachelor's degree in physiotherapy from PolyU and a master's degree in cardiology from The Chinese University of Hong Kong. She also received specialised training in physiotherapy in intensive care in Queensland, Australia. Her areas of interest include cardiopulmonary physiotherapy, early mobilisation in critical care and prehabilitation for patients undergoing major operations.

In 2014, Ms Chau was a guest speaker at the National Conference of Digestive Disease Week of Guangzhou in China. She also conducts seminars and talks on physiotherapy care, occupational health and safety for the community and non-governmental organisations on a regular basis.

Prior to joining RS, PolyU as a Clinical Associate, Ms Chau spent 16 years in public and private clinics as well as in the community setting. During her service at the Hong Kong Hospital Authority, she was a member of the Physiotherapy Coordinating Committee and provided advanced specialty training in ventilator hyperinflation to physiotherapists at hospitals. She is passionate about working with young people and training the next generation of physiotherapists.

Dr Richard Xu received his PhD in public health from The Chinese University of Hong Kong; MPhil in health policy, economics and management from The University of Hong Kong; and Master of Health Administration and Bachelor of Medicine from universities in mainland China. Before joining RS of PolyU, Dr Xu was a postdoctoral research fellow at The Jockey Club School of Public Health and Primary Care, The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Trained as a social epidemiologist and psychometrician, Dr Xu's research interests include measurement of the health-related quality of life using preference-based instruments or condition-specific instruments, development and validation of scales, elicitation of people's preferences in using or selecting healthcare services, evaluation of the impact of socioeconomic determinants on the well-being of people with rare diseases, and assessment of eHealth literacy. Dr Xu worked as the principal investigator or co-investigator of four research projects and has a number of publications released in international peer-reviewed journals such as *Value in Health*, *Journal of Medical Internet Research* and *Quality of Life Research*.



**Dr Richard Xu**  
Research Assistant  
Professor (Public Health)

1<sup>ST</sup> ANNOUNCEMENT

Abstract Submission Opens: 16 Feb - 30 Jun 2021

[www6.rs.polyu.edu.hk/ppcr2021](http://www6.rs.polyu.edu.hk/ppcr2021)

Innovations and  
Technological Developments  
in Rehabilitation  
康復的創新  
與科技發展

ENQUIRY



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