

School of Nursing

COVER STORY

Issue no. 9 August 2021

PolyU's School of Nursing re-designated as a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Community Health Services

The School of Nursing at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) was re-designated by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a WHO Collaborating Centre (WHO CC) for Community Health Services for a period of four years to the end of 2023. Established since 2007, the Centre is the first and only WHO Collaborating Centre in Healthy Ageing in the Asia Pacific. Its missions include taking on a proactive role in promoting the implementation of WHO's strategic initiatives, as well as supporting them in developing healthy ageing policies and recommendations across the Western Pacific region.



A re-designation ceremony was held on 20 November 2020, officiated by Prof. Sophia Chan, JP, Secretary for Food and Health, HKSAR Government; and Dr Hiromasa Okayasu, Coordinator, Healthy Ageing Data, Strategy and Innovation (DSI), WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific. The ceremony also had representatives from PolyU, including Prof. David Shum, Yeung Tsang Wing Yee and Tsang Wing Hing Professor in Neuropsychology, Chair Professor of Neuropsychology and Dean of the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences; and Prof. Alex Molasiotis, Angel S.P. Chan Lau Professor in Health and Longevity, Chair Professor of Nursing, Head of the School of Nursing and Director of the WHO CC for Community Health Services.



During the 4-year re-designation period, the Centre will work towards the goals of identifying key indicators of ageing and health in the region, actively promoting and implementing the WHO Guidelines on Integrated Care for Older People (ICOPE), and providing a platform for inter-disciplinary collaborations among health care professionals and academia for initiating projects on healthy ageing.

Prof. David Shum said, "The Centre has always been very active in promoting various healthy ageing related issues in the region. It also serves as a common ground to draw upon the readily available expertise and collaborative opportunities within the University to help carry out the mission of the Centre. I am confident that members of the Centre will continue to work closely with the WHO to make a positive difference to the health services in our community."

Prof. Alex Molasiotis is pleased that the Centre received re-designation from the WHO, stating, "Since established, the Centre has been actively involved in various community health initiatives. Going forward, the Centre will step up its efforts in developing a series of work plans, including collaborative research projects, roundtable sessions and training workshops on healthy ageing, in response to the WHO's Decade of Healthy Ageing. Furthermore, we will continue our role in assisting the WHO's Western Pacific Regional Office to roll out its strategic initiatives on ageing for the region, in the hope of improving the health and wellbeing of older people and their families."



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The WHO has designated the School of Nursing, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Community Health Services since December 2007. Through implementing the WHO's mandate, the School has been playing a proactive role in strengthening evidence-based community health services and improving the health outcomes of local, regional and global populations. The World Health Organization has recently redesignated our School's WHO Collaborating Centre (WHO CC) for Community Health Services for a period of four years to December 2023. It was agreed with WHO that we would change the focus of our WHO CC for Community Health Services to align with one of the WHO current strategic priorities: healthy ageing. The following are the key foci of our activity:

1. Understand key indicators of ageing and health in the countries in Western Pacific Region.
2. Promote WHO Guidelines on Integrated Care for Older People (ICOPE) and develop initiatives to disseminate and implement it in Western Pacific Region countries.
3. Consolidate good practices and policies that ensure healthy lives and promote well-being of older people in the Western Pacific Region.

A series of work plans, including collaborative research projects, roundtable sessions, training workshops and so on related to Healthy Ageing, will be developed in conjunction with WHO. This redesignated WHO CC for Community Health Services unit on 'Healthy Ageing', the first and only WHO collaborating centre on 'Ageing' in Asia and the Pacific at this juncture, will assist the Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) to roll out its strategic initiatives on ageing for the region.

Contact Us:

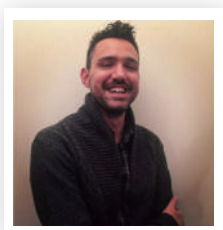
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MONTHLY WEBINAR SERIES

A series of monthly webinars on embracing ageing in Western Pacific have been held since November 2020 to connect people who are interested in healthy ageing and to enable them to acquire new knowledge and share ideas. The speakers are WHO CC for Community Health Services staff, advisors and invited speakers in Western Pacific Region.

Month	Topic	Speakers
<i>Moderator (NOV-JUL): Dr Ivy Zhao</i>		
Nov 2020	WHO action plan, life expectancy and living in good health	Dr Hiromasa Okayasu Prof. Alex Molasiotis
Dec 2020	Ageing Trends and Cognitive Frailty	Dr Suparb Aree-Ue Dr Rick Kwan (Discussant) Dr Shan Shan Wang
Jan 2021	Situating the Care of Older Adults in the Global Health Context: The COVID-19 Pandemic as a Case in Point	Dr Claudia KY Lai Prof. Noriko Yamamoto-Mitani (Discussant) Prof. Araceli Ocampo-Balabagno
Feb 2021	To support older adults who are facing dementia and loneliness	Prof. Angela Leung Dr Ayumi Igarashi (Discussant) Dr Ivy Zhao
Mar 2021	Novel research on supporting fallers and preventive Chinese specific-N95 respirator for respiratory infectious outbreak	Prof. Maw Pin Tan Dr Simon Lam (Discussant) Prof. Lorna Suen (Discussant) Dr Joanne Yip
Apr 2021	End-of-life care in Korea and epidemiology of frailty in WPRO countries	Dr Stefanos Tyrovolas Prof. Sunghee H Tak (Discussant) Dr Justina Liu
May 2021	Ageing in a foreign land and the role of nutrition in healthy ageing	Dr Justina Liu Dr Jed Montayre (Discussant) Dr Stefanos Tyrovolas
Jun 2021	Health and utilization inequalities and palliative care	Dr Kathryn Lizbeth L. Siongco Dr Jingjing Su (Discussant) Dr Jenniffer Torralba Paguio
Jul 2021	Technology-based approaches for enhancing care and supporting therapeutic interventions for older adults	Dr Cindy Jones Dr Daphne Cheung (Discussant) Dr Jingjing Su
<i>Moderator (AUG): Prof. Angela Leung</i>		
Aug 2021	Rehabilitation in dementia care and issues on end-of-life care in long-term care settings <i>*joint webinar with Hong Kong Association of Gerontology</i>	Prof. Yun-Hee Jeon Dr. Edward M F Leung (Discussant) Dr James Luk

WELCOME TO A NEW MEMBER



Dr Stefanos Tyrovolas, Research Assistant Professor, who is specialized in ageing and nutrition epidemiology while he has extensive experience with data harmonization and management. He is a certified dietitian and nutritionist. Before joining the School, he was Principal Investigator for the Fundacion & Parc Sanitari Sant Joan de Deu, and the Institute of Carlos III in Spain (placed in Barcelona). His research interests are in the area of Healthy & Successful Ageing; Frailty, Sarcopenia and ageing related body composition changes; Public health Nutrition and Harmonization Methodologies.