

In-focus

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



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The 1st Asia Cornea and Contact Lens Conference

The 1st Asia Cornea & Contact Lens Conference was held on 27 and 28 of April, 2004 at the Chiang Chen Studio Theatre, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. This conference was a joint effort by The Hong Kong Society of Professional Optometrists, The Department of Optometry & Radiography of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, The Hong Kong Association of Private Practice Optometrists, Hong Kong Contact Lens Research Association and The Eye Foundation.



This was the first regional conference on cornea and contact lens held in Hong Kong. We were honoured to have Professor George Woo, Dean and Chair Professor of Optometry, Faculty of Health and Social Sciences of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, as our officiating guest. Professor Woo, dubbed "Grandfather of Optometry" of Hong Kong, updated the audience on the future direction of mandatory professional development for health care practitioners here.

The one-and-a-half day conference attracted over 200 delegates from Malaysia, Singapore, India, Korea, China and Hong Kong. Keynote speakers were invited from Australia and the U.S.A. Other presenters were from Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong. Papers presented at the conference were of both scientific and clinical value. Areas covered included external eye conditions, tears, contact lens fitting techniques, advances in contact lens material and the efficacy of contact lens solutions. Most participants agreed that the materials were relevant to practice and there were many useful take-home messages.

The success of the 1st Asia Cornea and Contact Lens Conference depended not only on a very efficient organizing committee and many co-workers, but also relied very heavily on the generous support from sponsors in the industry. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues who have contributed, as well as all our friends from the industry. I certainly hope that this is the first of many high quality conferences that will be held in Hong Kong!



Dr. Ada Cheng
Adjunct Associate Professor
Department of Optometry and Radiography
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
and
Chair of Organizing Committee
The 1st Asia Cornea and Contact Lens Conference

What's happening out there?

The Hong Kong Scene

20th Anniversary of the PolyU Optometry Clinic

We celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the PolyU Optometry Clinic on 11 Jan 2004. Graduates from as far back as 1980 came back together with their families to share their memories of the old days with us.



Wong Kwan-hing, 1994 BSc (Hon) in Optometry Graduate



Mr. Wong and his wife

My wife and I are happy to attend this anniversary function. It has been a long time since I came back here - The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Optometry Clinic. This time, I return with familiar but strange feelings. I am happy I can meet many familiar faces again. What I feel strange about is the scale of The Optometry Clinic. The facilities, instrument and areas have expanded very much. I am proud of all these changes. I believe I would come back again to visit when I have a chance in the future.

James Wong, 1987 Professional Diploma in Optometry and 1994 BSc (Hon) in Optometry Graduate



Mr. Wong and his family,
Mrs. Helen Wong (left) is also one of our graduates

I am very excited to visit The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Optometry Clinic again. Though the decoration and furniture of the clinic are different from those in the past (1980s), I still feel that I am very familiar with every consultation room. Facilities for children's eye examination are advanced and interesting. Other professional equipment, for example, the digital fundus camera is a "dream facility" of many optometrists. Today's students are very lucky indeed.

Elsewhere in the World

Vision Project at Lian Hua Village Primary School, Huai Ji, China: A Report by Our Yr. 3 Student Chan Ming-lun

We conducted a vision project in a remote village in Huai Ji, China on 29 - 31 December 2003. This activity was the first co-operation between PolyU-Optometry and the China Care Fund, which is a charitable organization providing education and health care to needy children in China. We provided refraction and ocular health assessment to students in a primary school. With the donation from a Hong Kong-based optometric practice, spectacles were prescribed for those with refractive errors and those who needed extra ocular protection.



As the first group of students to hold a vision project in the Mainland China, we have learnt a lot through this exercise. Good communication was the key to success. We managed to have a pre-screening visit of the site to obtain first hand information about the target subjects and working conditions. We were able to talk to local teachers directly about the tests we would be performing. This was an important step for us to plan for the appropriate examination protocol. We learnt to be flexible to handle on-site problems and to initiate required changes. Also, we were given the opportunity to perform a home-visit to 2 children. This was a great experience and we started to understand what poverty really means.

To sum up, we found the project was a memorable and meaningful experience. The things we learnt from it are priceless for our clinical experience and, most importantly, for our personal growth. We wish to thank the China Care Fund and Mr. CY Tang for making this project possible.

(Supervisor: Mr. Tang Churk-yan; Year 3 student: Chan Chun-yung, Chan Ming-lun, Lo Yuk-kwan, So Yuet-sheung, Tsui Man-fai, Wong Ka-man, Wong See-wan, Yeung Hiu-yan)

Our People

Honorary Professor's Visit



Our Honorary Professor, Prof. Ge Jian, from Sun Yat-sen University, delivered a lecture on refractive surgery on 18 March. Prof. Ge stressed the need to be careful in patient selection for refractive surgery. He advised clinicians to offer patients all other options for correcting their refractive error.

Appointment of Honorary Professor

Prof. George Woo, has been appointed Honorary Professor at Sun Yat-sen University (Guangzhou).



Prof. Woo (right) and Prof. Ge

Academic Visitor

Dr. Damien Smith, President of the World Council of Optometry, visited us on 6 January and delivered a talk on



"Optometry: Right Profession, Right Time, Getting to the Right Place". Dr. Smith came to Hong Kong to chair a meeting of the Optometry Advisory Committee at PolyU.

(From left) Prof. Yap, Prof. Poon Chung-kwong, President of PolyU, Dr. Smith, Prof. Woo



Prof. Leo Carney from Queensland University of Technology delivered a lecture on "Corneal topography and reading" on 15 January. Prof. Carney is a member of our Area of Strategic Development Advisory Committee.

Prof. Oscar Candia from Mount Sinai School of Medicine visited us on 25 February and gave a talk on



"Electrophysiology and fluid transport in the bovine lens". Prof. Candia is a world authority on ionic and fluid transport across ocular epithelia.

(Front) Prof. Candia

(Back from left) Dr. To Chi-ho and Mr. Law Cheung-sing

Joint Seminar in Guangzhou



The 2nd Zhongshan Ophthalmic Centre - PolyU Joint Research Seminar was held on 9-10 January.

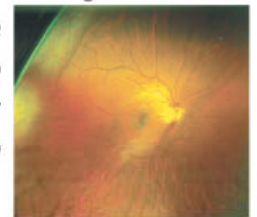
There were 19 short paper presentations, including 9 from PolyU. This seminar provided a valuable opportunity for the research personnel in both institutions to exchange ideas on different aspects of eye research.

News from.....

The Clinic - High Myopia Service

Dr. Vincent Ng

It is well known that patients with high myopia have higher risks of chorioretinal atrophy, retinal thinning, cataract and glaucoma. We established a special service to cater especially for the needs of high myopes. In addition to the extensive array of investigative tools in the Optometry Clinic, we have added the new Optomap Panoramic Ophthalmoscope for wide field retinal imaging to support this new service.

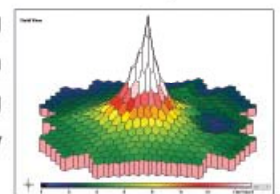


Extensive chorioretinal atrophy associated with high myopia

The Research Lab

Dr. Henry Chan

Our research work shows that veiling luminance from light scattering affects retinal adaptation and ganglion cell activity. We have now designed a special protocol to control retina adaptation during multifocal electroretinogram measurement. We believe that this special protocol can record ganglion cell activity. We are confirming our work by studying glaucomatous damage in humans. We are also conducting in-vitro eye studies using this new protocol.



3-D plot of the multifocal ERG response

Conferences/Seminars/ Workshops

Seminars

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

18 May 2004 *Mr. William Kwan*

"Monochromatic aberrations of Hong Kong Children"

31 May 2004 *Dr. Shahidullah Mohammad*

"NO donors reduce aqueous humour formation in isolated pig eye"

31 May 2004 *Mr. Ben Chan*

"Orthokeratology practice in a university clinic"

Wellness in Action 2004

The main theme of Wellness in Action 2004 was to promote the notions of holistic and preventive health care to the PolyU community. Programmes included showcase, talks, and workshop. Our Optometry Clinic participated in the exhibition and completed vision screening for over 500 PolyU staff and students. Our Staff Optometrist, Dr. Vincent Ng, also delivered a talk on myopia.



Students Corner

Student Projects

Kei Sum Primary School, Diamond Hill 27 March 2004

The objectives of our vision screening programme are to provide preliminary eye exam and to increase the awareness of eye care to local residents. The age of our subjects ranged from 2 to 91 years old. About 200 people participated in our screening. Through this activity, we gained a lot of invaluable experience in organization and communication. We had to be prepared to take action according to the needs of the involved parties and the weather. We also recognized the importance of teamwork. We appreciate this experience very much since it allowed us to apply our clinical skills and related theory to real life.



(Year 3 students: Sally Chim, Jason Kwan, Peggy Lui, Jenny Lung, Kenny Tao, Kelvin Wan; Research helpers: Benny Tam, Ming Young)

Sally Chim, Year 3 Optometry Student

Exchange Students from ZhongShan Ophthalmic Centre, Sun Yat-sen University

When I first arrived in Hong Kong, I was rather nervous but the staff and teachers, especially Mrs. Lili Tan, in PolyU were very friendly and they made me feel at home after a few days. I have gained valuable clinical experience during my three months of optometry clinical training, especially in vision therapy since it is not well-developed in China. In addition to the clinical experience, this training has made me see clearly my future career goals in China.

Zeng Xiao-bo

The three months of clinical training in PolyU was very meaningful to me since I had many chances to apply my knowledge in clinical cases. Besides, I have also improved on my communication skills with patients. I especially like the case conference course since I could learn from the presentation of interesting cases from other students. I really enjoyed the learning environment in PolyU since both the teachers and the students were very friendly and helpful.

She Jie-ting

I felt honored to be selected as one of the exchange students to PolyU. The teachers and students were very kind and helpful, which made my three-month stay very enjoyable. The role of optometrists in the Optometry Clinic of PolyU and in Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center is very different. The former provides comprehensive primary eye care whereas the latter is only responsible for refractive problems. I personally feel that the model in PolyU is the best.

Xie Su-zhen

For the first time, I saw how different optometry really is outside mainland China. I like the education model in PolyU since it allows active interaction between students and teachers through different learning activities, not to mention the advanced facilities and equipment in both the school and the optometry clinic. I am really thankful to all the staff and teachers in the department, who had been very helpful throughout my entire three months of training.

Lan Wei-zhong



(From Left : Lan Wei-zhong, She Jie-ting, Zeng Xiao-bo, Xie Su-zhen)

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