

# In-focus

A quarterly newsletter of the School of Optometry

 The Hong Kong Polytechnic University | Vol. 5 | Issue 2 | November 2007

## New Academic Year

**A**fter the refreshing summer break, we are already three months into the new academic year. It is a pleasure to write to you all for the first time as Head of the School. As you can see in this issue of In-focus, the School heads into this year full of bustling energy with new initiatives in research and teaching.

There are a number of exciting new developments that promise to have an enhancing effect on the School and our capability to provide comprehensive teaching and clinical training for our students.

First, renovation of the main Optometry Clinic has been completed. We are very pleased with its new look. A modern glass facade facing the busy Austin Road has attracted many enquiries of our services. A student clinician preparation room was set-up to encourage peer discussion and case studies during their clinical rotation, and of course to serve as a place where students can wind down and get prepared for the next case.

Second, starting this semester, Year 3 students will be the first batch using the new syllabus incorporated with ocular therapeutics. Embracing a dynamic change in the syllabus is a challenge for all staff involved and I would like to thank all the staff of the School for their valuable contributions.

The School has also worked closely with our Faculty (Faculty of Health and Social Sciences, FHSS) and departments within the Faculty to establish two significant external collaborations.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust has approved a grant of HK\$88.72 million for the establishment of the Jockey Club Sports Medicine and Health Sciences Centre, which is a joint venture between FHSS and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Out of this fund, we have established a Sport Vision Unit within our clinic and offer services to athletes and other members of the public of Hong Kong.

An agreement was signed between FHSS and China's National Sports Training Centre in collaborative research and education. The School of Optometry was designated as the official sports vision care partner of the National Sports Training Centre for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Our optometrists will be stationed in Beijing to provide comprehensive eye care to our Olympic athletes, a very important mission! This is a big step forward in sports vision in addition to our longstanding involvement with the Special Olympics Opening Eyes, a vision health programme for improvement of vision and quality of eye care for Special Olympics athletes.

Despite a heavy workload, our staff remain active in their research. The Centre for Myopia Research is now named an Area of Strength of the PolyU; we are very proud of this recognition. SO has also received HK\$8 million research grant for glaucoma research from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, another exciting development in our ageing eye research focus.

The APOC in Goa, India was a resounding success; Prof. Woo was elected the President for the next term of the Asia Pacific Council of Optometry, in addition to his current appointment as President-Elect of World Council of Optometry. We are very proud of him!

We are lucky to continue to have the services of Prof. Woo and Prof. Yap at the School in their capacity as Chair Professors. They have led the School to the high standards that are here today, and continue to propel the School to higher heights through their research and activities building relationships within the PolyU and outside with international partners.

As the new Head of School, I would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to Prof. Maurice Yap for his excellent leadership to the School over the past eight years.



**Dr. Carly Lam**

Head and Associate Professor  
School of Optometry

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# What's Happening Out There?

## The Hong Kong Scene

### Collaboration Agreement with China's National Sports Training Centre

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University had been designated by China's National Sports Training Centre (NSTC) as the state authority's long-term collaborative research and technology development partner by signing an agreement on 10 November 2007. This agreement was signed by Mr. Yan Siduo, Director of NSTC and Mr. Alexander Tzang, PolyU Deputy President; as witnessed by Mr. Sun Weimin, Deputy Director of NSTC, Prof. Thomas Wong, Dean of Faculty of Health and Social Sciences (FHSS), and Dr. Carly Lam, Head of School of Optometry. Following the signing of this pact, the School of Optometry was designated as the official sports vision care partner of NSTC for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The School will send specialists to provide comprehensive eye care and sports vision services to the national athletes.



Mr. Sun Weimin, Mr. Yan Siduo, Mr. Alexander Tzang, Prof. Thomas Wong and Dr. Carly Lam

### The New Look of the Optometry Clinic

The renovated Optometry Clinic now has 37 consulting rooms, with a floor area of around 10,000 square feet. The waiting area was expanded to provide a contemporary and comfortable environment for the clients.



The new look of the Optometry Clinic

### Diabetic Retinopathy Symposium

The Diabetic Retinopathy Symposium, organized by Kwai Tsing Safe Community and Healthy City Association, was held on 18 August 2007 at Princess Margaret Hospital. Over 140 health care professionals attended the Symposium. The event aimed at demonstrating the interdisciplinary care among diabetologist, ophthalmologist and optometrist for successful management of diabetic patients and promoting the diabetic retinopathy screening service provided by the Integrative Community Health Centre in Lai King. The speakers include Dr. Chan Kin-wah, Senior Medical Officer and Team Head of Endocrinology, Department of Medicine and Geriatrics of Princess Margaret Hospital, Prof. David Wong, Albert Bing Ching Young Chair Professor in Ophthalmology and Director, Eye Institute, Honorary Consultant, Queen Mary Hospital and Dr. Larry Ng, Clinical Optometrist, School of Optometry, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.



Mr. Chow Yick-hay and Dr. Larry Ng

## Elsewhere in the World

### The 10th Anniversary of the Department of Optometry & Visual Science, Sun Yat-sen University and Academic Symposium

21-22 September 2007, Guangzhou, China  
Prof. George Woo, Prof. Maurice Yap and Dr. Carly Lam were invited to attend this symposium in Guangzhou, China from 21-22 September 2007, together with many renowned speakers from different parts of the world. This was also an occasion to celebrate the great friendship the School has developed with Zhongshan Ophthalmic Centre, Sun Yat-sen University, over the past 10 years.



### The 16th Asia-Pacific Optometric Congress (APOC)

3-7 October 2007, Goa Marriot Resort, India  
Prof. Maurice Yap and Prof. George Woo presented on the topics of setting up a diabetic retinopathy screening programme and the establishment of PolyVision Eyecare Group: a Consortium of Primary Eye Care Centres in Hong Kong respectively. Dr. Carly Lam, Dr. Henry Chan, Ms. Rufina Chan, Dr. Thomas Lam, Mr. Gordon Tang and Mr. Davie Chen also gave presentations related to visual function, vision health of elderly and children in Hong Kong and orthokeratology treatment. Invited speakers included Prof. Barry Collin, Dr. Sue Leat, Dr. Victor Connors, Dr. Satya Verma and Dr. Mahesh Bhardwaj covering topics in Primary Care Optometry, Management of Ocular Diseases, Down Syndrome and Computer Vision Syndrome (CVS). Prof. Brian Brown delivered the K. B. Woo Memorial Lecture. More than 300 delegates from 11 various countries attended. Forty-three papers were included on the scientific programme.



### The 12th International Contact Lens Congress

1-3 September 2007, Sydney, Australia  
Dr. Pauline Cho was invited as a keynote speaker to present at this conference. She presented talks on "Myopia control in children using orthokeratology" and "Microbial contamination of contact lens accessories".



Prof. Helen Swarbrick, Ms. Kathleen Watt, Dr. Jeff Walline, Ms. Celia Bloxson, Dr. Pauline Cho and Dr. Jennifer Choo



## Our People

### New Assistant Professor

Dr. Chea-su Kee, a 95' optometry graduate of PolyU, has joined SO this July as an assistant professor. For the last ten years, Dr. Kee has received post-graduate educations and intensive research trainings at three renowned universities and laboratories in United States. His main research interest is in the area of refractive error development; in particular, he is using different animal models and approaches to understand how visual environment influences refractive eye growth and leads to short-sightedness and astigmatism. Joining SO team gives him opportunity to contribute and extend what he has learned as a vision researcher.



### Re-appointment of Adjunct Professor

#### Prof. Sha Feng-tong

Former Head, Eye Hospital, China Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Beijing, PRC



### Visiting Professor

#### Prof. Peter Swann

Date: 25 August – 20 December 2007



### External Appointment/Awards

#### Prof. George Woo

Apart from being elected as President of the Asia Pacific Council of Optometry (APCO), Prof. George Woo was also elected as President-Elect of the World Council of Optometry. Congratulations!

He received the 50th Anniversary Alumni Award from the University of Waterloo.



#### Prof. Maurice Yap

Prof. Maurice Yap has been appointed as External Examiner to the Department of Optometry, National University of Malaysia.

#### Dr. Carly Lam

Dr. Carly Lam was elected as Secretary of the Asia-Pacific Council of Optometry (APCO). She was also appointed member of the editorial board for the journal of Clinical and Experimental Optometry.

#### Dr. Pauline Cho

Dr. Pauline Cho was appointed as the Regional Editor (Asia) for the journal of the British Contact Lens Association, Contact Lens & Anterior Eye.

## Academic Vistors to the School of Optometry

#### Prof. Gordon Sanderson

Senior Lecturer, Ophthalmology Section, Dunedin School of Medicine, University of Otago, New Zealand

Date: 2-16 September 2007

Faculty Seminar: The Prevention of Falls in the Elderly Visually Impaired



#### Prof. Brian Barsky

Professor of Computer Science and Affiliate Professor of Optometry and Vision Science, University of California, USA

Date: 4 September 2007

Lecture: Vision-Realistic Rendering



#### Prof. Gerald Lowther

Dean and Professor of Optometry, Indiana University School of Optometry

Date: 17-22 September 2007



#### Dr. Ian Morgan

Associate Director, Research School of Biological Sciences, Australian National University, Australia

Date: 18 September 2007

School Research Seminar: New Directions in the Epidemiology of Refractive Error



#### Mr. Robert Chappell

President, World Council of Optometry

Date: 24 September 2007



## New Papers

**Woo G.** Highlights of the 11th International Myopia Conference. Points de vue 2007;p.d.v.n 56(Spring):4-8

**Cho P.** Enhancing teaching and learning in group projects through poster assessment. In: Frankland S (ed). Enhancing teaching and learning through assessment - deriving an appropriate model, Springer 2007, pp 156-174

**Cho P, Tang C.** Implementation and feedback on the use of reflective writing as a component of a clinical assessment. In: Frankland S (ed). Enhancing teaching and learning through assessment - deriving an appropriate model, Springer 2007, pp 352-368

**Yip SP, Cheung TS, Chu MY, Cheung SC, Leung KW, Tsang KP, Lam STS, To CH.** Novel truncating mutations of the CHM gene in Chinese patients with choroideremia. Molecular Vision 2007;13:2183-93

**Cheng SCK, Yap MKH, Goldschmidt E, Swann PG, Ng LHY, Lam CSY.** Use of the Optomap with lid retraction and its sensitivity and specificity. Clinical and Experimental Optometry (OnlineEarly Articles), doi:10.1111/j.1444-0938.2007.00231.x

## Conferences / Seminars / Workshops

	Date & Venue	Details
Seminar	21 December 2007 Poly U	"Computer Application in a New Objective Visual Field Testing Device" by Dr. Patrick Lo, Consultant Optometrist, Canada and Prof. Liang Chen, Department of Computer Science, University of Northern British Columbia, Canada

## Students Corner

### It Has Been a Really Busy Summer!!

By Dr. Chi-wai Do, School of Optometry

Our senior students had a busy summer. Twenty-five of them (nearly 80%) had participated in a variety of exchange programmes held in Australia, Canada, UK and China (listed below). Clinical placement for students plays a crucial role in the training of outstanding optometrists who can serve and strengthen our profession in the future. A sharing session was held on 28 September 2007 for all optometry students and staff. It was a happy gathering for the School.



## Optometry Alumni

### Flags of Harmony and Unity

To celebrate PolyU's 70th Anniversary and the 10th Anniversary of HKSAR, PolyU organized a large scale event, entitled "Flags of Harmony and Unity" on 23 September 2007 at the Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground in Chai Wan. 21,726 people of PolyU community, its supporters and scouts gathered together to set a new Guinness World record by forming the world's largest national and SAR flags. We were happy to see so many of our students, staff, alumni and friends participating in this activity.



### Annual Optometry Golf Day

By Dr. Henry Chan, School of Optometry

On 16 Oct 2007, it was a good day for our annual Optometry Golf Day which was held in Kau Sai Chau Golf Course. This golf course is very beautiful and the event gave a lot of fun to all 20 participants including optometrists and friends. We all enjoyed this friendly match and the wonderful moments on the green lawn.

#### The winners were:

Optometry Champion:

Mr. Brian Tsue

Optometry 1st Runner:

Prof. Maurice Yap

Optometry 2nd Runner:

Prof. Barry Collin

Optometry Best Gross Score:

Dr. Henry Chan

Optometry Longest Drive:

Mr. Tony Wong

Optometry Nearest Pin:

Mr. Colman Chan

Guest Champion:

Mr. Danny Yiu

Guest 1st Runner:

Dr. Jun Liang

Guest 2nd Runner:

Dr. David Wong

Guest Best Gross Score:

Dr. Hsieh Sze En

Guest Longest Drive:

Dr. Ronny Chan

Guest Nearest Pin:

Dr. Lily Chiu



Mr. Burji Shroff, Dr. Lily Chiu,  
Prof. Maurice Yap and Dr. Jun Liang



Prof. Maurice Yap and Prof. Barry Collin



Mr. Brian Tsue and Prof. Maurice Yap



Dr. Lily Chiu and Prof. Maurice Yap