

In-focus

A quarterly newsletter of the School of Optometry



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2007: Another Year of Achievements

As the academic year draws to an end, it is timely to reflect on what the School has achieved over the past 12 months. I am pleased to report that the School continues to strengthen in its core business of teaching, research and service.

Students

In June 2007, 25 students graduated from our BSc(Hons) in Optometry programme. This year, three graduated with 1st Class Honours. Most graduates have chosen to go into practice and a small number have chosen to pursue further studies. Starting salaries have increased again and optometry graduates are amongst the highest earners amongst PolyU graduates. Congratulations to the graduates of 2007!

In this academic year, one PhD student graduated. Lam Chuen, mentored by Prof. To Chi-ho, wrote an excellent thesis on the proteomics of the chick retina. Well done, Dr. Lam!

Student Intake

At the last Optometry Advisory Committee meeting held in May 2007, the School was strongly advised to increase its intake to 50 to meet future market needs. The School shall work with the University to come up with a plan to achieve this gradually.

Optometry Clinic Expansion

The newly renovated main Optometry Clinic now features 35 consulting rooms, a specialized glaucoma investigation area and a student clinician preparation room. Advanced retina assessment can now be done using the OCT and HRT as well as the mf-ERG. The Pentacam and the ConfoScan4 are available for advanced corneal investigations.

The satellite clinics in Lai King and Wong Tai Sin, operated in collaboration with the Kwai Tsing Safe Community & Healthy City Association and Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital respectively, are now operating in full swing. So far, over five thousand diabetic patients have benefited from this service.

Overall, our clinics serve around 30,000 patients per year. The number is set to grow in the future as the final year of the Optometry programme is being revamped to a full clinical year.

Research Funding

The School attracted over HK\$17 million in external research funding over the past 12 months, primarily to conduct research and clinical studies in myopia. In the context of the funds needed, this amount is modest. A campaign to raise further funding to support myopia research has been launched. For the sake of all Chinese children, we need to find a way to control myopia progression urgently.

New Head of School

Dr. Carly Lam has been appointed Head of School from 1 July 2007. Dr. Lam has served in the PolyU-Optometry team since the mid-1980s. She brings considerable experience in programme development and management. Congratulations, Dr. Lam!



Prof. Maurice Yap

Chair Professor
School of Optometry

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What's Happening Out There?

The Hong Kong Scene

The 4th Asia Cornea & Contact Lens Conference

The 4th Asia Cornea & Contact Lens Conference was held from 26 to 27 April 2007 at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. It was opened by Prof. Leung Nai-kong, Chairman of the Supplementary Medical Professions Council. More than 250 delegates from 12 countries and territories attended. During the two-day event, four keynote speakers were invited, including Mr. Jim Kokkinakis (Australia), Dr. Andrew Lam (Hong Kong), Prof. Norman Leach (USA) and Prof. Trefford Simpson (Canada). Four PolyU researchers in the fields of Optometry and biomedical sciences presented their latest research findings. The Singapore Optometric Association was awarded the honour to host the 5th Asia Cornea & Contact Lens Conference in Singapore in 2008.



The 1st International Symposium on Orthokeratology

By Dr. Pauline Cho, Associate Professor

The 1st International Symposium on Orthokeratology, organized by the Contact Lens Education and Research Unit of the School of Optometry, was held on 14 May 2007 at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Over 150 participants from 11 countries participated. Keynote speakers included Prof. Patrick Caroline, Mr. John Mountford, Mr. Craig Norman, Dr. Helen Swarbrick and myself (sponsored by Paragon, Menicon, Polymer Tech, Skyview and Alcon respectively). Views on pertinent issues related to orthokeratology were presented at this exciting event. A press conference was also held with Prof. Caroline presenting results on myopic control using orthokeratology, and myself on the importance of good compliance and practices. Delegates also had the opportunity to visit exhibition booths and attending various product seminars to update their knowledge.



Faculty Dinner

The Faculty of Health and Social Sciences celebrated its 30th Anniversary on 23 May 2007. Dr. York Chow, Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food; Ms. Sandra Lee, Permanent Secretary (Health & Welfare) and Mr. Shane Solomon, Chief Executive of the Hospital Authority were amongst the many special guests who attended the function.

Over 80 Optometry alumni, current students and guests from the profession and industry also joined in the celebratory dinner. It was a great evening of recollection of the past and catching up with the latest news in the profession.



Faculty of Health and Social Sciences Graduation Ceremony

The Faculty of Health and Social Sciences Graduation Ceremony was held on 18 June 2007 at the Jockey Club Auditorium. 25 optometry graduates received their degrees. In addition, Thomas Lam Chuen was awarded his Doctor of Philosophy degree for his dissertation on differential protein expressions in the emmetropization of chick retina by a proteomic approach. He was supervised by Prof. Chi-ho To (PolyU) and co-supervised by Prof. Lo Chun-lap (PolyU) and Dr. Jeremy Guggenheim (Cardiff, UK).



Our People

External Honorary Appointments

Prof. Maurice Yap has been appointed Honorary Professor at the Eye Institute, Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong. Prof. Yap has also been appointed as a PhD mentor at the West China School of Medicine, Sichuan University.

Dr. Henry Chan has been appointed Honorary Associate Professor at the Eye Institute, Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong

Honorary and Adjunct Appointments of the School

Honorary Professor:

Prof. Tang You-zhi (China Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine)
Prof. David Wong (The University of Hong Kong)

Adjunct Professor:

Prof. Gordon Sanderson (University of Otago)
Prof. Victor Woo (Private Practice)
Prof. Greg Wu (Private Practice)
Prof. Joseph Yeung (Private Practice)

Adjunct Associate Professor:

Dr. Helen Eng (Private Practice)
Ms. Tina Kwan (Private Practice)
Mr. Kenneth Lam (Private Practice)



Prof. Victor Woo



Prof. Greg Wu



Prof. Joseph Yeung



Dr. Helen Eng



Mr. Kenneth Lam

Fellows of the American Academy of Optometry

Mr. Vincent Chui, Ms. Ronnie Huang and Mr. Lawrence Kwan were admitted as new Fellows of the American Academy of Optometry. Congratulations!



Retirement of Dr. Andrew Siu

Dr. Andrew Siu, Associate Professor and Optometry Clinic Chief, has taken early retirement after 14 year's of outstanding service to the School. Happy retirement, Andrew, and come to visit us often!



Academic Visitors to the School of Optometry

Prof. Peter Swann

Date: 15 Jan – 31 May 2007



Dr. Brian Brown

Adjunct Professor, School of Optometry, Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia

Date: 22 – 23 March 2007



Dr. Agnes Wong

Associate Professor, Ophthalmology and Vision Sciences, Neurology and Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, University of Toronto, Canada

Date: 16 April 2007

Lecture: Crossed Eyes in Infancy: Can Early Correction Improve Visual and Eye Movement Outcomes?



Prof. Michael Collins

Professor, School of Optometry, Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia

Date: 11 – 14 May 2007



Prof. Patrick Caroline

Associate Professor, College of Optometry, Pacific University, Oregon, USA

Date: 11 – 14 May 2007



Dr. Helen Swarbrick

Associate Professor, Optometry and Vision Science, University of New South Wales, Australia

Date: 14 May 2007



Mr. John Mountford

Optometrist and Contact Lens Specialist, Australia

Date: 14 May 2007



Prof. Norhani Mohidin

Dean, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

Date: 14 – 15 May 2007



Mr. Craig Norman

Clinical Professor, Adjunct Clinical Faculty, Michigan College of Optometry, Ferris State University and Director, Contact Lens Section, Department of Ophthalmology, South Bend Clinic, South Bend, Indiana, USA

Date: 15 – 16 May 2007



Dr. Oscar Candia

Professor of Ophthalmology and Director of Research and Professor of Physiology, Vice-Chairman, The Mount Sinai Medical Center, Mount Sinai, School of Medicine, New York, USA

Date: 15 – 17 May 2007

Lecture: New Insight in the Aqueous Humor Production



Dr. Damien Smith

Chairman of Advisory Committee, School of Optometry, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Date: 23 May 2007



