

COVER STORY

Blended Gaming Training System selected Government's commissioned project with 1.2 mil support

Led by **Dr Angela Leung** (PI), the 'Blended Gaming COVID-19 Training System' proposed by the cross WHO CC, CGN and CIC team* of the School, was selected one of the COVID-19 commissioned research projects of the Food and Health Bureau, and has secured over HK\$1.2 million from the Health and Medical Research Fund (HMRF) for its development.

This is the first interactive and blended learning training system aims to overcome non-adherence issues and reinforce infection control practice among healthcare workers in elderly homes against COVID-19.

The system is created based on the international infection prevention and control guidelines as well as settings of local elderly homes to engage users in 'realistic' game scenarios for decision making, such as choosing an appropriate personal protection equipment. Face-to-face interactive sessions will be given by infection control officers to the system users to ensure that they apply the knowledge and skills appropriately. If proved effective, the system will be used territory-wide to enhance infection control practice among healthcare workers against COVID-19.

*Team members: Prof. Alex Molasiotis, Dr Simon Lam, Dr Justina Liu, Dr Eliza Wong, Dr Daphne Cheung, Dr Mimi Tse, and Dr Doris YP Leung.



▲ Ms Agnes Wong, our master's student, participates in the project and help create characters with different personalities.



▲ The system is designed considering the settings of local elderly homes to give users 'realistic' experiences for making decisions.

The biggest COVID-19 related funding for establishing a new face mask testing lab

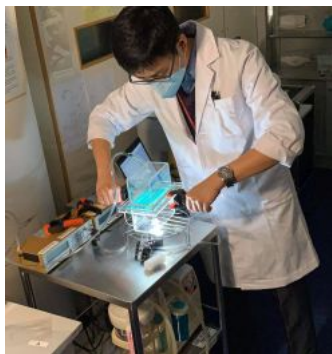
Led by **Dr Simon Lam** (PI), our team of nursing and infection control experts (including **Dr Lorna Suen**, **Dr Sukki Ho** and **Ms Ka-Yan Ko**) have secured a funding support of HK\$ 4.7 million from the Hip Seng Quality Advancement Centre Company Limited in October. This is the biggest COVID-19 related funding we have ever received.

Collaborated with Prof. Chi-Wai Kan, PolyU's Institute of Textiles and Clothing, and Dr Gilman Kit-hang Siu, the Department of Health Technology and Informatics, the funding will be used to establish a testing laboratory based on the ASTM F2100-19 standard* to examine the quality of filtering face masks.

A repeated cross-sectional study will be conducted in the lab to examine the quality of sampled filtering face masks, which will be taken regularly from the local market, for 12 months to map out the trends of face mask quality during and after the COVID 19 pandemic.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, Dr Simon Lam has been using the self-established system [developed by the School's Squina International Centre for Infection Control] that includes two optical aerosol spectrometers to estimate the particle filtration efficiency (PFE) of face masks from different sources and countries. His findings have provided valuable information for sourcing and bulk purchasing of reliable masks for protecting users. Dr Lam also took up the consultancy roles for Vannex International Limited on the development and validation of a new N95 respirator, Avalon BioMedical (Mangement) Limited on the PFE of face masks, and the New World Construction Company Limited (the parent company of Hip Seng Quality Advancement Centre Company Limited) on setting up a testing laboratory on filtering materials.

With the establishment of the new testing lab and the repeated cross-sectional investigation of face masks, the research team is expected to generate outcomes that will inform the general public, policy makers and the Government on the quality control of face masks.



*American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM)'s laboratory testing standards specify the standard dimensions, design, and make of the various equipment and instruments used in the laboratory for scientific experiments and procedures. For the testing and certification of filtering materials, the ASTM F2100-19 standard illustrates the best and clear criteria on testing and reporting. This specification covers the classifications, performance requirements, and test methods for the materials used in the construction of medical face masks that are used in health care services.

SN teams on front-lines to support community testing

The School responded to the appeal of the Government and organised selected nursing teams to support the Universal Community Testing Programme for COVID-19, launched in September.

Our teams, which comprised 135 members, including our staff members, alumni and senior years nursing students, served in four community test centres at Tai Wo Hau, Lai King, North Point and Quarry Bay.

The teams were led and coordinated by **Prof. Alice Yuen Loke**, together with **Dr Simon Lam**, **Dr Sukki Ho**, **Dr Sunshine Chan**, and our alumnus, **Dr Michael Ho** (Academic Secretary of the Alumni Association of Nursing Studies), with all-round secretary support from Ms Renee Leung and IT service support from Mr Ego Ho.

Twelve sessions of half-day workshops were offered the week before the launch of the Community Testing Programme to refresh the knowledge of infection control, personal protective equipment (PPE), and skill in taking a combined nasal and throat swab. Respirator fit tests were performed on all participants to ensure that they had proper protection against the new virus.

To show support for the work of our teams, Prof. David Shum, Chair Professor of Neuropsychology, Dean of Faculty of Health and Social Sciences (FHSS), and Prof. Loke (Acting-head of the School), visited the testing centre at Java Road, North Point, on 4 September. Prof. Shum had his test taken during the visit. The Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, visited the Java Road Testing Centre on 7 September and Prof. Sophia Chan, Secretary for Food and Health, Food and Health Bureau, visited the testing centre in North Point Government Primary School on 12 September to give encouragements to our teams. A thank-you letter from the Government was received expressing gratitude to the School for supporting the Community Testing Programme.

Two undergraduate nursing students, who provided support to the Community Testing Programme, were invited by the Government to engage in producing a video to urge the public to join the programme. Click [here](#) to watch the video.



▲ Dr Simon Lam preparing participants for the fit test of a given respirator.



▲ Workshops delivered to refresh knowledge of infection control and PPE.



▲ At the community testing centre, our team was committed to serving local residents with professionalism and a smile.



(Right photo provided by HKSAR Government)

▲ Prof. Shum, Dean of FHSS, Prof. Loke, and the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, visited the Java Road Testing Centre respectively to show support to the team.



▲ Prof. Sophia Chan, Secretary for Food and Health, visited the testing centre in North Point Government Primary School to give encouragement to our team.



▲ In the government video, our students, Ms Ka-yan Ip (葉嘉茵) [left photo] and Ms Lok-yi Chan (陳樂怡) [right photo], shared their experiences in supporting the Community Testing Programme and urged the public to join the programme for early detection and early treatment of asymptomatic patients. Prof. Sophia Chan shares the video in her Facebook.



▲ Thank you messages were received expressing appreciation to our nursing teams.

Webinars on infection control for care facilities and workplace

- **Centre for Gerontological Nursing** organised a series of free webinars from August to September to support healthcare workers in local residential care homes stepping up their infection control practice to fight against the new virus.



- **Dr Lorna Suen** talked about infection control at workplace at the online health talk 'In times of facing pandemic' organised by PolyU's Health, Safety and Environment Office on 15 September.



COVID-19 related publications

- **Dr Lin Yang** alone have published 39 papers about COVID-19 in international journals with high impact factors, including *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, *Journal of Infection*, and *Journal of Travel Medicine*. In particular, her paper entitled 'Maternal and Neonatal Outcomes of Pregnant Women with COVID-19 Pneumonia: A Case-Control Study' has over 150 citations. Another paper, entitled 'A conceptual model for the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in Wuhan, China with individual reaction and governmental action' has 338 citations (Google Scholar-as of 14 October). Dr Lin Yang was a team member of this paper, which was published in April on the *International Journal of Infectious Diseases*. To view the papers, click [1](#) & [2](#). In addition, Dr Yang has been collaborating with overseas researchers to evaluate the impact of social distancing measures across countries.

Chinese Consortium annual education programme

The Chinese Consortium for Higher Nursing Education (The Consortium) annual education programme was held online on 17 October. With the theme 'Enhancing Nurses' Competence in the New Era', the programme brought 780 teachers and students in Greater China (from 120 institutes) together to discuss challenges and opportunities for higher nursing education in the context of global public health incidents and the age of information communications technology.

The online programme was jointly organised by our School, the West China School of Nursing, Sichuan University (四川大學華西護理學院); the Nursing Teaching Steering Committee of the Guangdong Tertiary Education and School of Nursing, Southern Medical University (廣東省高等學校護理學專業教學指導委員會暨南方醫科大學護理學院). Co-organisers included the School of Nursing, Fudan University (復旦大學護理學院); the School of Nursing, Peking Union Medical College (北京協和醫學院護理學院); Xiang Ya Nursing School, Central South University (中南大學湘雅護理學院); the Department of Nursing, Health Science Center, Xi'an Jiaotong University (西安交通大學醫學院護理學系); and the School of Nursing, Sun Yat-sen University (中山大學護理學院).

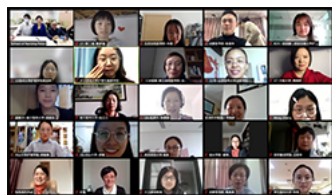
The PolyU team was led by **Prof. Frances Wong**, and supported by **Dr Shaoling Wang**, **Dr Arkers Wong** and **Dr Rick Kwan** (also a plenary speaker), this year, the lectures were focused on four contemporary health care issues: nursing education and clinical nursing development in the context of global public health incidents, impact of information communications technology on nursing, critical thinking, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

To promote knowledge application, research ability, and creative thinking, participants were required to conduct a group research study on one of the above topics and present the findings. Forty-eight projects were presented. Participants exchanged their ideas and knowledge, and sharpened their research and presentation skills through the activity.

The School led the founding of the Consortium in 2005 and has been the Chief Convenor since 2015. The Consortium provides a platform for research collaboration, academic exchange, and sharing of teaching innovations, resources and training experience among nursing institutions in Greater China. To date, the Consortium has 97-strong membership of nursing schools.



▲ PolyU team and the teams of other core member institutions led the participants to explore current health care issues and global public health incidents. Prof. Alex Molasiotis and Prof. Frances Wong delivered the welcoming and closing speeches.



▲ Participants attended the online plenary session (Sub-theme 2: eHealth) hosted by our School and the School of Nursing of Southern Medical University.



▲ Group research project of the Department of Nursing, Health Science Center, Xi'an Jiaotong University [Runna Miao 苗潤娜, Wei Gu 顧煒 & Lu Zhang 張露], received the First Class Award (Sub-theme 2: eHealth). The project explored the application of smart health management and its effect on the prognosis of discharged gynecologic cancer patients.

Admission Summary

Our undergraduate nursing programmes have remained competitive in the JUPAS admission exercise and all three postgraduate programmes taking new cohort of students in this academic year have achieved full enrollments.

The total number of JUPAS applicants for the BSc (Hons) in Nursing programme increased by 4.1 % from 4,673 in 2019/20 to 4,867 in 2020/21. The admission ratio for JUPAS applicants is 1:31*. The JUPAS applicants for the BSc (Hons) in Mental Health Nursing programme slightly increased by 0.61% from 3,426 in 2019/20 to 3,447 in 2020/21. The admission ratio for JUPAS applicants is 1: 59.

The total number of students admitted to the BSc (Hons) in Nursing programme slightly increased from 196 in 2019/20 to 198 (5 above the intake quota) in 2020/21. Same as last academic year, 73 (3 above the intake quota) students were admitted to the BSc (Hons) in Mental Health Nursing programme.

The average admission score¹ of the BSc (Hons) in Nursing programme increased to 29.4 (vs. 27.4 in 2019/20) and the score increased to 27.5 (vs. 25.9 in 2019/20) for the BSc (Hons) in Mental Health Nursing programme.

For the self-financed postgraduate programmes, our PgD in Specialty Nursing (Macau), Master of Nursing, and MSc in Nursing programmes achieved full enrollments [The intake quota of each programme is 30, 40, and 120 respectively]. A total of 190 students were admitted to the above programmes. The total number of students admitted to the MSc in Nursing programme increased slightly from 112 in 2019/20 to 120 this academic year.

There was a great increase in the number of applications. The applicants for the PgD in Specialty Nursing programme increased from 24 in 2018/19 to 196; Master of Nursing programme increased to 352 (vs. 282 in 2019/20); and MSc in Nursing programme increased by 31.9% from 141 in 2019/20 to 186. The leap has indicated that health care professionals are increasingly interested in pursuing postgraduate study at PolyU.

*The admission ratio = Intake quota for JUPAS: No. of JUPAS applicants.

¹The average admission score was calculated based on students' results on the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education examination. The results of Four core subjects (Chinese language, English language, Mathematics, and Liberal Studies) plus best Two elective subjects were included for calculating the average admission score.

Nursing team participates in \$10m multi-disciplinary project

A big congratulations to the multi-disciplinary team of the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences (FHSS) for receiving a total of a total of over HK\$ 10 million funding support for conducting the collaborative study on detecting, preventing and intervening elder abuse cases in Hong Kong. The monetary support is given by the Lee Hysan Foundation, the FHSS (the faculty has contributed HK\$ 1 million to the project) and the University Grants Committee (matching grant from the Research Matching Grant Scheme).

The research study, led by **Prof. Frances Wong**, the Co-Principal Investigator [**Dr Arkers Wong** and **Dr Shirley Lo** are team members], and Dr Elsie Yan (Representative Co-Principal Investigator of the project; Associate Head, PolyU's Department of Applied Social Sciences) aims to create Hong Kong's first evidence-based protocol for detecting, preventing and intervening in cases of elder abuse and develop a set of screening tools, a practice manual and training procedures for handling and managing of elder abuse cases.

Our nursing team is expected to provide preventive and interventional strategies and perform general health screening and cognitive screening, as well as train social and health care professionals to give health education and service referrals. One full-time registered nurse and two full-time social workers, supported by a multi-disciplinary team (including our nursing students) will use the case management approach to deliver the service to those who are confirmed or at-risk of elder abuse. It is estimated that the study, launched next year for four year, will benefit 1,500 elders in the community, 1,200 caregivers, 600 social and health care professionals and students.

Music-with-Movement Programme secured 5.3m

A big congratulations to **Dr Daphne Cheung** (PI) and her team (members including **Dr Lily Ho** [Deputy Coordinator], **Dr Claudia Lai**, **Dr Harry Qin**, Dr Alan Lam (Chairman, Sengital Group) and Dr Ken Ho (Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, Tung Wah College) who have secured a funding of over HK \$5.3 million on Music-with-Movement again.

The funding is mainly given by the Innovation and Technology Bureau, HK Government. The Ho Cheung Shuk Yuen Charitable Foundation has contributed an amount of HK \$500,000 and the School also allocated some monetary resources to support the project entitled "A Stand-alone Therapeutic Music-with-Movement Programme for People with Cognitive Impairment".



Funded Research Project

The following project has received an external research grant. Details are as below:

Project Title	PI	Funding Scheme/ Organisation	Total Grant (HK\$)
The Secrets of Healthy Near-centenarians and Centenarians in Hong Kong: How Well are They Ageing	Dr Justina Liu	Sik Sik Yuen	600,000

Research Themes & Centres Update



World Health Organization Collaborating Centre
for Community Health Services
世界卫生组织社区健康服务合作中心

Consultancy project for Government to develop carer-centered policy

Led by **Dr Angela Leung**, the WHO CC project team, including **Dr Patrick Kor**, **Dr Daphne Cheung**, **Dr Doris YP Leung**, carried out a consultancy study for the Labour and Welfare Bureau to explore the needs and support required of carers of elderly persons and of persons with disabilities in Hong Kong. The findings will help formulate an evidence-based carer-centered policy. Two staff members of the Department of Applied Social Sciences leads the studies on persons with disabilities.

Research Publications

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▲ Hammoda's effort has begun to bear fruit as more nurses will be trained to provide palliative care.

PhD student lays the foundation for palliative care in Palestine

Mr Hammoda Abu-Odah [our PhD student; CS: Prof. Alex Molasiotis, Co-S: Dr Justina Liu] gained six overseas scholarships from 2014 to 2018, but he lost those chances to study abroad, simply because of the blockade in his hometown, Palestine-Gaza Strip, a place where confrontation and strife are almost part of everyday life. "I needed to have a permission from the Israeli authority to travel. The airports are in Jordan or Egypt, but the Gaza border was closed, and I could not leave Gaza." Said Hammoda. After receiving the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme in 2018, it took him another three months to sort out issues related to travelling out of Gaza, before arriving in Hong Kong to embark on his PhD study*.

Previously an emergency nurse in Gaza, Hammoda is going to be the FIRST nurse in Palestine with a PhD degree, specialised in palliative care. Driven by his experiences of caring for his cancer relatives, Hammoda is determined to use his research findings to promote the development of the first-ever palliative care programme in Gaza.

In Gaza, healthcare priorities are given to emergency care, primary health care, and mother and children's health, leaving cancer care fragmented with limited resources. There are about 8,000 cancer patients, but only two nurses who have received three-month special training in palliative care. Medication for pain management is insufficient for advanced cancer patients. Services relevant to palliative care are provided within the general oncology services, and no specific structure nor department is available for this service.

Hammoda's research on 'Factors Associated with the Successful Development of a Palliative Care Programme into Palestinian Healthcare System' has been providing important information and statistics for the Palestinian Ministry of Health to review cancer care services. In his study, Hammoda found that 96.8% of the interviewed advanced cancer patients (N=379) in Palestine experienced "moderate to severe" UNMET supportive care needs and high psychological distress. Among the 169 Gazan health care professionals (nurses and physicians) interviewed, 57.2% of them have shown knowledge deficits about palliative care. He places training for healthcare professionals top of his list of positive factors for developing a palliative care programme in Palestine. "The relationship between healthcare workers and patients are reflective. Healthcare workers have to understand the physical, psychological, and sexual needs of their patients first." Said Hammoda.

Hammoda's research findings have led to some changes. Recently (in October), the Palestinian Ministry of Health has established a new committee for palliative care. "This was a very good sign. My findings have given evidence, and the officials have to face the problems." Said Hammoda. With the support of an international humanitarian organisation, a new palliative care unit will also be opened inside a hospital in Gaza to provide the services. Thrilled by this new development, Hammoda has no hesitation in taking up the trainer/educator role and is delivering two online lectures monthly to 15 health care professionals. He hopes that the health care professionals that he has been training will provide quality services in this Palestine's first palliative care unit.

Next year is the final year of his PhD study, Hammoda, however, is busy learning new practical knowledge. Next month, he will be on a 1-week placement in the Jockey Club Home for Hospice (click [here](#) for more information about the centre) to learn more about the operation of this first-rate hospice care centre, such as the administrative and discharge procedures. He is also thinking of developing a screening tool to be used during patient admission to identify those in need of palliative care in Palestine. "Perhaps, in the future, I can act as a bridge to liaison between Hong Kong and Palestine for placement or learning opportunities so that more healthcare workers can come here to learn." Hammoda said.

In reality, the Palestinian Government has to make a lot of effort on the policy level, to develop a palliative care programme into the health care system. The political and economic situations in Palestine make it harder to predict the future of palliative care. However, we can be sure that the effort given by Hammoda has begun to bear fruit as some nurses have been trained to provide quality palliative care.

*With the help of Gisha, an Israeli not-for-profit organisation, the process of granting leave permission to cross the border was accelerated for Hammoda. Without their support, Hammoda would have lost the opportunity to study his PhD in Hong Kong. Hammoda would also like to thank Prof. Alex Molasiotis for keeping the PhD candidacy for him until his arrival.



▲ “My findings have given evidence and the officials have to face the problems.” Said Hammoda.



▲ During a visit in June, Hammoda was impressed by the facility, environment and management of the Jockey Club Home for Hospice. He has an opportunity to be on a 1-week placement in this first-rate hospice centre in November.



▲ Nice Palestinian food for gathering with other PhD students at PolyU.

Staff

- *Dr Daphne Cheung* has been awarded the National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence (NHCGNE) Recognition Programme for Distinguished Educator in Gerontological Nursing. Congratulations!



- *Dr Lorna Suen* was interviewed by RTHK 31. In the programme broadcasted on 28 September, she talked about hygiene condition of public washrooms. Click [here](#) to view.

Staff movement

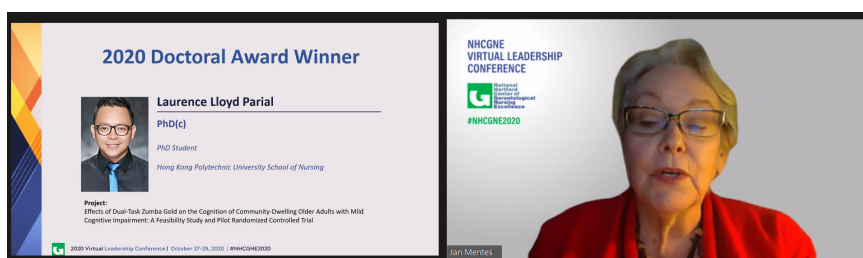
- Welcome to *Miss Wing-sum Ng* who joined the School as Clinical Instructor; *Mr Xavier Leung* as Laboratory Manager in August; *Dr Tommy Hung* as Clinical Associate; *Dr Yan Li* as Research Assistant Professor; *Mr Tim Tsui* as Assistant Officer; and *Mr Frankie Chan* as Clinical Associate in September.
- Farewell to *Ms Judy Leung*, Clinical Associate; *Ms Sylvia Ting*, Advanced Practice Nurse; *Mr Anthony Ng*, Administrative Assistant. We thank them for their contributions during the time with us.
- *Ms Denise Lau* has taken up the new role as a secretary in the Head's office.
- Congratulations to *Ms Sukki Ho* on her completion of the Doctor of Nursing Programme at The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Students

- *Mr Tsun-hin Tam*, our final year student on the BSc (Hons) in Nursing programme was awarded the Outstanding Student Award of Department 2019.



- *Mr Laurence Parial*, our PhD student (CS: Dr Angela Leung; Co-S: Dr Simon Lam) has received the Doctoral Award from the National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence for his study entitled "Effects of Dual-Task Zumba Gold on the Cognition of Community-Dwelling Older Adults with Mild Cognitive Impairment: A Feasibility Study and Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial" Congratulations!



Current Issues



(6 Aug)

- Academic staff members participated in the online Faculty's strategic plan presentation, hosted by Prof. David Shum, Dean of FHSS.



(1 Sept)

- Freshmen attended an online orientation programme organised by the School and met with our programme leaders and student academic advisors.



(24 Sept)

- International Health Literacy Association held a series of webinars on the topic 'Health literacy response to COVID-19'. In the 3rd webinar, Dr Angela Leung, the invited speaker, talked about the effects of digital health literacy on anxiety among older adults during COVID-19 pandemic. The webinar attracted over 300 registrations from all over the world.



(10 Oct)

- Staff members introducing our undergraduate programmes at the PolyU online Info Day. Prospective students attended our information seminars, live consultation, and lab demonstration.



(14-16 Oct)

- The launching ceremony of the PolyU blood donation campaign was held. Nursing students set up promotional booths and supported blood drawing at the mobile donor unit and the donor center at the Integrative Health Clinic.

Prof. David Shum (2nd from right) and the representatives of HK Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service attended the launching ceremony.



(24 Oct)

- Pi Iota Chapter and four nursing schools of local higher education institutes jointly organised the 'Meeting with Nurse Consultants' seminar. Nurse Consultants shared their journeys to become nurse leaders and 389 attendees (including online attendees) learnt how to prepare and pursue their career to the next level.