


In-focus

A quarterly newsletter of the School of Optometry

 The Hong Kong Polytechnic University | Vol. 6 | Issue 2 | May 2008

Healthcare Reforms and its Implications for Optometry

As a primary healthcare profession, Optometry welcomes the HKSAR government's consultation document on healthcare reform. Many suggestions in the document are worthy of support, such as enhancing primary care, establishment of clinical protocols and strengthening the public healthcare safety net.

In the Glossary of Terms section of the consultation document, "Optometrists" and "Optometry" are defined as follows:

Optometrists: Health professionals trained to provide comprehensive eye and vision care, such as eyesight correction and diagnosis of common conditions related to the eyes or vision. They are not medical doctors but may refer patients to an ophthalmologist (who is a medical doctor specializes in eye care) for treatment when needed.

Optometry: A healthcare profession that is concerned with eyes and related structure, vision, and visual system.

We commend the Food and Health Bureau of the HKSAR government for these clear and succinct definitions. These definitions validate the desired educational outcomes of our Optometry programme and set the standard for Optometry practice in Hong Kong.

There are other issues which are worthy of the government's attention in its quest to improve healthcare efficiency and access. For instance, the government could create an environment whereby all health professionals could practise to the full extent of their competencies. The relative payscale for optometrists in the public sector remains anomalous and needs to be corrected. The governance of Optometry under the SMP Ordinance requires modernization.

We are optimistic that all these outstanding issues will be resolved in the near future. Our vision is for our graduates to be given the opportunity to serve the Hong Kong community to the best of their ability and to the full extent of their competency. This is the least they could do for the community which funded their education and given them a profession.



Dr. Carly Lam

Head and Associate Professor

Prof. George Woo

Chair Professor of Optometry

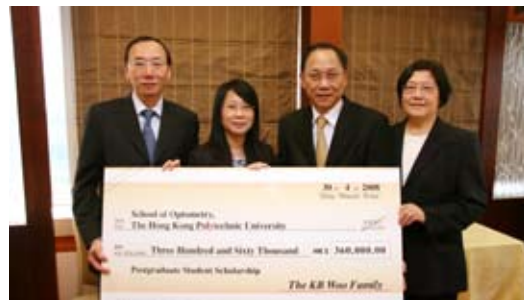
Prof. Maurice Yap

Chair Professor of Optometry
School of Optometry

What's Happening Out There?

Donation from The KB Woo Family

The KB Woo Family has generously donated \$360,000 to support the School's long-term research development. With this donation, a postgraduate research scholarship is established. Representatives from The KB Woo Family, Prof. George Woo, Mrs. Judy Woo and Prof. Victor Woo presented the cheque to the Head of School, Dr. Carly Lam. Dr. Lam had expressed her heartfelt appreciation to The KB Woo Family and their continuous contribution to the development of the School and the Optometry profession in Hong Kong.



25th Anniversary of the HKSPPO

The Hong Kong Society of Professional Optometrists (HKSPPO) celebrated its 25th anniversary on 5 March 2008. Over one hundred and twenty guests joined this special event, including the HKSPPO past presidents, honorable guests Prof. Thomas Wong, Prof. Joseph Lee, Dr. Polly Cheung and Ms. Scarlett Pong as well as representatives from other professional societies and industry. HKSPPO recognized Prof. George Woo, the immediate past-president of HKSPPO, with a lifetime achievement award for his great contribution to the profession.



Meeting with Panel on Health Services

Prof. Maurice Yap, Ms. Elke Wu and Dr. May Wu represented the School, The Hong Kong Association of Private Practice Optometrists and The Hong Kong Society of Professional Optometrists in a special meeting organized by the Panel on Health Services of the Hong Kong Legislative Council. They called on the government to utilize the full competencies of optometrists to serve the community.



Second World Conference on Optometric Globalisation

The Second World Conference on Optometric Globalisation hosted by the World Council of Optometry (WCO) and the European Council of Optometry and Optics in conjunction with the College of Optometrists was held from 11-14 April 2008 at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London. President-Elect of the WCO, Prof. George Woo and Dr. Carly Lam, Governing Board Member of the WCO, presented talks on the challenges for optometric practice in Asia and the role of virtual technology in optometric education respectively. Prof. Maurice Yap, Vice-Chairman of the Education Committee, also attended the conference and held meetings on global optometric education. Emeritus Prof. Michel and Mrs Millodot came to London to meet with Prof. Woo, Prof Yap and Dr. Lam to discuss the School's developments.



The 5th Asia Cornea and Contact Lens Conference (ACCLC)

The 5th ACCLC, held in Singapore 4-5 May 2008, was attended by over 513 delegates. Highlights of this meeting included:

- An endorsement from Prof. Nathan Efron that ACCLC is one of the top two contact lens conferences in the world.
- From the coverage of Prof. Fiona Stapleton's press conference, a reporter from Channel News Asia wrote, "In a country with one of the world's highest rates of myopia, would Singaporeans opt for laser eye surgery if they knew that the risk of some vision loss is about 100 times more than that when wearing contact lenses?"
- Dr. Pauline Cho also appeared in the Chinese TV programme (Good Morning Singapore) with Dr. Gunter Wong on 6 May to talk about myopia and contact lens care.

At this conference, Dr. Pauline Cho delivered a keynote lecture on dry eyes, and Dr. Camus Choy presented a talk on cytotoxicity of contact lens solutions. Other presenters from PolyU included Dr. Maureen Boost, Miss Tsui Tsui Lee, Ms. Peggy Cheung and Miss Jessie Charm.

Look out for the next ACCLC which will be held in Hong Kong.



What's Happening Out There?

The 2nd International Symposium on Orthokeratology (ISOK)

Back to back with the 5th ACCLC was the 2nd ISOK which was also held in Singapore (6-7 May) at the Amara Sanctuary Resort, Sentosa Island. Speakers included Prof. Earl Smith (USA), Mr. Tony Philips (Australia), Prof. Michael Collins (Australia), Mr. Craig Norman (USA), Prof. Xie Pei-ying (China), Dr. Jeffrey Walline (USA), Dr. Jennifer Choo (Australia), Dr. Stan Isaacs (Singapore) and Dr. Pauline Cho (Hong Kong). Topics varied from the mechanism of myopic control, corneal changes to clinical standard for ortho-k practice. A total of 85 delegates attended this symposium. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for delegates to network with speakers as well as with industry to learn more about the practice of orthokeratology.



Visit to Korea

Prof. George Woo and Prof. Maurice Yap met with the Korean Optometric Association in Seoul in mid-February to discuss Optometry education in Korea. Prof. Yap later visited Konyang University which offers a four year Optometry degree. In June 2008, three Optometry students from Konyang University will be attached to our Optometry Clinic as exchange students.



Visit to China

Prof. George Woo and Dr. Carly Lam visited various universities and hospitals in Shanghai, Tianjin and Beijing in March and explored collaboration in research and teaching. During their visit at the Tianjin Eye Hospital's Optometry Department, they met a participant of the PolyU-China Ophthalmic Education Programme (COEP) who had successfully implemented what she learnt in Hong Kong. Prof. Maurice Yap later joined Prof. Woo and Dr. Lam in Beijing to inspect the Optometry service conducted by the Optometry Clinic for elite athletes of China.



Visit to Taiwan

Prof. George Woo and Dr. Carly Lam recently attended the Taichung International Conference on Optometry Education from 30 April – 1 May 2008 in Taiwan. They took this opportunity to tour the school facilities and had a fruitful sharing on Optometry education.



Optometry Service in Beijing

The Beijing Vision Care Center, a center dedicated to the visual needs of national athletes, was officially opened in August 2007. Establishment funding for the center was from Johnson & Johnson and the clinical service is operated by our Optometry Clinic. The goal is to help athletes maximize their potential. To achieve this, our optometrists assess refractive status, binocular function and ocular health and identify any deficits which may affect performance. They also provide sports specific ocular function assessment, such as dynamic visual acuity, peripheral awareness, eye-hand/body coordination. Where necessary, they provide customized visual training to enhance ocular skills. They also provide contact lens fitting and care for athletes. Educating athletes and their coaches about eyecare is another important function performed by our optometrists.



What's Happening Out There?

Vision Aid to Guangxi

As a follow up to the vision screening in December 2007, a group of enthusiastic optometrist-volunteers (Lee Tsui Tsui, Jessie Charm, Eric Leung and Colman Chan), led by Dr. Pauline Cho took the prescribed glasses (sponsored by Hong Kong Optical Lens Co. Ltd.) and delivered them to the children who needed them.

They also prescribed magnifiers to two girls who had low vision and could only see reading material very close up. One little girl, who had resorted to learning Braille, was very excited that she could "see" the pictures and colours in the book that her teacher gave her. She spent a whole hour pouring through the pages with her new magnifier.



Our People

External Honorary Appointments

Prof. George Woo has been appointed Director of the College of Optometry, Tianjin Medical University and Honorary Professor by Tianjin Professional College.

Dr. Carly Lam has been appointed Visiting Professor to the College of Optometry, Tianjin Medical University and Visiting Professor by Tianjin Professional College.



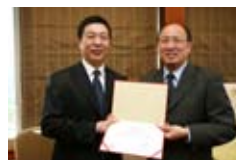
Prof. George Woo



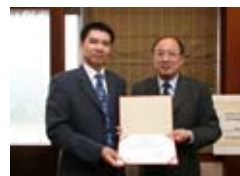
Dr. Carly Lam

Adjunct Professors

The School has recently appointed two Adjunct Professors: Prof. Yu Min-bin (new appointment) and Prof. Liu Quan (re-appointment) of the Zhongshan Ophthalmic Centre (ZOC), Sun Yat-sen University. Prof. Yu is Professor of Ophthalmology and Deputy Director of the ZOC. He has been involved in developing optometric education for several years. Prof. Liu is also a Professor of Ophthalmology at ZOC and has collaborated actively with our School in research and advancement of Optometry.



Prof. Yu Min-bin



Prof. Liu Quan

Prof. Michel Millodot Awarded Life Fellowship

Our Emeritus Professor Michel Millodot was awarded a Life Fellowship by the College of Optometrists (UK) at the annual Diploma Ceremony in Central Hall Westminster in April. He was also appointed Honorary Professor in the School of Optometry and Vision Sciences, Cardiff University recently.



Prof. Michel Millodot

Academic Visitors to the School of Optometry

Dr. Hoang Thi Minh Chau

Deputy Director, National Institute of Ophthalmology, Vietnam
Date: 27-30 April 2008



Prof. David Loshin

Dean, College of Optometry, Nova Southeastern University, USA
Date: 5 May 2008



Dr. Nguyen Duc Anh

Chief of Paediatric Ophthalmology, National Institute of Ophthalmology, Vietnam
Date: 27-30 April 2008



Prof. Jiang Bai-chuan

Professor, College of Optometry, Nova Southeastern University, USA
Date: 5 May 2008



Dr. Damien Smith

Chairman, Advisory Committee, School of Optometry, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong
Date: 30 April 2008



Dr. Yin Tea

Assistant Professor, College of Optometry, Nova Southeastern University, USA
Date: 5 May 2008



Our Research

Multifocal Electroretinogram (mfERG) and Glaucoma

By Dr. Henry Chan, Associate Professor

One of the breakthroughs in electroretinogram is the development of the multifocal technique which allows simultaneous recording of tiny electrical visual signals from multiple retinal areas in a very short period of time. It is highly sensitive and is able to detect the very small local defect/s in retina. Our School has been using this technique to study the retina since 1992.

Although many previous studies have shown the reduction of the mfERG response in glaucoma and glaucoma suspects, there are many limitations in detecting the inner retinal activities using ordinary mfERG. Recently, we found a way to improve the ability of the mfERG to detect inner retinal activity by using a modified stimulus display protocol. By changing the visual stimulus, we noted that the high luminance-modulation gain response could be changed from linear to nonlinear characteristics. This suggested to us that inner retinal damage caused by glaucoma may be detected using the new modified mfERG. Later studies showed that this was indeed the case. We believe that our modified protocol in mfERG will become a more powerful technique to investigate the adaptive mechanism in glaucoma and this would benefit the early diagnosis of glaucomatous damage.



Recent Publications:

1. Chan HL. Detection of glaucomatous damage using multifocal ERG. *Clinical and Experimental Optometry* 2005;88:410-414.
2. Chu PHW, Chan HL, Brown B. Glaucoma detection is facilitated by luminance modulation of the global flash multifocal electroretinogram (mfERG). *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science* 2006;47:929-937.
3. Chu PHW, Chan HL, Brown B. Luminance-modulated adaptation of global flash mfERG: Fellow eye losses in asymmetric glaucoma. *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science* 2007;48:2626-2633.

Conference Presentations

Presenter	Conference	Title of Presentation
Prof. George Woo	Conference on Health Care, Rehabilitation and Social Integration for the Visually Impaired (Taiwan), 8-10 January 2008	An overview of vision rehabilitation
Prof. George Woo	The International Vision Science Conference of EXPO LOOK 2008 (Korea), 13-15 February 2008	1. Optometry: the primary eye care profession 2. A review of visual acuity and contrast sensitivity
Dr. Pauline Cho	1st IERC International Symposium on Eye Research (Korea), 23 February 2008	Compliance revisited
Dr. Pauline Cho	Netherlands Contactlens Congress 2008 (The Netherlands), 16-17 March 2008	1. Myopic control and orthokeratology: The Hong Kong experience 2. Case series: High myopes and orthokeratology
Prof. George Woo	The 8th COOC (PRC), 4-6 April 2008	A multidisciplinary approach towards vision rehabilitation
Prof. George Woo	Second World Conference on Optometric Globalisation (UK), 11-13 April 2008	Challenges for practice in Greater China
Dr. Carly Lam	Second World Conference on Optometric Globalisation (UK), 11-13 April 2008	The role of virtual technology
Dr. Pauline Cho	OAA Educational Symposium 2008 (USA), 17-20 April 2008	1. Microbial contamination of contact lens care accessories and level of non-compliance in orthokeratology wearers 2. The LORIC study: Axial length and other changes
Mr. Yan-yin Tse	ARVO 2008 Annual Meeting (USA), 27 April-1 May 2008	Effect of spatial angle for defocus on emmetropization in chicks under competing defocus condition
Dr. Chea-su Kee	ARVO 2008 Annual Meeting (USA), 27 April-1 May 2008	Time course of changes in astigmatic components in chicks with myopia induced by form-deprivation or lens-wear
Dr. Chi-wai Do	ARVO 2008 Annual Meeting (USA), 27 April-1 May 2008	Regulation of gap-junction coupling in bovine ciliary epithelium
Dr. Chuen Lam	ARVO 2008 Annual Meeting (USA), 27 April-1 May 2008	Application of two-dimensional nano-LC tandem mass spectrometry for screening the differential retinal protein expressions in the lens-induced myopic chicks
Prof. George Woo	International Conference on Optometry Education 2008 (Taiwan), 30 April-1 May 2008	Diversity in optometric education, legislation and practice within and across Greater China
Dr. Carly Lam	International Conference on Optometry Education 2008 (Taiwan), 30 April-1 May 2008	Virtual technology in optometric education: Use of e-learning to enhance Optometry curriculum
Dr. Pauline Cho	The 5th ACCLC (Singapore), 4-5 May 2008	Dry eye: A review on clinical assessment & management
Dr. Camus Choy	The 5th ACCLC (Singapore), 4-5 May 2008	Cytotoxicity of contact lens care solutions
Mr. Vincent Chui	The 5th ACCLC (Singapore), 4-5 May 2008	Silicon hydrogel lens-doing the best for your patients
Ms. Peggy Cheung	The 5th ACCLC (Singapore), 4-5 May 2008	Corneal shape at different chord diameters
Miss Tsui-tsu Lee	The 5th ACCLC (Singapore), 4-5 May 2008	A pilot study on peripheral refraction in myopic eyes
Miss Jessie Charm	The 5th ACCLC (Singapore), 4-5 May 2008	Survey on contact lens market in Hong Kong 2005
Dr. Pauline Cho	The 2nd ISOK (Singapore), 6-7 May 2008	1. Standard of clinical practice in orthokeratology 2. Astigmatism and orthokeratology

New Papers

- Cho P, Cheung SW.** Mountford J, White P. Good clinical practice in orthokeratology. *Contact Lens & Anterior Eye* 2008; 31(1):17-28.
- Siu AW,** Lau MK, Cheng JS, Chow CK, Tam WC, **Li KK,** Lee DKL, To TSS, **To CH, Do CW.** Glutamate-induced retinal lipid and protein damage: The protective effects of catechin. *Neuroscience Letters* 2008;432(3):193-197.
- Tang WC, Yap MKH, Yip SP.** A review of current approaches to identifying human genes involved in myopia. *Clinical and Experimental Optometry* 2008;91(1):4-22.
- Chui WS, Lam A, Chen D, Chiu R.** The influence of corneal properties on rebound tonometry. *Ophthalmology* 2008;115(1):80-84.
- Kee CS,** Deng L. Astigmatism associated with experimentally induced myopia or hyperopia in chickens. *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science* 2008;49(3):858-867.
- Ng YF, Chan HHL, Chu PHW, Siu AW, To CH,** Beale BA, Gilger BC, Wong F. Pharmacologically defined components of the normal porcine multifocal ERG. *Documenta Ophthalmologica* 2008;116(3):165-176.
- Ng YF, Chan HHL, Chu PHW, To CH,** Gilger BC, Petters RM, Wong F. Multifocal electroretinogram in Rhodopsin P347L transgenic pigs. *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science* 2008;49(5):2208-2215.

Conferences / Seminars / Workshops

	Date & Venue	Details
Conferences	18 September 2008 Chiang Chen Studio Theatre, PolyU	The 1st Primary Eye Care Conference (Website: http://www.hkappo.org.hk/pecc)
	7 November 2008 Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre	The 6th Hong Kong Optometric Conference
Seminars	15 May 2008 AG710, PolyU	Low Vision Service in Hong Kong by Miss Victoria Law and Ms. Eman Kwong
	29 June 2008 ST111, PolyU	Briefing on Latest Clinical Trials of Treatments for RP and AMD by Dr. Gerald Chader

Students Corner

Year 2 Optometry Student Awarded a Hong Kong Jockey Club Scholarship

Miss Daisy Leung Ka-yan was awarded a Hong Kong Jockey Club Scholarship with a value of \$89,000 for each year of her study. Daisy deeply appreciates the Hong Kong Jockey Club for the financial assistance. Daisy added "Although the programme is challenging, being an optometrist is really meaningful." She can imagine the great personal satisfaction in helping people suffering from visual problems.



"We Fight Against Influenza" by FHSS

Our Optometry students participated in a public education campaign "We Fight Against Influenza" organized by the PolyU's World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Community Health Services, the Hospital Authority, and The Hong Kong Paediatric Foundation from 23-25 March 2008 in Tuen Mun, Yuen Long and Tin Shui Wai.



Optometry Alumni

Upcoming Activity – Sports Day on 8 June 2008

The Optometry Alumni Association will organize a Sports Day – friendly soccer and basketball matches on 8 June 2008 at Keith Legg Sport Field. If you wish to join, please register by sending an email to sohenry@inet.polyu.edu.hk

School Souvenirs

An exclusive range of the School souvenirs are available for purchase now at the Optometry Clinic, PolyU. If you are our OAA (Optometry Alumni Association) member, you can enjoy a 20% discount. For more details, please visit the website: <http://www.polyu.edu.hk/so/souvenir>



Jacket (Light blue/Silver grey)
Selling Price: HK\$180
OAA member: HK\$150



Tie (Blue/Silver grey)
Selling Price: HK\$100
OAA member: HK\$80



Scarf (Green/Silver grey)
Selling Price: HK\$100
OAA member: HK\$80