

# *In-focus*

A quarterly newsletter of the School of Optometry



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## Departmental Assessment

Every five years, academic departments at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University are reviewed through a "Departmental Assessment" as part of the quality assurance (QA) framework of the university. The assessment typically lasts 4 days during which time a panel of international and local experts systematically go through the department's performance over the past 5 years and reviews its future plans. Every aspect of the department is open to scrutiny. The panel produces a report at the end of the exercise which includes an assessment of the department's performance as well as recommendations for management's action or consideration. In May 2006, the School underwent a departmental assessment.



QA exercises such as this are time consuming but can be useful in many ways. It brings colleagues together to reflect on past activities but more importantly, it creates the space to focus attention on the future. Through this assessment exercise, the School re-affirms its commitment to an optometry curriculum which includes ocular therapeutics. To bring our programme in line with other programmes internationally, we have set a target for each student to conduct at least 1,000 patient consultations before graduation. In research, we are committed to finding a way to control myopia in children within 5 years. We must do this to prevent a future where high myopia becomes the norm and the resultant visual impairment becomes a heavy burden for the next generation to bear. More immediately, we will collaborate with our community partners to realize the WHO-Vision 2020 goal of reducing preventable blindness through self-sustaining programmes such as our Lai King diabetic retinopathy screening programme, our Vision Hong Kong charity project and our outreach projects in the Chinese Mainland. We will continue to work closely with our profession and governmental agencies to promote public knowledge and understanding about optometry and eye care.

As I see it, the next 5 years will be even more exciting and twice the fun as the past 5 years. Let the show begin!

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

P.S. The School received a rating of 4.5 out of 5 in its departmental assessment.

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# What's Happening Out There?

## The Hong Kong Scene

### World Sight Day 2006

This year, our professional associations (HKSPPO, HKOA, HKAPPO) and the School joined together and took out a newspaper supplement to promote eyecare and to inform the public about World Sight Day. This supplement reached about five hundred and twenty-three thousand readers.

Our profession also collaborated with Lions Clubs International District 303 (Hong Kong & Macau, China) to conduct vision screening for children in five centres in Hong Kong and Macau. Working side by side with eight hundred Lions Club members, 80 optometrists and students volunteered their time to conduct vision screening for 1,400 children.

"I found this experience very meaningful, working with experienced optometrists. I learnt a lot about screening techniques and also the importance of community service." said Chan Ka-ho Eric, a Year 2 optometry student.



## Elsewhere in the World

### Fifth Session of the World Conference on Optometric Education (WCOE5)

By Dr. Carly Lam, School of Optometry

In May 2006, the World Council of Optometry (WCO) attracted 250 optometric leaders from 45 countries to the World Conference on Optometric Education (WCOE5), which was hosted by the Associazione Federativa Nazionale Ottici Optometristi and the Mostra Internazionale di Ottica, Optometria e Oftalmologia in Milan, Italy. As Associate Head of the School, I delivered a presentation entitled, "New Educational Learning Strategies: Case-based and Problem-based Experiences."



WCOE5 focused on expanding educational resources and infrastructure given the challenges of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight, a global initiative to eliminate preventable blindness by the year 2020. The following five key themes were covered in the programme:

- Teaching and Learning Strategies
- Education for VISION 2020: The Right to Sight
- Industry's Role and Impact in Optometric Education
- Building Faculty and Curricula in Developing Programmes
- Competency-based Strategies for Assessment

In the presentation, I described how case scenarios were used to simulate real-life clinical situations, thereby encouraging students to integrate and apply their knowledge to derive appropriate diagnosis and treatment. I also introduced the Virtual Optometry Clinic which was developed to enhance student learning in patient management and care.

WCO President Vic Connors commented that, "VISION 2020: The Right to Sight challenges optometry to train new personnel, improve human resources, strengthen the health care infrastructures and optimize technology. Dr. Lam's presentation stressed the importance of using a case-based educational approach that enables students to refine their clinical reasoning, decision-making and patient management skills." The conference was chaired by Prof. George Woo and Prof. Maurice Yap chaired one of the sessions.

## The 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia Cornea & Contact Lens Conference

By Dr. Vincent Ng, School of Optometry

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia Cornea & Contact Lens Conference (ACCLC) was held from 30 April to 1 May 2006, at Le Meridian Hotel in Sentral of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The first two ACCLCs were held successfully in Hong Kong in 2004 and 2005. This is the first time that the conference was held outside Hong Kong where the permanent secretariat is located. The Association of Malaysian Optometrists and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia were the hosts of this conference.

The theme of the conference was "Looking Beyond 2020". The event was attended by 233 delegates from different Asian countries, including 20 delegates from Hong Kong. In the two-day event, five keynote speakers were invited, including Nathan Efron from Australia, Pauline Cho from Hong Kong, Norhani Mohidin and Shamala Retnasabapathy from Malaysia, and Gordon Sanderson from New Zealand. The topics of keynote lectures and presentations included new perspective on silicon hydrogel contact lenses, contact lens associated keratitis, unusual corneal pathologies, speciality contact lenses, present and future development in corneal reshaping, and histological changes associated with corneal reshaping. After each of the keynote speakers' sessions, there were a number of oral presentations. Posters were also displayed during the event. In total, there were 4 presentations from PolyU researchers. In the closing ceremony, it was announced that the next ACCLC will return to Hong Kong.





## Our People

### William Feinbloom Award 2006

The American Academy of Optometry has announced in its September 2006 newsletter that the William Feinbloom Award has been awarded to Prof George Woo OD PhD FAAO.

The William Feinbloom Award is presented to an individual who has made a distinguished and significant contribution to clinical excellence and the direct clinical advancement of visual and optometric service and thus the visual enhancement of the public.

You can read about Prof. Woo's distinguished career on Page 8 of the AAO's newsletter:  
<http://www.aaopt.org/content/docs/FINAL%20Sept%202006.pdf>

Congratulations, George! Thank you for being an inspiration to all of us in Asia.



## Academic Visitors to the School of Optometry

### Staff from Dean's office of the Medical Education Sun Yat-sen University

Date: 22 June 2006

**Mr. Gordon Sanderson**

**Senior Lecturer in Ophthalmology, Otago University Medical School, New Zealand**

Date: 26 September 2006

Lecture: "UV Photography of the Cornea" & "The Otago VIP Falls Prevention Study"



## Our Research

### 2006/2007 Grants

Our researchers were very successful in their grant applications to the Research Grants Council of Hong Kong this year:

Project Investigators	Funding Awarded	Project Title
Dr. Henry Chan and Dr. Andrew Siu	HK \$692,500	Frontier of Technique in Modified Multifocal Electroretinogram Behind Optical Degradation Condition
Prof. To Chi-ho	HK \$697,500	A Novel Chamber System for Studying Clinical and Potential Anti-Glaucoma Drugs and Aqueous Humour Formation
Dr. Carly Lam and Prof. To Chi-ho	HK \$863,500	Control of Myopia Progression in Myopic Children Using Simultaneous Vision Approach
Prof. Yip Shea-ping and Prof. Maurice Yap	HK \$1,417,500	Use of an Efficient Three-stage Genetic Association Study to Identify Susceptibility Genes for High Myopia

## New Papers

Tam W.K., Chan H., Brown B., Leung K.W., Woo V., Yap M. Aging and mfERG topography. *Eye* 2006;20:18-24

Siu A.W., Maldonado M., Sanchez-Hidalgo M., Tan Dun-Xian., Reiter R. J. Protective effects of melatonin in experimental free radical-rated ocular diseases. *J. Pineal Res.* 2006;40:101-109

Chu P.H.W., Chan H.H.L., Brown B. Glaucoma detection is facilitated by luminance modulation of the global flash multifocal electroretinogram. *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science* 2006;47(3):929-937

Lam T.C., Li K.K., Lo S.C.L., Guggenheim J.A., To C.H. A chick retinal proteome database and differential retinal protein expressions during early ocular development. *Journal of Proteome Research* 2006;5(4):771-784

Ting P.W.K., Schmid K.L., Lam C.S.Y., Edwards M.H. Objective real-time measurement of instrument myopia in microscopists under different viewing conditions. *Vision Research* 2006;46:2354-2362

Do C.W., Peterson-Yantorno K., Civan M.M. Swelling-activated Cl<sup>-</sup> channels support Cl<sup>-</sup> secretion by bovine ciliary epithelium. *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science* 2006;47(6):2576-2582

Han W., Yap M.K.H., Wang J., Yip S.P. Family-based association analysis of hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) gene polymorphisms in high myopia. *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science* 2006;47(6):2291-2299

Do C.W., Civan M.M. Swelling-activated chloride channels in aqueous humour formation: on the one side and the other. *Acta Physiologica* 2006; 187:345-352

Li R.S., Chen B.Y., Tay D.K., Chan H.H.L., Pu Ming.L., So K.F. Melanopsin-expressing retinal ganglion cells are more injury-resistant in a chronic ocular hypertension model. *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science* 2006;47(7):2951-2958

Boost M.V., Cho P., Lai Sindy. Efficacy of multipurpose solutions for rigid gas permeable lenses. *Ophthalmic and Physiological Optics* 2006;26:468-475

Li R.S., Tay D.K., Chan H.H.L., So K.F. Changes of retinal functions following the induction of ocular hypertension in rats using argon laser photocoagulation. *Clinical and Experimental Ophthalmology* 2006;34:575-583

Wang Z., Do C.W., Avila M.Y., Stone R.A., Civan M.M. Refinements of invasive and noninvasive mouse intraocular pressure measurements (letter). *Investigative Ophthalmology Visual Science* 2006. Available from: <http://www.iovs.org/cgi/eletters/46/9/3274#422>

Cheung S.W., Cho P., Bron A.J., Chui V., Chan B. Case report: the occurrence of fibrillary lines in overnight orthokeratology. *Ophthalmic and Physiological Optics* 2006;26:525-531

## News from.....

### The Integrative Community Health Centre

#### The Signing Ceremony of the Cooperation Agreement

The signing ceremony of the cooperation agreement between Kwai Tsing Safe Community and Healthy City Association and the School of Optometry, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University has been signed on 25 May 2006 at the Integrative Community Health Centre in Lai King.



## Conferences / Seminars / Workshops

	Date & Venue	Details	Further information
Seminars	16 October 2006	"Legal Aspects of Contact Lens Practice" by Mr. Mark Lam, Solicitor	<a href="http://www.polyu.edu.hk/so/soce2006.html">http://www.polyu.edu.hk/so/soce2006.html</a>
	17 October 2006	"Remarkable Visual Field Defect with Uncertain Etiology: Case Series" by Miss Jenny Lung	
Continuing Professional Development Programme	May 2007	Distance Learning Orthokeratology CE course	<a href="http://www.polyu.edu.hk/so/soce2006.html">http://www.polyu.edu.hk/so/soce2006.html</a>
Conferences	9 November 2006 The Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre	The 4 <sup>th</sup> Hong Kong Optometric Conference	<a href="http://www.hkopticalfair.com">http://www.hkopticalfair.com</a>
	26 & 27 April 2007 Hong Kong	The 4 <sup>th</sup> Asia Cornea and Contact Lens Conference	<a href="http://www.polyu.edu.hk/so/acclc">http://www.polyu.edu.hk/so/acclc</a>
	14 May 2007 Hong Kong	The 1 <sup>st</sup> International Summit on Orthokeratology	

## Students Corner

### Community Service Learning Award

The Community Service Learning Programme is organized by the PolyU's Student Affairs Office annually to recognize students' participation in community projects and service. This year, Optometry's vision screening project in Huaiji was chosen as the top project amongst all departments. The aim of this project was to provide visual screening and personal hygiene education for the pre-school and primary school students in the Huaiji. The Community Service Award Presentation Ceremony will be held on 10 November. The Vision Hong Kong project will also be displayed on the Community Service Learning Project Showcase on 10 & 11 November.



(Supervisors: Mr. C.Y. Tang, Dr. Patrick Ting, Optometry staff: Mr. Tomy Lo, Year 4 Optometry students: Cheng Pok, Chow Sai-ho, Fong Ying-ying, Lau Man-yi, Lui Chi-yan, Tse Sung-hei, Yeung Siu-hung, Yip Kwun-sum)

## Optometry Alumni

### PolyU Alumni Homecoming Carnival 2006

#### By Mr. Tomy Lo, School of Optometry

The Optometry Alumni Association OAA won the Federation Cup Soccer Tournament. The PolyU alumni homecoming carnival has been successfully held. It has attracted a lot of alumni, staff, students and their family members back to campus to have a half-day fun fair.

In order to support the carnival, the football team of OAA participated in the federation cup soccer tournament. There were 16 alumni football teams in this tournament. Although this was the first time that the OAA team joined this tournament, our team played like seasoned professionals.

During the final game, our goalkeeper Chit made several world class saves to deny the opposing Hong Kong Community College Alumni Association (HKCCAA) team. What a hero he has been for the OAA team! Meanwhile, captain Tomy Lo played through the pain barrier and shot from long range, arcing the ball perfectly into the HKCCAA net and scoring the goal that brought the OAA team victory in the Federation Cup. What a game!



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