

SN NEWSLETTER

“To excel in Nursing for the well-being of mankind”

COVER STORY

Virtual Hospital gained attention & attracted new collaborative opportunities



Dr Kitty Chan (left) and Dr Justina Liu (right) highlighted the uniqueness and significance of the Virtual Hospital at the press conference.

From launching a publicity campaign to signing of the purchase agreement with Tung Wah College, the Virtual Hospital research team has recently demonstrated our strength in transfer knowledge to innovate teaching and learning.

The School held a press conference on 15 August to announce the launch of the new virtual learning system Virtual Hospital and release the preliminary users' learning outcomes. The event drew considerable media attention (eight local Chinese media coverage; Click [here](#) to view the Now TV news coverage) to the School's latest innovation. Led by Dr Justina Liu*, Associate Professor, and Dr Kitty Chan, Senior Teaching Fellow, the Virtual Hospital research team took the media interest as an opportunity to proactively introduce the significance of the learning system to local professionals and nursing institutions.



On 9 September, Dr Justina Liu and Dr Kitty Chan were interviewed on the RTHK's TV programme, Hong Kong United (凝聚香港), talking about how the Virtual Hospital supplements clinical practice in hospitals.

On 5 September, Secretary for Education, Dr Christine Choi Yuk-lin; Permanent Secretary for Education, Ms Michelle Li Mei-sheung; and Under Secretary for Education Mr Jeff Sze Chun-fai paid a visit to PolyU during which they attended a demonstration session organised by the School to learn more about how our Virtual Hospital simulates the complex and chaotic environment of a real-life hospital ward to prepare nursing students to respond to the health needs of multiple patients, manage unexpected incidents, and make appropriate clinical decisions.



Secretary for Education, Dr Christine Choi Yuk-lin (2nd from left), together with our nursing students, gave their thumbs up to the School's Virtual Hospital.

On 16 September, a collaboration ceremony was held to celebrate the use of Virtual Hospital in teaching and research by Tung Wah College. The ceremony was followed by the signing of the purchase agreement of the Virtual Hospital between the School and Tung Wah College on 28 September. The knowledge transfer has opened up new teaching and learning collaborative opportunities for the School. The research team is planning to incorporate inter-professional and interdisciplinary elements in the Virtual Hospital and to introduce the learning system to other nursing institutions in Hong Kong and in the Greater Bay Area.



About the Virtual Hospital

Unlike current simulation training that mainly focuses on students' mastery of procedural nursing skills or ability to manage a single patient/incident, the School's Virtual Hospital is a first-of-its-kind virtual learning system in Hong Kong that simulates the complex and chaotic environment of a real-life hospital ward. When clinical placements were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Virtual Hospital offered a unique solution to increase preparedness of nursing students engaging in simulated learning for their future career.

Set in a general ward of a hospital, the system randomly generates five types of simulated scenarios with over 1,200 combinations of randomised situations. In each scenario, the player are expected to identify the pitfalls of clinical practice, prioritise and complete the nursing tasks within a limited time, as well as manage unexpected distractions or multiple events. Throughout the Virtual Hospital's VR games, the player is embarking on an experiential learning journey in which he/she has to apply his/her nursing knowledge, clinical reasoning, and communications skills to respond to different situations.

The School believes that the Virtual Hospital is effective in improving students' situational awareness hence reducing their errors in practice in actual clinical settings. The system also enhances nursing student's decision-making, managerial and communication skills, which are essential for their future career. Until now, over 450 nursing students have engaged in the Virtual Hospital games and have expressed high satisfaction over the learning experience.

Click [here](#) to watch the School's video about the Virtual Hospital.



Players need to identify the pitfalls of clinical practice, prioritise and complete the nursing tasks within a limited time.

*Other team members

PolyU's School of Nursing: Dr Kin Cheung, Associate Professor; Mr Timothy Lai, Senior Clinical Associate. Tung Wah College: Dr Rick Kwan (Co-Principal Investigator), Associate Dean (Programmes) & Professor.

Admission summary

The enrollment of our master's level programmes was satisfactory. The MSc in Nursing programme achieved full enrollment (the intake quota is 120) and the Master of Nursing programme reached near to full enrollment (38 out of the 40 intake quota). The applicants for the Master of Nursing programme decreased to 306 (vs. 431 in 2021/22) and the MSc in Nursing programme decreased from 224 in 2021/22 to 186.

The admission figures and scores of the undergraduate programmes were similar to last year, although there was a dip in the total number of applicants. A total of 217 students (with 24 above the intake quota) were admitted to the BSc (Hons) in Nursing programme, including 173 through JUPAS and 44 through Non-JUPAS. The average HKDSE score for this programme in 2022 is 27.8. (vs. 29.5 in 2021/22). The programme attracted 4,367 (vs. 4,588 in 2021/22) JUPAS applicants and the admission ratio based on the first choice/Band A applicants (including both JUPAS and non-JUPAS) to the initial intake quota is 5.9.

Seventy-three (the intake quota was 70) students were admitted to the BSc (Hons) Mental Health Nursing programme in 2022/23 academic year, including 56 from JUPAS and 17 from Non-JUPAS. The average HKDSE score for this programme (4 core subjects plus best 2 elective subjects) is similar to last year at 27.2 (vs. 27 in 2021/22). The programme attracted 3,203 (vs. 3,128 in 2021/22) JUPAS applicants and the admission ratio based on the first choice/ Band A applicants (including both JUPAS and non-JUPAS) to the initial intake quota is 6.7.

Students' online/hybrid learning maintains high quality

The School's students' online/hybrid learning was evaluated by PolyU and we have received a performance level of 2.5 out of 3, achieving good results in the assessment of our teacher engagement in eLTA (e-learning, teaching and assessment), quality and quantity of online learning materials, improvements made to eLTA and the impact on teaching and learning.

Interactive social robots for older adults and caregivers

To provide innovative solutions for the ageing population and to support ageing-in-place, the School of Nursing has been collaborating with NEC Hong Kong (NECHK) to develop five intelligent interactive social robots for providing elderly care services. On 6 October, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between PolyU and the NECHK, with the purpose of carrying out a series of studies by the School of Nursing to explore the use of social robots by older adults.

Led by **Prof. Angela Leung**, Professor & Associate Head (Research), the research team will investigate the acceptability of the social robots by older adults and the preliminary effects of the interactions with the robots on loneliness, cognition, medication adherence, and mental and social well-being.

One key feature of the social robots is the ability to speak Cantonese that promotes communication with Hong Kong Chinese older adults. It is easy for older adults to give verbal instructions to the robots that assist activities of daily living, such as turning on the TV news channels or music players, or making phone calls to their family members and friends. The robots are able to give reminders to the older adults for some defined activities such as taking medication and having meals. The social robots can also provide companionship and promote interpersonal communication, and such feature is particularly helpful to the older adults who are living alone. The presence of the social robots at home is likely to support older people integrating to the community and the research team is gathering more evidence to support this view.



Prof. Christopher Chao, Vice President (Research and Innovation), PolyU [3rd from right] signed the MoU with Ms Elsa Wong (4th from right), Managing Director of NECHK. Prof. Angela Leung (3rd from left), the Principal Investigator of the social robot studies.

New alliance for promoting Intelligence Medical Innovation

The School has collaborated with Shenzhen University and the University of Macau to launch a new Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao University Intelligence Medical Innovation Alliance under the framework of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao University Alliance. Through the new alliance, partnering institutions are expected to develop deeper cooperation across the Greater Bay Area to advance smart health technology research and to nurture more students and staff in this research area. **Dr Harry Qin**, Associate Professor, is the contact person of PolyU.

IQRC's first work get published

The School's Interdisciplinary Centre for Qualitative Research published their first work in *Frontiers in Public Health* (6.461 Impact Factor; 4.0 CiteScore). The work is a qualitative study on Intrapersonal and interpersonal level factors influencing self-care practices among Hong Kong individuals with COVID-19. **Dr Shanshan Wang**, **Dr Ivy Yan Zhao** (Research Assistant Professors), and **Dr Martin Christensen**, Associate Professor & Associate Head (Postgraduate Education), are among the list of authors contributing to this publication.

Click [here](#) to view the complete paper.

List of our externally funded research projects

Project Title	Principal Investigator	Funding Source	Total Grant (HK\$)
Supporting family caregivers of people with dementia and identifying an effective adaptive intervention to reduce their depressive symptoms: a sequential multiple assignment randomized trial	Dr Patrick Kor Assistant Professor	Health and Medical Research Fund (HMRF)	1,462,200
Pilot evaluation of technology-enhanced horticultural activities among the people with dementia and their family caregivers		Bright Future Charitable Foundation	130,550

List of our internally funded research projects

Project Title	Principal Investigator	Funding Source	Total Grant (HK\$)
Empowering family members of older adults with multi-morbidity in advance care planning conversations: Development and feasibility testing of the Chit-Chat educational intervention	Dr Doris Y.P. Leung Associate Professor	Start-up Fund for New Recruits	400,000
Can nurse parental support using a parent-child interactive mobile application enhance parental self-efficacy in nutritional management related to balance diet, optimal energy and protein consumption for their children with cancer? A pilot randomized control study	Dr Winsome Lam Assistant Professor	Start-up Fund for New Recruits	400,000

Development and validation of a holistic health literacy scale for family caregivers of older people



Family caregivers (FCGs) are vital in caring for older people. Low health literacy of FCGs can affect the quality of caregiving and the health outcomes of their care recipients. Nurses have an important role in supporting better health literacy of FCGs, particularly those giving care to older people. Timely assessment of the health literacy levels of family caregivers (FCGs) of older people is of prime importance as this could help identify those who need nursing interventions. However, currently, there is a lack of validated measurement tool for assessing the health literacy of FCGs. **Dr Patrick Kor[#]**, Assistant Professor, and a member of the CGN, is trying to break this barrier.

Funded by the Nethersole Institute of Continuing Holistic Health Education (NICHE) research grant, Dr Kor's research team aims to develop a conceptual model describing the elements of health literacy in family caregiving. Based on the conceptual model, a holistic health literacy scale for FCGs of older people will be developed and validated.

Fifty family caregivers were recruited in the research study and 6 rounds of focus group interviews were conducted last year, in which the FCGs were asked about their experiences in taking care of their own health and their care-recipients, as well as about how they obtained and used health information to make decisions. Statements were generated and 22 themes were preliminarily identified. The team is analysing the themes and statements for developing the conceptual model and the scale.

Once validated, the scale will be the FIRST health literacy scale for family caregivers of older people in a Chinese population. It will provide a convenient tool for nurses to assess FCGs' capacity to 'understand, appraise, and apply health information'* for making health-related judgments in providing holistic care and appropriate healthcare related decisions. The research team hopes that with the new validated tool, early nursing intervention can be delivered to enhance the health literacy level of those identified FCGs, who found reading medicine labels, communicating with healthcare professionals and making health care decisions difficult, and with the nursing support, ultimately they will be able to navigate the health care service better.

[#] Dr Patrick Kor, Assistant Professor & Principle Investigator; Co-Investigators: Prof. Angela Leung, Professor & Associate Head (Research); Dr Justina Leung, Associate Professor; Ms Louisa Lee, the Hospital Authority; Dr Paul Lee, University of Leicester; Dr Simon Lam, Tung Wah College.

* Sørensen K, Broucke SV, Fullam J, et al. Health literacy and public health: A systematic review and integration of definitions and models. BMC Public Health, 2012;12(1):80.

Bi-monthly webinars

The Centre held the September monthly webinar, inviting Dr Carol Ma, Associate Professor, Head, Master and PhD of Gerontology Programmes & Senior Fellow (Service-Learning & Community Engagement), Centre for Experiential Learning, SR Nathan School of Human Development, Singapore University of Social Sciences, to speak about gerontological education in Singapore and the response to rapid changes in population. Dr Nattaya Suwankruhasn, Assistant Professor, Department of Medical Nursing, Faculty of Nursing, Chiang Mai University, Thailand, gave a talk on the topic 'Development of Caring Model for Elderly Persons with Chronic Illness by Volunteers in Community.'



Upper row: Dr Carol Ma (Right), Dr Nattaya Suwankruhasn (left).

Research publications

- Abu-Odah, H., Su, J., Wang, M., Lin, S. Y., Bayuo, J., Musa, S. S., & Molassiotis, A. (2022). Palliative Care Landscape in the COVID-19 Era: Bibliometric Analysis of Global Research. *Healthcare (Switzerland)*, 10(7), [1344]. <https://doi.org/10.3390/healthcare10071344>
- Batalik, L., Pepera, G., & Su, J. J. (E-pub ahead of print). Cardiac telerehabilitation improves lipid profile in the long term: Insights and implications. *International Journal of Cardiology*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijcard.2022.08.055>
- Bengough, T., Dawson, S., Cheng, H. L., McFadden, A., Gavine, A., Rees, R., Sacks, E., & Hannes, K. (2022). Factors that influence women's engagement with breastfeeding support: A qualitative evidence synthesis. *Maternal and Child Nutrition*, 18(4), [e13405]. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mcn.13405>
- Chang, K., Chan, E.A. & Chung, B. (2022). A new pedagogical approach to enhance palliative care and communication learning: A mixed method study. *Nurse Education Today*, 119, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nedt.2022.105568>
- Cheng, H. L., Leung, D. Y. P., Chung, M. W., & Ko, P. S. (E-pub ahead of print). The Nature and Types of Community Palliative and end-of-Life Care Services: A Content Analysis of Service Provider Websites in Hong Kong. *Journal of Palliative Care*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08258597221125285>
- Cheung, D. S. K., Wang, S. S., Li, Y., Ho, K. H. M., Kwok, R. K. H., Mo, S. H., & Bressington, D. (E-pub ahead of print). Sensory-based interventions for the immediate de-escalation of agitation in people with dementia: A systematic review. *Aging and Mental Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13607863.2022.2116404>
- Ho, G. W. K., Liu, H., Karatzias, T., Hyland, P., Cloitre, M., Lueger-Schuster, B., Brewin, C. R., Guo, C., Wang, X., & Shevlin, M. (2022). Validation of the International Trauma Questionnaire—Child and Adolescent Version (ITQ-CA) in a Chinese mental health service seeking adolescent sample. *Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health*, 16(1), [66]. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13034-022-00497-4>
- Lam, N. F. D., Sun, H., Song, L., Yang, D., Zhi, S., Ren, G., Chou, P. H., Wan, S. B. N., Wong, M. F. E., Chan, K. K., Tsang, H. C. H., Kong, F. M., Wang, Y. X. J., Qin, J., Chan, L. W. C., Ying, M., & Cai, J. (2022). Development and validation of bone-suppressed deep learning classification of COVID-19 presentation in chest radiographs. *Quantitative Imaging in Medicine and Surgery*, 12(7), 3917-3931. <https://doi.org/10.21037/qims-21-791>
- Ma, H., Ma, Y., Ge, S., Wang, S., Zhao, I. Y., & Christensen, M. (2022). Intrapersonal and interpersonal level factors influencing self-care practices among Hong Kong individuals with COVID-19—A qualitative study. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 10, [964944]. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2022.964944>
- Papandreou D., Mantzorou M., Tyrovolas S., Pavlidou E., Antasouras G., Psara E., Poullos E., Vasios G.K., & Giaginis C. (2022) Pre-pregnancy excess weight association with maternal sociodemographic, anthropometric and lifestyle factors and maternal perinatal outcomes. *Nutrients*, 15;14(18):3810. <https://doi.org/10.3390/nu14183810> PMID: 36145183; PMCID: PMC9502514.
- Siu, J.Y.M., Chan, E.A., Li, A.S.C. & Lee, Y.M. (2022). Motivations and deterrents of blood donation among blood donors during the COVID-19 pandemic in Hong Kong. *Health Expectations*, <https://doi.org/10.1111/hex.13626>
- Zhang, Y., Shen, G., Wang, Q., Qian, Y., Wei, M., & Qin, J. (2022). GeoBi-GNN: Geometry-aware Bi-domain Mesh Denoising via Graph Neural Networks. *CAD Computer Aided Design*, 144, [103154]. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cad.2021.103154>
- Zhu, B., Wang, Y., Yuan, J., Mu, Y., Chen, P., Srimoragot, M., Li, Y., Park, C. G., & Reutrakul, S. (2022). Associations between sleep variability and cardiometabolic health: A systematic review. *Sleep Medicine Reviews*, 66, [101688]. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.smrv.2022.101688>

Staff

- Prof. Angela Leung* [Professor & Associate Head (Research)] has been appointed Honorary Professor to the School of Nursing, Zunyi Medical University, Mainland China, for a five-year term from now until 2027.
- Dr John Yuen*, Associate Professor; and *Dr Kitty Chan*, Senior Teaching Fellow were among the first cohort of FHSS scholars, who were awarded Fellowships by Advance HE. HE is a UK-based organisation that aims to improve higher education, especially in the area of enhancing teaching and learning. Their Fellowships were given to those who had demonstrated effectiveness in a range of professional teaching and learning practices and expertise.

Farewell to Prof. Alex Molasiotis

Prof. Alex Molasiotis, Head of the School, left his position on 3 September to pursue new endeavours. The University has launched a global search for the new leadership. *Prof. E Angela Chan*, Professor, has been appointed Interim Head of the School. *Prof. Angela Leung* (Professor & Associate Head [Research]) has accepted the position as Director of the School's WHO Collaborating Centre for Community Health Services and *Dr Stefanos Tyrovolas* (Assistant Professor) has taken up the role as Deputy Director of the Centre.

In his ten years at the School of Nursing, Prof. Molasiotis has led the School with vision. He has made significant impacts in the areas of teaching and learning, staff development, and particularly, in enhancing the School's research performance and development. To express our gratitude to Prof. Molasiotis, a farewell party was held on 30 August. Prof. Molasiotis, thank you for your contribution to the School and we wish you all the best in your new position.



Upper photo: A decade of extraordinary effort that leaves a legacy of accomplishments. Lower photos (from left to right): Colleagues dedicated the song 'You raise me up' to Alex. Prof. Frances Wong wrote a farewell message to Alex at the reception. Colleagues expressed gratitude to Alex for his support and guidance.

Staff movement

- Welcome to *Dr Fang Alice Lei*, Assistant Professor; *Ms Enya Chan*, Assistant Officer; *Mr Don Wong*, Assistant Information Technology Officer; *Mr Kelvin Leung*, Assistant Officer; *Dr Chi Ching Vivian Hui*, Assistant Professor; *Ms Wanda Yuen*, Assistant Officer; *Mr Eton Kwok*, Assistant Information Technology Officer; *Mr Hon Fai Franky Ha*, Clinical Associate; and *Ms Kristie Law*, Administrative Assistant who joined the School from July to October.
- Welcome to our Visiting Scholar, *Dr Jing Han (Hellen)*, who has joined the School in June. Dr Jing Han is Assistant Dean at the School of Nursing in Xuzhou Medical University, Jiangsu Province, Mainland China. She will be with us until June 2023.
- Congratulations to *Mr Timothy Lai* and *Ms Joyce Tang* on their promotions from Clinical Associates to Senior Clinical Associates; *Ms Frankie Cheung*, on her promotion from Clinical Instructor to Clinical Associate.
- Farewell to *Mr Tim Tsui*, Assistant Officer; *Ms Sandy Kwok*, *Ms Florence Fong* and *Ms Esther So*, Administrative Assistants; *Dr Sukki Ho* and *Dr Sharon Cheung*, Clinical Associates. We thank them for their contributions during the time with us

Students

- Forty-three students (including undergraduate and postgraduate students) are listed in the Dean’s Honours list 2021/2022 and twenty-one undergraduate students received the PolyU Entry Scholarship Award 2022 in recognition of their outstanding academic and non-academic performance.



- Congratulations to *Ms Ching-yi Lim*, a final-year student of the BSc (Hons) in Nursing programme (now our graduate), for winning the FHSS Outstanding Student Award 2021 .



Alumni

(17 Sept)

Alumni Association of Nursing Studies (AANS) jointly organised a health check booth for the PolyU 85th Anniversary Sportathon event. The health check included measuring BMI, SaO2, Blood pressure taking, colour blindness, etc. Twenty alumni and students’ volunteers participated with this event to delivery healthy living messages to the general public.



(30 September)

The Federation of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Alumni Associations (FHKPUAA) Dinner Gathering with Alumni Associations was held. This gathering provided an excellent opportunity for alumni leaders and FHKPUAA to strengthen ties and celebrate PolyU’s 85th Anniversary. During the event the Distinguished Member Alumni Association Awards were presented to the alumni associations for their outstanding achievements.



Prof. Jin-Guang Teng, (2nd from left) President of PolyU, joined the dinner gathering with alumni associations as a Guest-of-Honour.

Current Issues

1 Jul & 8-9 Sep



Dr Lin Yang, Associate Professor, was an invited speaker for a seminar organised by the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University, Australia. She spoke on the topic ‘From SARS to COVID-19: the Hong Kong experience.’ In Sept, Dr Yang was invited as a speaker for the Evidence-based nursing practice training organised by Huazhong University of Science and Technology Union Shenzhen Hospital.

29 Jul

Prof. Angela Leung, Professor & Associate Head (Research); and Prof Frances Wong, Chair Professor of Advanced Nursing Practice [& Associate Dean (FHSS)] were invited to be members of the organising committee for the International HomeCare Nursing Free Webinar “Embracing the Challenge for Excellence in Home Care Nursing for the Future” hosted by the International Home Care Nurses Organization. The event aimed to raise awareness to the importance of Guidelines for Homecare Nursing Practice and to advocate for quality care to the aged at home in Hong Kong and the neighbouring cities.



3 & 4 Aug



Around 80 secondary school students joined the School’s summer programme. Our academic staff members conducted nursing skills workshops and a mental health nursing session to let the participants gain better understanding of nursing.

Current Issues

7 Aug



Dr Justina Liu, Associate Professor, was an invited speaker for the 7th Golden Age Expo & Summit 2022 themed “Smart Ageing: Innovation, Sustainability and Inclusion”. She presented at the online session titled “Is Asia Ready for the 100-year life?” and spoke on the topic “How are you doing” on the healthy ageing of the HK oldest-old in the shadow of the COVID-19. The event was held by the Golden Age Foundation, which aimed to showcase the latest technology, innovative products and services in the ageing industry, and gather local and international leaders from various sectors to share innovative ideas and experiences on ageing.

In the photo: Lower row, left: Dr Justina Liu.

Aug

Four academic staff members: Dr Arkers Wong, Assistant Professor; Dr Katherine Lam, Research Assistant Professor; Dr Lin Yang, Associate Professor; and Dr Yim-wah Mak, Associate Professor, mentored 12 secondary school students (S4 & S5), who were selected to join the PolyU Junior Researcher Mentoring Programme 2022.

The 4-month programme aimed to deepen the selected students’ understanding of various subjects and cultivate their interest in carrying out research projects in the future. The programme ended with a closing ceremony, held on 23 August.

In the photo: Prof. Ben Young (3rd from right), Vice President (Student and Global Affairs), PolyU and Dr Arkers Wong (4th from right) at the closing ceremony.



18 Sep

The School and the YWCA held a press conference to announce the findings of a research project led by Dr Patrick Kor, Assistant Professor (In the photo: 1st from right). The study results showed that the Home-based Multi-Sensory Cognitive Stimulation Training with the 5-Sense Box helped delay the decline of cognitive function of older people with dementia and enhance caregivers’ understanding on dementia.

5 Oct

PolyU is honoured to receive the Elite Partnership Award for the second year from the Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service. The award was presented during which the PolyU Blood Donation Campaign 2022 was held. The School was one of the co-organisers of the campaign.

In the photo: PolyU leaders, nursing students and blood donors in support of the blood donation campaign.



8 Oct

The PolyU Undergraduate Info Day (hybrid mode) was held. The School’s booth alone attracted 3,000 visitors! Our lab tours, consultation sessions and information seminars maintained high attendance rates.

In the photo: Prospective students visited one of our nursing labs and gained hands-on nursing experience.



31 Oct

The School hosted the flag-raising ceremony. Forty-two FHSS and SN colleagues (including Faculty’s Dean and Head of the School) participated in the ceremony.

