

In-focus

A quarterly newsletter of the PolyU Optometry Clinic
Department of Optometry and Radiography
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University



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Children Vision Services

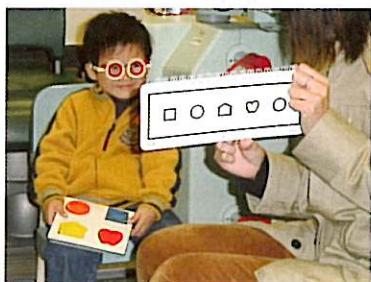
In March 2003, the Optometry Clinic started a new service for children. A newly renovated state-of-the-art facility which we call the "Children's Vision Clinic" allows children of all ages to be examined in a child-friendly environment. In the design of this facility, we wanted to create a "playroom feel" so that children would not feel anxious when they come to see us. We have already noted improved interactions between our children patients and student optometrists in this new facility. Our youngest patient to date is a 3 months old baby.



As part of our public education programme, we held a press briefing in July 2003 to highlight the need for children to have their eyes examined regularly. In the rapidly developing visual system of young children, small obstacles to good eyesight may result in major problems such as lazy eyes and squints. Early detection and intervention prevent these abnormal eye conditions developing. Good eyesight and good eye coordination are also critically important for successful modern schooling. The briefing was very well attended and the issue of children's vision was extensively covered in the local news media.



With the high rates of myopia in Hong Kong, children's vision is an area of particular importance to us. We have assembled a team of 5 colleagues to develop the clinical and research aspects of children's vision and we anticipate that this area will be one of our core strengths within the next 5 years.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Carly Lam".

Dr. Carly Lam

Associate Professor

Department of Optometry and Radiography
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

What's happening out there?

The Hong Kong Scene

The Department of Optometry and Radiography has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with The Eye Hospital of the China Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine (CATCM) to strengthen research co-operation between both parties. The agreement includes student exchanges, and collaboration of clinical and basic science studies on the effects of herbal medicines on the eye.

CATCM, located in Beijing, was established in 1955 and is the largest integrated traditional Chinese medicine research organization in China. There are 11 research centres, 5 hospitals, and several publishing sections under CATCM.



(Front row, from left) Prof. Woo and Prof. Sha of CATCM
(Back row, from left) Prof. Ge of ZOC, Prof. Yap, Prof. Tang and Prof. Lu of CATCM

The signing ceremony was witnessed by our Honorary Professor and Director of the Zhongshan Ophthalmic Centre, Prof. Ge Jian.

"With CATCM's agreement, we are able to send our senior Optometry students to CATCM's Eye Hospital for their Ophthalmology externship. Our senior staff will launch joint research projects with colleagues at CATCM in the near future," said Prof. George Woo, Dean of Faculty of Health and Social Sciences of PolyU.

Elsewhere in the World

Special Olympics Healthy Athletes Program - Opening Eyes : A Special Report by Our Staff Optometrist, Mr. Lawrence Kwan

The Special Olympics is an international programme of athletic competition for children and adults with mental retardation. Every 4 years, the Special Olympics organization put on an international athletic meeting called the Special Olympics World Summer Games. In 2003, the World Summer Games was held in Dublin, Ireland. Around 7,000 athletes from more than 150 countries joined this event.

A special part of the Special Olympics is the Opening Eyes programme. Founded in 1991, the programme provides eyecare services and education to athletes. This service not only ensures optimum vision for athletes in sports, but also assists them to be more productive community members through improved vision. During the World Games, optometrists from different parts of the world work together to provide eye examinations which include history and symptoms, assessment of visual acuities, refractive error, color vision, depth perception, binocular vision, as well as an assessment of external and internal ocular health. For those athletes who have significant refractive errors, spectacles are provided on the same day.

In the first 4 days, we examined nearly 1,000 athletes. Many of them had refractive errors and we dispensed many pairs of spectacles free-of-charge. A young male athlete from Thailand was found to have previously undetected glaucoma and we arranged for him to be treated in the local hospital. Another female athlete from India was found to have corneal ulcers in both eyes. This condition usually causes significant vision impairment and discomfort. However, being mentally retarded, she was not able to complain and her condition was untreated until we saw her.



Mr. Lawrence Kwan (left) and one of the Special Olympics athletes



Special Olympics - Hong Kong Team

In addition to providing an eye health service, we also worked as translators on-site. Being a Hong Kong person, the most wonderful thing for me was to be able to meet up with the Hong Kong team in Ireland. PolyU-Optometry provided the Hong Kong team with protective sunglasses and they were the coolest looking team in the games. The joy of being able to participate in the World Summer Games was written all over their smiling faces. And Hong Kong is so proud of them...our small team of 20 athletes brought home 35 gold medals!

Our People

New Chair of Optometry



Prof. Maurice Yap, Professor and Head of the Department of Optometry and Radiography has been promoted to the Chair of Optometry.

Outstanding Contribution Award

Congratulations to Prof. George Woo, Dean of the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences, who was presented with the Outstanding Contribution award at the Graduation Ceremony of Department of Optometry, Sun Yat-sen University (Guangzhou). Prof. Woo has served as an Honorary Consultant and Visiting Professor since the inception of the Optometry program at Zhongshan Ophthalmic Centre.

Academic Visitor

Prof. Ning Lin of Peking University Eye Center visited our clinic on 25 July. During his visit, Prof. Lin delivered a lecture on "Clinical Use of Prescription Ocular Pharmaceuticals in Ophthalmic Practice". Prof. Lin also has a private practice in Corneal and Refractive Surgery in California, USA.



New Staff

We welcome 5 new staff:

Dr. Janica Wong - Instructor

Mr. Chris Wong - Ophthalmic Assistant

Miss Elsa Lee - Resident Optometrist

Mr. Benny Tam - Resident Optometrist

Miss Ming Young - Resident Optometrist

News from.....

The Clinic

We have installed a new fundus camera, "Optomap", in the clinic. The device allows photography of the retina with an angle of view up to 200 degree internally without dilation. We can capture nearly the whole retina in a few seconds. The system is mainly used for clinical research at this stage but will soon be used for clinical care.



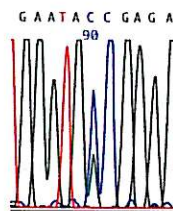
The Research Lab

Dr. Pauline Cho "Slowing down of myopia progression is now a possibility with orthokeratology treatment. Our work on orthokeratology has shown that, at the end of a monitoring period of 18 months, the average increase in axial length of children wearing orthokeratology lenses was about 2X less than the increase in children wearing spectacles."



Miss Tang Wing-chun

"I have identified some DNA variations within some candidate genes of myopia in Chinese people. Samples will be genotyped to determine if certain DNA variations are associated with high myopia."



A part of DNA sequences of the candidate gene: double peaks indicate the position of single base variations (C/A)

Conferences/Seminars/Workshops

Conference

The 1st Hong Kong Optometric Conference will take place on 6 November 2003 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. It is organized by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and co-hosted by the Department of Optometry & Radiography and the Hong Kong Optometric Association.

Speakers come from the UK, USA, Australia and HKSAR. The Conference is held together with the Hong Kong Optical Fair 2003. For more information, please visit: <http://hkopticalfair.com>

Seminars

Our research personnel conduct regular seminars to let us know their latest findings.

2 September Dr. Camus Choy

"UV-mediated DNA Strand Breaks in Corneal Epithelium Cell Using Comet Assay Procedure"

16 September Miss Yan Ho

"Corneal Topographical Data in Hong Kong Chinese"



30 September Miss Ronnie Huang

"Myelinated Retinal Nerve Fibers Associated with Myopia and Anisometropic Amblyopia"

14 October Miss Alice Yung

"Microbiological Contamination of Contact Lenses and Lens Accessories in Contact Lens Wearers in Hong Kong"

28 October Mr. Forrest Ng

"In Vitro mfERG of Arterially Perfused Pig Eye"

Continuing Professional Development Programs

Continuing education is an important way to enhance optometry professionalism. We have the following programme lined up:

◆ Introduction to Elementary Optical Principles

Please check <http://www.polyu.edu.hk/or> for the latest details.

Serving the Community

Visual Aids Workshop

Two workshops designed for low vision patients were held at the Jockey Club Visual Rehabilitation Centre. One was for the volunteers who may not have any visual problems and another one was for patients. The workshops were conducted by vision rehabilitation specialist from the Optometry Clinic. The workshops provided an opportunity for volunteers and patients to use different visual aids under proper instruction and overcome the problems encountered.



During the workshop, the most commonly prescribed visual aids were introduced, including telescopes, magnifiers and computer devices such as CCTVs.



Retina Festival 2003

The Vision Rehabilitation Service of the Optometry Clinic participated in the Retina Festival 2003 which was organized by Retina Hong Kong and co-hosted by the Hong Kong Society of Professional Optometrists. The event was aimed at increasing people's awareness about eye care, retinal degenerative diseases and the concept of vision rehabilitation. Activities included vision screening, exhibition and lending of visual aids. Prof. George Woo, Dean of Faculty of Health and Social Sciences was invited as an officiating guest. Optometry students and staff assisted in the vision screening and delivered public lectures.



The Optometry Clinic introduced "The Hong Kong Retinal Degenerative Diseases Patient Registry" at the exhibition. The Registry service is jointly funded by Retina Hong Kong, Faculty of Health and Social Sciences, and the Optometry Clinic.



Students Corner

New Class Representatives for 2003/04

"I am so glad to be elected as the Class Representative. I hope I am able to help with the communication between the professors and the students." *Lau Lai Ming, Year 1 Optometry student*

"Being the Class Representative is an honour because I am voted in by the whole class. I am sure that the job would make me more mature." *Eric Yeung, Year 1 Optometry student*

"I am grateful to continue to be a Class Representative. In this year, I will try my best to carry out the duties of a Class Representative and act as a bridge between optometry staff and students." *Mick Lau, Year 2 Optometry student*

"I think one of the most important missions of being a Class Representative is to collect opinions from classmates and report them to the department. I will try my best to be the communication channel between students and the department." *So Pui Shan, Year 2 Optometry student*

"It's my pleasure to take up this duty. It's always not an easy task to accomplish duties without classmates' support. So, let's unite to do our best together." *Jason Kwan, Year 3 Optometry student*

"I'm glad to be the Class Representative in this year. I'm looking forward to help my classmates and maintain a good communication between teachers and students." *Katherine Wong, Year 3 Optometry student*

"It's my honour to be elected as Class Representative. As a representative, I would like to be a co-ordinator between the department/lecturers and students. Also, I would express any opinion of my classmates to the department/lecturers to ensure everything runs smoothly." *Victoria Law, Year 4 Optometry student*

"To be concerned about the classmates' anxieties. In the coming year I will seize the opportunity to serve them earnestly with one heart and one mind." *Calvin Lee, Year 4 Optometry student*



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