

# Research Seminar

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## The Epidemics of Myopia and High Myopia

- Date : 7 February 2018 (Wednesday)  
Time : 9:30 am – 11:30 am  
Venue : Room HJ305, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University  
Credit Hours : 2 (CPD for Optometrists)

### Abstract

Since the Second World War, an epidemic of myopia has appeared in those parts of East and Southeast Asia which have made high educational outcomes a key part of their economic development strategy. In Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, mainland China, and Singapore, most children now complete at least 12-13 years of schooling, and emerge with a prevalence of myopia of 80-90%, necessitating optical correction of some kind. As much as 20-25% of these cohorts are highly myopic (more than 5-6D of myopia), and are at risk of developing sight-threatening complications such as retinal detachment, myopic macular degeneration and staphyloma later in life. Similar, but milder changes have been observed in other parts of the world. These trends make prevention of both the onset and progression of myopia essential.