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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 embarrassingly 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.

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Prof. Maurice Yap
Chair Professor and Head
School of Optometry
In-Our People
Special Olympics – Quality Vision Care for People with Special Needs:

We welcome the following new staff:

Senior staff from the Eye Centre, 1st Affiliated Hospital of Zhejiang University
Date: 25 June 2005
Rachel (from US) & Joseph (from UK), Prof. Yap, Dr. Han Kai, Dr. Yan, Dr. Han (loc)

Dr. Saw Swee Min
Department of Community Occupational and Family Medicine National University of Singapore
Date: 1 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

In 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 10-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 every day. 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 held 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 3rd Asia Cornea & Contact Lens Conference 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.

In 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 Chi Wing and Chang Kin (University of Waterloo) and Li Liang 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 travel scholarship. They were Sun Wing Man and Cheng Shing Yi. Fourteen students were sent to Mainland China for 4 weeks and were supported by the PolyU Preferred Graduate Development Program (PGDP).

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

Academic Visitors to 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 professors 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.

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In-focus | In-focus | In-focus

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

“If people who are mentally challenged deserve the same quality visual 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 Pui Leung Kuk Yu Lee Mi 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 (MSO) and Lions Clubs International (LCI) for over 4 years. Vision screening for the MSO 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 students and 42 Lions Club volunteers provided eye care to almost a hundred Hong Kong Special Olympics. 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.

PolyU Optometric Programs:

HKSO Athletes’ Vision Care Programme:
By Dr. Carly Lam, Associate Professor, School of Optometry

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Recently, I was invited to present the LORIC results at the BCLA (Brighton, UK) meeting in June, and again at the International Orthokeratology Symposium (Chicago) in July 2005. At GOS, Mr. John Marduet – a long-time collaborator of ours, was awarded the Rodger Kame Award for his dedication and contribution to Orthokeratology. Our Project Associate, Ms. Eman Koong, also presented our e-learning package, on Ortho-k. This package is designed to help optometrists to start Ortho-k practice.

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Conferences / Seminars / Workshops

Seminars

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

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At the receiving end, we welcomed four students from overseas and Mainland China for their clinical placements at our clinic. They were Ms. Rosina Cheung (University of Waterloo), Ms. Cora So Pui Shan, So Ka Man, Huang Mei Chu (Shanghai Tong University) and Dr. Zhang Zhen (Zhejiang University). They spent 3 – 6 weeks here in our Optometry Clinic.

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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

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In-focus | In-focus | In-focus
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 would definitely recommend this exchange programme to all year 3 students.

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

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 were allowed to assist 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. 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 would definitely recommend this exchange programme to all year 3 students.

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 experience at the Xinhua Hospital. First, it was a great opportunity to learn under a top-notch ophthalmology team in China. The second part was the cultural and social aspect of being immersed in mainland Chinese lifestyle. 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 Chi

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 oculary 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 tired 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 were allowed to assist 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.

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 program in a rural village in Huaiji. The aim was to provide eye care service to a group of Huaiji secondary school students, and raise awareness of the importance of ocular health care. With the help of Mr. CY Tang, Mr. Tony Lo, Mr. Gary Fung and 13 secondary school students from Yan Chai Hospital Lan Chi Pa Memorial Secondary School, we successfully screened 641 secondary students and 40 pairs of spectators were dispensed. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to apply our knowledge and skills in University, in serving the community.

School of Optometry

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The Editor, In-focus

School of Optometry

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Prof. Maurice Yap
Chair Professor and Head
School of Optometry