

# In-focus

A quarterly newsletter of School of Optometry



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## School of Optometry

**T**his is the first newsletter of the School of Optometry. Formed on 1 September 2005, the School has emerged from several evolutions. Starting as a section in the Institute of Medical and Health Care (IMHC), it joined with the radiography section to form the Department of Diagnostic Sciences (DS) in 1987. The Department was renamed the Department of Optometry and Radiography (OR) in 1992.

The School is buzzing. The School has an annual intake of 35 undergraduate students in its 4 year BSc(Hons) in Optometry programme. It has 16 research students currently pursuing MPhil and PhD degrees. Research is supported by 15 research personnel and other development projects are supported by another 9 project personnel. Projects range from searching for myopia genes to improving the public's awareness of vision care.



The buzz is most pronounced in the Optometry Clinic. This self-sustaining teaching clinic sees over 20,000 patients per year and has an embarassingly long waiting list. Its operation has outgrown its infrastructure in less than 5 years. It now operates 2 satellite clinics, one in Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital and another within a housing estate in Lai King. Plans are underway to establish a third satellite clinic.

Teaching and learning have been modernized. Supported by a grant from the university, a significant proportion of the Optometry curriculum is now on an e-learning platform. The virtual clinic module enables students to learn skills, integrate data and make decisions in much the same way as pilots train in flight simulators. Ocular therapeutics have been incorporated. Concurrently, today's students receive more real life clinical training than ever before. By the time an optometry student graduates, he/she will have personally conducted over 400 patient consultations, not including all those patients seen in vision screening programmes.

Employment of optometry graduates remains at 100% and starting salaries are in the top 10% category of all Hong Kong graduates. More and more graduates in mid-career are setting up solo or group practices, fulfilling a professional goal to be their "own boss".

In the years to come, the School will continue to concentrate on core business, teaching and learning supported by strong research. It will share its knowledge, expertise and experience gained over 2 decades with new optometry schools in the Chinese Mainland and the region. It will strive to be a centre of excellence for academic optometry, relevant in the region and in the 21st century.

**Prof. Maurice Yap**  
Chair Professor and Head  
School of Optometry

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# What's Happening Out There?

## The Hong Kong Scene

### Special Olympics – Quality Vision Care for People with Special Needs: By Ms. Rufina Chan, Clinical Optometrist, School of Optometry

"People who are mentally challenged deserve the same quality vision care to which every person is entitled." It is this belief that the School of Optometry has dedicated itself to the eye care of those with special needs over the past years.

We have completed two exciting programs in April and June this year.

From 8 to 12 April, vision screening was arranged for Po Leung Kuk Yu Lee Mo Fan Memorial School, a special-education school with 85 students, all of whom have conditions such as Down's Syndrome, autism and cerebral palsy. 8 Optometry staff and 20 students contributed their time and effort to this very meaningful event.

Our School has been working with the Hong Kong Special Olympics (HKSO) and Lions Clubs International (LCI) for over 4 years. Vision screening for the HKSO athletes is conducted annually to provide special athletes with quality vision care. On 28 June, the Special Olympics Opening Eyes Program was organized during the 88th Lions Clubs International Convention. 20 Optometry staff, together with 40 Lions volunteers provided eye care to almost a hundred Hong Kong Special Olympians. Through this uplifting event, Special Olympics athletes receive the eye health services they need, allowing them to be better athletes and more productive community members.



### Hong Kong Optometric Association - 40 Years of Weathering the Storm: By Dr. Carly Lam, Associate Professor, School of Optometry

For Hong Kong, the 1960s was a time of flux, industrially searching for a role, agriculturally in decline, socially unstable with a large influx of refugees. Despite all these challenges, it was also a time of optimism, with professions flourishing, setting up standards and building up prestige. In this climate, an often neglected and misunderstood profession organised itself - on 3 August 1965, the Hong Kong Optometric Association was inaugurated.



Forty years on, the Hong Kong Optometric Association met on 3 August 2005 to celebrate the progress made. Nearly 300 members attended a 3-hour continuous education programme as a prelude to the celebration banquet. Founding members like Mr. Au Kai Yi (centre in front row), a number of past presidents and office bearers (front row) were there to reflect on the challenges faced and the tortuous steps to raise the professionalism of the industry. Individuals with significant contributions to the profession were recognised with awards, speeches were made reminiscing events of the past. Prof. Maurice Yap and Prof. George Woo received awards for their excellent service to optometry education. All participants received a very special umbrella to signify the professional spirit of weathering the storm together.

## Elsewhere in the World

### Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents (TPA) Course: By Dr. Andrew Lam, Associate Professor, School of Optometry

You are probably aware of the global trend in optometric education to move towards ocular therapeutics. From 5 to 15 June 2005, I attended a TPA course at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry. It was a 100-hour course designed for ODs who graduated years ago without formal therapeutic education and training. The course was very intensive, running from 9 am to 8 pm almost everyday. It covered microbiology, immunology, pharmacology, ocular pathology, and the treatment and management of ocular diseases. A 3-hour final examination was held after the course. Our School of Optometry is now planning a didactic TPA course which will be run in 2006. Stay tuned.

### Orthokeratology Research at PolyU Making Strong and Significant Impact Internationally: By Dr. Pauline Cho, Associate Professor, School of Optometry

The LORIC (Longitudinal Orthokeratology Research In Children) study conducted by the Orthokeratology Research Team of PolyU has made significant impact internationally. The results of this study have been presented over 10 times in no less than 8 countries – HK, China, UK, USA, Canada, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia. According to the data provided by industry, Orthokeratology penetration (per million population) is highest in Hong Kong. However, interest in Orthokeratology is growing globally, especially with the publication of the positive results on myopic control with Orthokeratology from our LORIC study.

Recently, I was invited to present the LORIC results at the BCLA (Brighton, UK) meeting in June, and again at the Global Orthokeratology Symposium (Chicago) in July 2005.

At GOS, Mr. John Mountford a long time collaborator of ours, was awarded the Rodger Kame Award for his dedication and contribution to Orthokeratology.

Our Project Associate, Ms. Eman Kwong, also presented our e-learning package, on Ortho-k. This package is designed to help optometrists to start Ortho-k practice.



# Our People

## Academic Visitors to School of Optometry



Senior staff from the Eye Centre, 1st Affiliated Hospital of Zhejiang University

Date: 25 June 2005  
(Fourth from left: Dr. Li Yu-min, Prof. Yap, Dr. Han Kai, Dr. Shen, Dr. Han Wei)



**Dr. Saw Seang Mei**  
Associate Professor  
Department of Community  
Occupational and Family Medicine  
National University of Singapore

Date: 5 September 2005  
Topic: The epidemic of myopia in Asia



**Prof. J. Mario Wolosin**  
Department of Ophthalmology Mount  
Sinai School of Medicine, New York

Date: 8 September 2005  
Topic: Stem and side population cells in the epithelia of the ocular surface

## New Staff

We welcome the following new staff:



### **Mr. Davie Chen – Optometry Resident**

It is my honour to be one of the 2005/06 Optometry Residents. I am glad to have the chance to work with my mentor, Mr. Vincent Chui, and many experienced optometrists in clinic. In the coming two years, my specialty area is anterior segment and advanced contact lens fitting, especially Orthokeratology.



### **Miss Jenny Lung Chun-ye – Optometry Resident**

Hi, I am Jenny, a 2005 graduate in Optometry. I am happy that I can be one of the Optometry Residents this year. Besides being in the specialty of PCC, I also have a chance to work with retinitis pigmentosa patients. It is really a challenge to me. I hope I can grasp this precious opportunity to enrich my clinical experience and make good use of it in the future.

## Appointment of Teaching Consultant

Dr. Carly Lam, Associate Professor and Programme Team Leader of School of Optometry, has been appointed Teaching Consultant at the Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center, Sun Yat-sen University.

# Conferences / Seminars / Workshops

## Seminars

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

**13 Sep 2005** Mr. Tomy Lo  
"Mapping of myopia susceptibility genes using case-control studies"

**18 Oct 2005** Ms. Victoria Law  
"Farnsworth-Munsell 100 hue test of normal observers age 20-29 and 50-59"

## Conference

### **The 3rd Hong Kong Optometric Conference**

The 3rd Hong Kong Optometric Conference will take place on 3 November 2005 at Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. It is organized by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, The Hong Kong Optometric Association and PolyU-Optometry. The conference is held in conjunction with the Hong Kong Optical Fair 2005. For more information, please visit <http://www.hkopticalfair.com>

### **The 3rd Asia Cornea & Contact Lens Conference**

The 3rd Asia Cornea & Contact Lens Conference will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 30 April to 1 May 2006. The theme of this conference is "Looking Beyond 2020". The paper submission deadline is on 28 January 2006. More information can be found from the website: [www.amoptom.org/default.htm](http://www.amoptom.org/default.htm).

# Students Corner

## Optometry Exchange Program in summer 2004/2005

By Mrs. Lili Tan, Optometry Exchange Liaison Officer, School of Optometry

PolyU supported 20 optometry students to overseas institutions and Mainland China for clinical placements last summer (June - August 2005). Four of them received student exchange sponsorship from Academic Exchange and Collaboration Office (AECO) and were sent to University of Waterloo and The University of Auckland for a semester credit-bearing program. They were Ho Chu Wing and Chan Koon Chi (University of Waterloo) and Li Lap Mei and Leung Mei Po (University of Auckland). Two students were sent to Queensland University of Technology (QUT) for 3 weeks being one of them supported by Boston travelling scholarship. They were Sum Wing Man and Cheng Suk Yi. Fourteen students were sent to Mainland China for 4 weeks and were supported by the PolyU Preferred Graduate Development Program (PGDP):



Ms. Rosina Cheung and Ms. Cora Fong attended clinical externship at PolyU

Beijing Hospital and Chinese Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine Hospital (CATCM)  
Tang Kin Wing, Cheung Man Hei, Hui Wing Sze, Kwong Chau Fei, Chan Ching Ching, Yip Wing Kin, Fung Man Yan, Choy Man Sai

Zhejiang 1st Affiliated Hospital, Hangzhou  
So Ka Man, Huang Mei Chu

Zhejiang 2nd Affiliated Hospital, Hangzhou  
So Pui Shan, Chow Kwan Yin

Shanghai Xinhua Hospital  
Chan Wai Yi, Chan Ting Yuen

At the receiving end, we welcomed four students from overseas and Mainland China for their clinical externships at our clinic. They were Ms Rosina Cheung (University of Waterloo), Ms Cora Fong (University of Auckland), Dr. Zeng Li (Shanghai Tonji University) and Dr. Zhang Zheng (Zhejiang University). They spent 3 – 6 weeks here in our Optometry Clinic.

## Feedbacks From Students:-

### University of Waterloo – Ho Chu-wing and Chan Koon Chi



I would like to first express my sincere gratitude to PolyU for giving me this opportunity to study in Canada. Special thanks to clinical staff of the School of Optometry of University of Waterloo. I learnt a lot in different clinics such as Primary Care Clinic, Binocular Vision Clinic, Low Vision Clinic, Ocular Health Clinic, Contact Lens Clinic as well as Dispensing

Service. Besides studying, the trip also gave me chances to make new friends from different countries and visited different places in Canada such as Toronto and Ottawa. It was a truly unforgettable trip and I will definitely recommend this exchange programme to all year 3 students.

### The University of Auckland – Li Lap Mei and Leung Mei Po



I was lucky to have this valuable chance of visiting the University of Auckland. During my 7-week stay, I saw over 70 patients. The majority were pathological cases including rarely seen keratoconus patients. Apart from clinical skills, this exchange has also enabled me to gain new friends and visit a beautiful country.



### Queensland University of Technology – Sum Wing Man and Cheng Suk Yi



Joining the exchange programme at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane was not only a memorable experience but has also broadened my horizons in Optometry. Maymay Cheng and I spent three weeks at their Optometry Clinic. Their practice is quite similar to Hong Kong, including an initial consultation, follow-up, contact lens, binocular vision

assessment and low vision sessions. Other than clinical skills, communication with patients was one of the vital aspects of patient care we have learnt, especially interacting with Australian patients.

I would like to thank the PolyU Optometry Staff, especially Mrs Lili Tan and Prof. Peter Swann in Brisbane for giving me this fantastic and valuable experience this summer!!!

### Zhejiang 1st Affiliated Hospital – So Ka Man and Huang Mei Chu

At Zhejiang Hospital (Zheyi Eye Centre), we had the opportunity to learn from different specialists in ophthalmology, including LASIK, cataract, retina related disease, glaucoma. We have also witnessed the entire



process of various eye surgery related to the areas mentioned above. It was a valuable and unforgettable trip for us to widen our knowledge and clinical exposure in different types of ocular pathology and ophthalmic surgery. We also befriended students from Zhejiang University. It was a pleasant experience to share one another's culture.

### Zhejiang 2nd Affiliated Hospital – So Pui Shan and Chow Kwan Yin



When we first arrived at the hospital, we were timid and afraid to take the initiative to learn. But soon we found the doctors and nurses were friendly and helpful. They helped us very much in getting used to the new clinical environment. Instead of standing aside to observe, we

assisted ophthalmologists in treating eye diseases. It was not an easy task because we often had to communicate with local people in their dialect. However it was a precious opportunity for us to experience daily life in a mainland hospital.

### Shanghai Xinhua Hospital – Chan Wai Yi and Chan Ting Yuen



After spending 4 weeks at the Xinhua Hospital, Danny and I have both developed professionally and personally. There were 2 parts to our visit. We were attached to the Optometric Center as well as the Ophthalmology Department. Although the medical system in the country is still developing, the instrumentation was

impressive. They included VF analyser, HRT and endothelium camera, etc. We look forward to more exchanges and visits to the mainland in the future.

### Beijing Hospital and CATCM – Tang Kin Wing, Cheung Man Hei, Hui Wing Sze, Kwong Chau Fei, Chan Ching Ching, Yip Wing King, Fung Man Yan and Choy Man Sai



We would like to thank the School of Optometry for sending us to this exchange programme in Beijing. At the Beijing Hospital, we learnt a lot from the ophthalmologists, especially in ocular pathology. We had opportunities to observe different kinds of eye surgeries including

vitrectomy. We also observed the mixed treatment of using traditional Chinese medicine and western medicine in the Chinese Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine Hospital (CATCM), which really broaden our horizon. Furthermore, through this exchange, our Putonghua had improved.

### Vision Screening in Huaiji, China So Pui Shan, Year 4 Optometry Student



Last December, our School and the China Care Fund Ltd. organized a mainland vision screening project in a rural village in Huaiji. The aim was to provide eye care service to a group of Huaiji secondary school students, and arouse awareness of the importance of ocular health care. With the help of Mr. CY Tang,

Mr. Tomy Lo, Mr. Gary Fung and 13 secondary school students from Yan Chai Hospital Lan Chi Pat Memorial Secondary School, we successfully screened 641 secondary students and 40 pairs of spectacles were dispensed. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to apply our knowledge and skills in University, in serving the community.

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