

# In-focus

A quarterly newsletter of the School of Optometry



The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

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## World Council of Optometry

**T**he mission of the World Council of Optometry (WCO) is to facilitate the enhancement and development of eye and vision care worldwide. In Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Optometric Association and the Hong Kong Society of Professional Optometrists are associate members of the WCO whereas the PolyU is an affiliate member. In my capacity as Vice President of Asia-Pacific Council of Optometry, I became a member of the Governing Board of WCO.



The Council's Governing Board held its meeting in Hong Kong for the first time in November 1-4 2005. Upon arrival, delegates from all six regions of the world attended a welcome dinner hosted by the Council of the Hong Kong Society of Professional Optometrists. It was a get acquainted dinner enjoyed by all. In spite of the Board having a very tight schedule in Hong Kong, members had an official session with HKOA, HKSPPO, HKAPPO and PolyU on November 2. The session was also attended by Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food, Mrs. Carrie Yau and Prof. Poon Chung-kwong, President of PolyU. During the question and answer period, a number of topics were discussed. They included primary eye care provided by Optometrists in the private sector, optometric educational program at PolyU, the role of Optometrists Board and some of the activities of the three associations. Participants also toured PolyU's Optometry Clinic. In the evening, members of the Board attended a Gala Dinner hosted by the Trade Development Council and the Hong Kong Optometric Association.

On November 3, the Board moved its meeting from PolyU to Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre where delegates attended the opening ceremony of the 3rd Hong Kong Optometric Conference. President Dan Sheni brought greetings from WCO and Mr. Robert Chappell gave a presentation entitled A Global Competency-Based Model of Scope of Practice in Optometry. After a session on Strategic Planning, members were invited to attend the School of Optometry dinner held at the Marco Polo Hongkong Hotel. It was a historical event celebrating the establishment of the School of Optometry after some twenty seven years. The founding Head of the School, Prof. Maurice Yap welcomed the WCO Governing Board members on this very special occasion. Others present included former heads of Department: Profs. Woo, Millodot and Edwards.

The Board resumed its meeting in PolyU on November 4 before departing for Guangzhou for a glimpse of the development of Optometry in Chinese mainland. All in all, members of the Board enjoyed their meeting in Hong Kong and China.

In May 2006, the WCO's World Conference on Optometric Education 5 (WCOE5) will have its meeting in Milan, Italy. The first global educational meeting hosted by WCO was held in Houston in 1990. Hong Kong was the site for the meeting in 1993. This fifth meeting will focus on Expanding Educational Resources and Infrastructure: The Challenge of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight. Educators in Optometry are encouraged to attend this session.



This educational congress will respond to the challenges and opportunities that globalization will pose for optometric education. There will be a number of renowned speakers sharing their expertise with us. PolyU's participation is featured prominently. Prof. Maurice Yap will chair the first session on Teaching and Learning Strategies. Dr. Carly Lam will deliver a presentation. Prof. George Woo, Chair of the Steering Committee, will make introductory and summary remarks at WCOE5.



**Prof. George Woo**

Associate Dean, Faculty of Health & Social Sciences  
Chair Professor of Optometry, School of Optometry

In-focus



# What's Happening Out There?

## The Hong Kong Scene

### HK Optometrists Credentialed by the Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand

By Dr. Andrew Siu, Associate Professor, School of Optometry



The aviation sector has reportedly adopted the highest visual standards for its employees among all industries. Safety is a primary concern in the aviation field and the price of any mistake could be dear for all. Recently, 18 HK optometrists joined hands with NZ colleagues in providing vision and eye examinations for the NZ aviation industry. Assessment reports prepared by an authorized optometrist in HK will be accepted by the Civil Aviation Authority of NZ, upon which a person is judged whether s/he is visually fit to work in a specific environment. Aviation traffic controllers, equipment operators, private and commercial pilots are required by NZ law to pass a stringent assessment in terms of ocular health and visual function before they are licensed. The law also stipulates that all license holders are required to have regular eye assessments. HK optometrists have made history by going through the same credentialing procedures as in NZ. Optometry is legally licensed and entrusted by the society to assess the eyes. Drivers, policemen and firemen are potential users of our skills. When we look at the issue from a professional perspective, optometry has to strive for more recognition from the government, private sectors and the community in HK as an independent eye care discipline. If we share the same vision and put in energy together, optometry will fly in the coming decade.

You may logon to the following websites and learn more of developments in NZ aviation vision:

<http://www.nzao.co.nz/links.html> or [http://www.nzao.co.nz/media\\_releases.html](http://www.nzao.co.nz/media_releases.html)

## The 3rd Hong Kong Optometric Conference

By Dr. Andrew Lam, Associate Professor, School of Optometry

It was an honour to be one of the speakers at the 3rd Hong Kong Optometric Conference. More than 600 people attended the conference to keep abreast of the latest optometric knowledge. Speakers included Mr. Robert Chappell, Prof. Michel Millodot, Mr. Peter Hendicott, Prof. Brian Brown, and Dr. Larry Ng. It was a good opportunity to meet with Michel, Peter and Brian altogether here in Hong Kong.

My topic was **"Advanced technologies are very useful for making diagnosis, but..."** which covered the measurement of ocular aberrations, tonometry, and the assessment of nerve fiber layer thickness. Participants of this conference gained 6 CE hours. We would like to thank the Hong Kong Optometric Association for sponsoring our students to attend the conference.



## The Dinner Function Celebrating the Inauguration of the School of Optometry

By Dr. Carly Lam, Associate Head, School of Optometry

The dinner function was held on Nov 3rd 2005, and was appropriately themed "PolyU - Optometry: Past, Present and Future".

Prof. Thomas Wong, Dean of Faculty of Health and Social Sciences officiated the function. Prof. Maurice Yap welcomed the honoured guests and alumni. Past Heads including Prof. George Woo, Prof. Michel Millodot, Dr. Marion Edwards, all came to speak, reminiscing on the paths we walked, and the achievements along the way. Prof. Brian Brown spoke of how he 'lost' the headship to Michel, but we all know how much we gained when he came to the Poly as the Reader at the invitation of Michel. All were so proud that we are finally a School of Optometry, like many of our counterparts elsewhere.



Dr. Carly Lam and Prof. Chi-Ho To took the stage discussing the present. Last year's graduate Ms Angel Ip and current final year student Mr. Andy Meau, spoke about their hopes for the future of Optometry.

In the presence of friends from the World Council of Optometry, HKOA, HKSPPO, HKAPPO, the Industry and from the community, as well as former lecturers and alumni from all over the world, it was a gathering that really warmed all our hearts, and put into perspective on how far we have come over the past 2 decades.

## A Brief History of Optometry at PolyU

Optometry was first formalized as an academic discipline in Hong Kong some 27 years ago, with the establishment of the Optometry section at the Institute of Medical and Health Care (IMHC) of the Hong Kong Polytechnic. Reflecting optometry's growth as both a discipline and a vocation, the Optometry Clinic was set up in 1985 to provide students with practical clinical experience, which has since proved beneficial to the development of the optometry profession as well as the promotion of good eye and vision health to Hong Kong's public.

In 1987 when the IMHC was restructured, Optometry joined with the Radiography section to form the Department of Diagnostic Sciences. The Department was renamed the Department of Optometry and Radiography five years later.

This relatively new century has already seen new trends in health care, and Optometry has kept abreast. It set up the Vision Rehabilitation Clinic in 2000, and a satellite Optometry Clinic in a local hospital in 2001 — for the first time in Hong Kong's history, optometrists are providing primary eye care services in a public hospital. On 1 September 2005, the School of Optometry (SO) was created from the restructuring of the Department.





## Elsewhere in the World

### Asia-Pacific Optometric Congress

By Prof. George Woo, Chair Professor, School of Optometry

The 15th APOC was held in Tokyo from October 10th through 14th 2005. This biennial meeting was sponsored by Asia-Pacific Council of Optometry and hosted by All Japan Optometric and Optical Association. Participants came from 14 countries: China, Hong Kong, Philippines, Nepal, India, Malaysia, Korea, Singapore, Fiji, Australia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Thailand and USA. There were more than forty papers presented at the scientific paper session of the conference. Quite a number of these papers were presented by PolyU colleagues. In addition, there were two International Symposiums. They were "Aging and Low Vision" and "Cornea, Contact Lens and Update on Refractive Surgeries"



One of the highlights of APOC was the KB Woo Memorial Lecture. Prof. Maurice Yap was the lecturer on this occasion. He presented a talk on "Myopia research-a perspective from Hong Kong" summarizing the many research projects that are being pursued at the School of Optometry. At the conclusion of the conference, it was announced that the 16th APOC will be held in India in 2007. For further information, please visit the website:

<http://www.asiapacificoptometry.org>

### Vision Screening Missions for Overseas Refugees

By Dr. Akio Kanai, O.D. Chairman, International Affairs Committee, All Japan Optometric and Optical Association (AJOOA)

Vision Screening Missions for the refugees in overseas countries with distribution of pre-made eyeglasses have been instituted by the optometric team from Japan since 1983. These missions have been undertaken annually based upon the official request made by the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) office since 1984.



As of 2005, the missions have been conducted in four countries, namely, Thailand for the Indo-Chinese Refugees (1983-1993), Nepal for the Bhutanese Refugees (1994-), Armenia for the refugees from Azerbaijan (1997-2004) and Azerbaijan for the refugees from various countries and IDPs (Internally displaced persons) (2005-). During the last 23 missions over one hundred thousand pairs of pre-made glasses have been donated to the UNHCR along with some IOL, hearing aids, low vision equipment, diagnostic units and trial lenses. The training of the ophthalmic staff has been conducted also.

## Our People

### Enhancing Contact Lens Practice through Continuing Professional Education

By Dr. Pauline Cho, Associate Professor, School of Optometry

Looking for an avenue to refresh and up-date your knowledge in contact lens practice? We have good news for you.



The School has secured a project grant from the Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Professional Services Development Assistance Scheme (PSDAS), organized by the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau) to improve contact lens practice through continuing education. All registered contact lens practitioners in Hong Kong are welcome to register to participate in our continuing education courses and activities. We will also publish newsletters, handbooks, and a manual of clinical practice.

An information leaflet has been mailed to all registered optometrists in January 2006, together with a survey on contact lens practice which will give us more information to assist in the planning of future educational materials and courses. Remember to register to participate in this project.

In addition to the grant from the government, the project is also supported by Johnson & Johnson Vision Care (HK), Alcon Hong Kong, Ltd., Skyview Optical Co. Ltd., AMO Asia Limited and Coopervision Asia Pacific.

The project is administered by the Contact Lens Education and Research (CLEAR) unit of the School of Optometry.

### Optometry Annual Retreat

The School organized a successful planning retreat, entitled "Alignment with Programme Outcomes" on 9 and 10 January 2006. The purpose of the two-day retreat was to bring the advisory committee members, academic and clinical staff together to foster networking and establish a common agenda for the School to pursue over the coming year, as well as years to come. The discussions at the retreat were fruitful and constructive. We discussed the challenges and values, identified a new vision, crafted mission statement and programme outcomes. The programme team will now concentrate on working out the business plan taking into consideration the opinions and suggestions collected at the retreat.



### Appointment of Associate Head

Dr. Carly Lam was appointed as Associate Head of the School of Optometry, PolyU in January 2006.



### Retirement of Mr. Tang Churk Yan



Mr. Tang Churk Yan, Assistant Professor, has taken early retirement after 21 years' of excellent service to PolyU - Optometry from October 1984 to December 2005.

## Academic Visitors to the School of Optometry



### Prof. Barry Collin

Honorary Professor, PolyU and Emeritus Professor, Department of Optometry and Visual Science, University of New South Wales, Australia

Date: 1 November 2005



### Dr. Tim Lam

Associate Professor of Research Ophthalmology, Doheny Eye Institute, Los Angeles

Date: 1 November 2005

Lecture: An exciting time in exploring drug therapy for ocular diseases

### Dr. Marion Edwards

Date: 1-9 November 2005



### Prof. Oscar Candia

Professor and Vice Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and Professor of Physiology and Biophysics, Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Date: 4-12 November



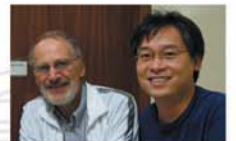
### Prof. Michel Millodot

Emeritus Professor, PolyU & Visiting Scientist, Department of Optometry of Cardiff University UK

Date: 8 November 2005  
Lecture: Visual processing and perception - in sickness and in health

Date: 11 November 2005

Lecture: A personal journey of scientific research



### Dr. James Wolffsohn

Senior Lecturer, Director of Postgraduate Development, Neurosciences Research Institute, School of Life and Health Sciences, Aston University, UK

Date: 14 November 2005

Lecture: Vision of the future - contact lens and anterior eye practice





## News from .....

### The Research Lab

#### Novel Lens to Control Myopia in Chicks and Human By Prof. Chi-ho To, Professor, School of Optometry

We continue to work with chicks and using the lens-induced myopia paradigm to study the normal and myopic ocular growth. The data suggest that the retina can integrate simultaneously different images and grow accordingly. We postulate that this may be the key in ocular growth. Misalignment of this integration will lead to myopia. The work was presented by Dennis Tse, one of our PhD students, in the last ARVO and he was given a myopia research award (Sek-Jin Chew traveling grant) because of this new finding.

This lesson learnt from chick models and optical integration has given us confidence to pursue clinical applications with this principle. We are in the process of working with the eye care industry to devise novel optical lens designs that can help the eye to integrate optical images fully. This could be the beginning of a way to control myopia.



### New Papers

Choi S.W., Benzie I.F.F., Lam C.S.Y., Chat S.W.S., Lam J., Yiu C.H., Kwan J.J., Tan Y.H., Yeung G.S.P., Yeung V.T.F., Woo G.C., Hannigan B.M. and Strain J.J. Inter-relationships between DNA damage, ascorbic acid and glycaemic control in Type 2 diabetes mellitus. *Diabetic Medicine* 2005;22:1347-1353

Qin X.J., Margrain T.H., To C.H., Bromham N. and Guggenheim J.A. Anisometropia is independently associated with both spherical and cylindrical ametropia. *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science* 2005;46(11):4024-4031

Chan H.H.L. Detection of glaucomatous damage using multifocal ERG. *Clinical and Experimental Optometry* 2005;88(6):410-414

Guggenheim, J.A. and To C.H. Monovision slows myopia progression. *Br J Ophthalmol* 2005;89:1076-1077

Boost M.V., Cho P. High incidence of trachoma in rural areas of Guangxi, PRC. *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* 2005;5:735-736

Woo G.C. Diversity in optometric education within and across China: challenges for harmonisation. *Clinical and Experimental Optometry* 2005;88(6):420-425

## Conferences / Seminars / Workshops

### Seminars

In December 2005, our clinical optometrists delivered two seminars to the profession:

**29 Dec 2005** Miss Ronnie Huang and Miss Bibianna Yu, Clinical Optometrists  
"Evaluation of children's vision"

**30 Dec 2005** Dr. Larry Ng and Dr. Vincent Ng, Clinical Optometrists  
"Evaluation of common eye problems"



## Students Corner

### Externship at Zhongshan Ophthalmic Centre

By Dr. Larry Ng, Clinical Optometrist, School of Optometry

All our fourth year students attended the Zhongshan Ophthalmic Centre in Guangzhou for their external clinic rotation in September and December 2005. During this four week externship program, students were exposed to ocular disease management procedures in a hospital environment. They had opportunities to observe and manage patients with different ocular conditions e.g. amblyopia, pre- and post- LASIK, glaucoma, cataract, and corneal injury. Our students gained valuable clinical knowledge in decision-making and case analysis from the mentorship of our PolyU's clinic educators as well as the local attending ophthalmologists in the Centre.



### Community Service Learning Award



The Community Service programme was organized by the PolyU's Student Affairs Office, together with over 20 academic departments and the Students' Union. It was held between 3 - 5 November 2005 at the PolyU. On the community service day, we conducted vision screening for over 600 elderly and disabled visitors. In addition, the Vision Hong Kong project was also show-cased. The vision screening project in Huaiji was chosen to be one of the eight exemplary projects this year. The aim of this project was to provide primary eye care service to secondary school students in Huaiji and to arouse their awareness of ocular health care.

### The Eleventh Congregation

The Eleventh Congregation was held on 3 December 2005. This year, there were 25 graduates from our BSc (Hons) in Optometry programme.



## Optometry Alumni

### The School of Optometry Annual Golf Day, 4 November 2005

By Prof. Barry Collin, Honorary Professor

The weather was perfect. The venue, Kau Sai Chau Golf Course, is one of the most picturesque courses in the world, with mountains surrounding and the ocean with numerous islands visible in the distance. The golf course was in immaculate condition and our hopes were for great golf in great surroundings.

For some, their golf matched the setting and they were duly rewarded. For others, disappointment was short-lived because of the enjoyment of great friendship, congeniality and the views. And there is always next year.

The successful winners were:

Optometry Champion: (Dr) Chan Ho Lung Henry

Optometry Runner-up: (Mr) Cheng Yiu Suen

Friends of Optometry Champion: (Dr) Hsieh Szu En

Friends of Optometry Runner-up: (Mrs) Agnes Gardner

Closest to the Pin: (Dr) Eric So

Longest Drive (Ladies): (Mrs) Agnes Gardner

Longest Drive (Ladies and Gents): (Miss) Noel Chung



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