



**Dr Constance CHAN Hon-ye, JP**

Director of Health

Cancer is the second leading cause of death globally and is an important public health issue in Hong Kong. It claimed nearly one-third of the total deaths in the local population in 2018. Given the ageing population and changes in lifestyle, the number of new cancer cases is expected to increase further in coming decades.

Prevention is better than cure. As cancer and other non-communicable diseases (“NCD”) share many common risk factors like smoking, alcohol consumption, unhealthy diet, lack of physical activity, overweight and obesity, promoting adoption of healthy lifestyle is the primary strategy for prevention of NCD including cancer. On this front, the Government had launched the *“Towards 2025: Strategy and Action Plan to Prevent and Control Non-communicable Diseases in Hong Kong”* in May 2018 and multi-sectoral actions throughout the life course were emphasised. The Department of Health (“DH”) will continue to work in collaboration with various sectors to promote healthy lifestyle. On top of the universal hepatitis B virus vaccination, the DH will also introduce human papillomavirus vaccination targeting Primary Five school girls from the 2019/20 school year for preventing cervical cancer.

In addition to primary prevention, the DH has launched screening programmes for cervical cancer and colorectal cancer, and will continue to implement evidence-based screening programmes at a population level.

Fighting against cancer requires concerted effort from various sectors. Everyone can make a difference to prevent and control cancer. Let us all work hand in hand to improve the health of all in Hong Kong!



**Dr LEUNG Pak-yin, JP**

Chief Executive, Hospital Authority

The healthcare scene in Hong Kong has been going through significant changes in the past as a result of the fast growing and ageing population and increasing complexity of diseases. Facing the formidable challenges presented by the high rising service demand, collaboration with different stakeholders is key to the sustainable development of healthcare services in Hong Kong.

Cancer, as the top killer in Hong Kong, is posing huge and growing burden to the healthcare system. Such burden also includes the high cost of cancer care not only for the patients but also the society as a whole. To reduce such burden, an effective system that promotes prevention as well as early detection and timely treatment is indispensable.

Working along the Government's direction of stepping up the prevention and control of cancer and the support for cancer patients and their carers, the Hospital Authority ("HA") has formulated specific strategies along the cancer care journey to attain early detection and diagnosis, timely and effective cancer treatment, and seamless transitional care for cancer survivors and end-of-life patients in this Hong Kong Cancer Strategy. In parallel, the HA is developing a Strategic Service Framework for Cancer Services to ensure that the development of cancer services in the HA aligns with the future direction of cancer services in Hong Kong as a whole.

Sustainable and quality cancer service requires joint effort from the public and private healthcare sectors as well as non-governmental organisations. I look forward to the continuing collaboration with different stakeholders in actualising this Cancer Strategy in the years to come, and building a healthier community together.