

## 目錄 Contents

沙士後的天空 沈祖堯教授專訪 A Post-SARS Sky Interview with Prof Joseph SUNG Jau Yiu	P.1-2
走訪衛生防護中心 Venues in Focus	P.3
項目巡禮 Programmes in Focus	P.4-6
活動快拍 Snapshots of Events	P.7-8
編者的話 Words from the Editor	P.8

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## 沙士後的天空 沈祖堯教授專訪 A Post-SARS Sky Interview with Prof Joseph SUNG Jau Yiu

沈祖堯教授，在「沙士」期間站在抗疫前線，被時代雜誌冠以「亞洲英雄」的美譽。事隔兩年，這位英雄退下醫院行政工作，專注於教學及研究工作。他現時除擔任中文大學醫學院副院長外，還是衛生防護中心中央科學顧問委員會以及腸道傳染及食物傳播疾病科學委員會成員。

### 汲取沙士教訓

「沙士一役是我從醫以來最難忘的，它令很多人的生命從此改變。對我而言，我覺得自己對社會的感情及承擔比以往更大，我希望教好每一位學生，讓他們貢獻社會。」沈祖堯教授說。

正正是社會承擔的使然，沈教授去年寫下了<<不一樣的天空>>這部著作，跟讀者分享自己在沙士期間的心路歷程以及記下了多位醫護人員及病人的故事，目的是希望大眾不要忘記沙士的教訓。

Professor Joseph SUNG, the fighter at the anti-SARS war frontier, was hailed the "Asian Hero" by the *Time Magazine*. Two years have passed since the outbreak struck, and so have all the media exposure and his administrative duties in the hospital. The current Associate Dean of Faculty of Medicine, Chinese University of Hong Kong is now focusing his attention on teaching and research. He is also contributing his expertise to the CHP, serving as a member of the Board of Scientific Advisers and a member of the Scientific Committee on Enteric Infections and Foodborne Diseases.

### Learning the lesson

Professor SUNG recalled, "SARS has been the most unforgettable event in my entire life as a doctor. It's also a life-changing incident for lots of people. I'd say the whole experience left me feeling more emotionally attached and committed to the community. I want to try my best to teach my students, so that every one of them will contribute to the society."

It was this same devotion to the community that drove him

沈教授認為，經沙士一役後，政府、醫護人員以及普羅大眾都汲取了教訓，香港人的價值觀或多或少因而轉變，亦較以往著重個人及環境衛生。對公共衛生界別而言，則更加積極做好預防傳染病的工作，衛生防護中心的成立就是好例子。

「衛生防護中心能擔當衛生署、醫管局及私營醫護界別的橋樑，令香港預防傳染病的工作做得更好。我每天也收到防護中心的通報及資訊，讓我更能掌握香港傳染病的情況。另一方面，有關健康教育的宣傳多了，無疑提高了市民對疾病的警覺性。」

## 強化大學角色

沈教授現時是衛生防護中心中央科學顧問委員會以及腸道傳染及食物傳播疾病科學委員會成員，透過定期會議，跟其他學者以及醫學權威就一些醫學問題交換意見。沈教授表示這是一個理想的平台，匯聚專業意見。但他認為，大學的角色可以加強。

「我希望衛生防護中心加強與大學之間的合作，例如，把醫護人員的訓練以及醫學的研究工作，交由大學去做。我認為大學的積極參與可以提升香港整體的醫護質素。」

## 專注醫學研究

沈教授是腸胃科方面的權威，曾因研究幽門螺旋菌而揚名。沈教授沙士後辭任了威爾斯親王醫院的行政工作，專注醫學研究。現時集中開展有關流感及愛滋病的研究工作。有關流感的研究將探討注射流感疫苗的市民感染流感的比率；而愛滋病的研究就集中整理香港愛滋病病人的資料，從而跟外國患者比較發病表現以及治療反應，當中會涉及中西用藥的研究。

另外，沈教授亦忙於沙士的研究，研究人員早前到廣州訪問了三間曾接收沙士病人的醫院，沈教授希望將有關的數據跟香港方面比較，從而令預防傳染病的工作做得更好。

## 謹守工作崗位

談到香港預防傳染病的整體方向，沈教授認為可以加強護士的角色，以及做好公共衛生教育工作，提高市民防疫意識。他指出感染控制對預防傳染病十分重要，而在醫院及老人院工作的護士及護理員可以通過培訓，加強感染控制的角色。

另一方面，沈教授寄語每一位醫護人員謹守崗位，除了關心一己的仕途外，亦要明白工作的意義及對社會的承擔，因為醫護工作是神聖的，對社會及人的生命起著重要的作用。Ⓜ

to come up with the book *Bu Yiyang de Tiankong*, or "A Different Sky", a chronicle of his spiritual journey and a compilation of anecdotes of his colleagues and patients during the SARS period. He hopes his book will remind the readers of the lessons learnt from the traumatic experience.

And Professor SUNG does agree that the Government, medical professionals and the general public have learnt their lessons. The value system is no longer the same, for one thing; personal and environmental hygiene has also improved. As for the public health sector, a big difference is noted in the communicable disease prevention efforts, which are all the more proactive and best exemplified by the establishment of the CHP.

"The Centre for Health Protection acts as the bridge between the Department of Health, the Hospital Authority and the private health care sector. This is crucial for enhancing communicable disease prevention. I receive disease information and updates from the CHP every day, and they help me to piece together the current scene of communicable diseases in Hong Kong. I am also seeing a lot more health education and promotion lately, and that surely heightens the public vigilance over various diseases," Professor SUNG said.

## Emphasising the role of universities

Professor SUNG is a member of the Board of Scientific Advisers and a member of the Scientific Committee on Enteric Infections and Foodborne Diseases. Through regular meetings, these structures allow scholars and medical experts to exchange their views on various health issues. While reckoning that the meetings have been an ideal platform for putting heads together, Professor SUNG would also like to see the universities play a more prominent role in the whole scene.

"I look forward to an intensified cooperation between the CHP and the universities. For example, medical personnel training and medical research can be conducted by the universities. I believe the active participation from the universities enables the improvement of the overall quality of medical services in Hong Kong."

## Focusing on medical research

Professor SUNG is the person of authority in the field of gastroenterology, and he is famous for his study of *Helicobacter pylori*. After the SARS outbreak, Professor SUNG



沈祖堯教授（右）參與衛生防護中心的應變演習「楓葉行動」。

Professor SUNG (right) took part in the Exercise Maple, a contingency exercise of the CHP.

resigned from administrative duties at the Prince of Wales Hospital and devoted himself to research. His focus is now on kick-starting research on influenza and AIDS. The former aims at investigating the prevalence of flu among the vaccinated population, while the latter concentrates on the compilation of an AIDS patients databank as a means to compare the manifestation and treatment responses of full-blown AIDS among local and overseas patients. The use of traditional Chinese remedies and Western medicine in the treatment will also be investigated.

Professor SUNG is also busy with a SARS investigation which features interviews with some 30 Guangzhou hospitals that handled SARS patients during the outbreak. He hopes to compare the findings with those of Hong Kong in order to improve on the prevention of communicable diseases.

## Staying conscientious

As for the way forward for communicable disease prevention in Hong Kong, Professor SUNG wishes to see nursing personnel assuming a more influential function, and public health education enhanced so as to better equip the public for outbreak prevention. He pointed out that infection control is very important for disease prevention, and given suitable training, nursing personnel and caregivers in hospitals and elderly homes can become better infection controllers.

The enthusiastic Professor also extended his words of encouragement to all medical professionals, emphasising that it is important for everyone to be conscientious about their work. The medical profession should not be preoccupied with the development of career prospects; they should understand the true meaning of their job and their social responsibilities, for health care profession is one that is noble, and its influence on the society and individual lives is unparalleled.Ⓜ

## 幕後英雄——化驗室

### Behind-the-scenes hero-laboratory

警方憑著細小的指紋，可以成功破案；但要破解疾病爆發的源頭所在，則須仔細化驗分析病毒及細菌。由禽流感以至沙士個案，化驗室於疾病偵測上扮演非常重要的角色。

衛生防護中心的公共衛生化驗服務處是揭開疾病底牌的基地，提供臨床診斷及公共衛生化驗服務。該處有五個功能分部，包括微生物部、病毒部、組織病理及細胞部、化學病理及血液部以及初生嬰兒普檢部。它們集中於公共衛生檢測中心及臨床病理化驗中心。

**微生物部**轄下有十間實驗室，提供微生物檢驗服務，包括進行細菌耐藥性檢驗、食物、水以及環境樣本化驗等。

**病毒部**轄下有五間主要的實驗室，負責診斷和監察各類病毒、衣原體和立克次體感染，並獲世界衛生組織指定為香港特別行政區和澳門特別行政區的国家流感中心和國家脊髓灰質炎病毒實驗室。部門亦是世界衛生組織指定的禽流感和非典參比實驗室。

**組織病理及細胞部**處理一般的組織病理學及細胞學樣本，專長於皮膚活組織檢查及子宮頸細胞學。

**化學病理及血液部**提供化學病理及血液化驗服務。

**初生嬰兒普檢部**為本港初生嬰兒提供普檢化驗服務，普檢計劃包括以臍帶血樣本對嬰兒進行甲狀腺功能測試及葡萄糖六磷酸去氫酵素缺乏症測試。Ⓢ

Tiny fingerprints are the clues that unlock a case during a police investigation; in an outbreak investigation, laboratory tests and analyses of viruses and bacteria take the place. From avian flu to SARS, laboratory plays a significant role in disease detection.

The Public Health Laboratory Services Branch of the CHP provides clinical diagnostic and public health laboratory services. It comprises five functional Divisions, namely, Microbiology Division, Virology Division, Histopathology & Cytology Division, Chemical Pathology & Haematology Division and Neonatal Screening Division. They are centralised in the Public Health Laboratory Centre and the Clinical Pathology Laboratory Centre.

**The Microbiology Division** comprises ten laboratories. It provides microbiology



公共衛生檢測中心  
Public Health Laboratory Centre

laboratory services including antibiotic susceptibility testing, bacteriological examination on food, water and environmental samples, etc.

**The Virology Division** consists of five major laboratories. It is a specialised unit for the diagnosis and surveillance of viral, chlamydial and rickettsial infections. It is designated by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the National Influenza Centre and National Poliovirus Laboratory for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Macao Special Administrative Region. The Division is also designated by the WHO as reference laboratory for the diagnosis of avian influenza and SARS reference and verification laboratory.

**Histopathology & Cytology Division** handles general histopathology and cytology specimens with special interest in skin biopsy and cervical cytology.

**Chemical Pathology & Haematology Division** provides centralised chemical pathology and haematology laboratory services.

**Neonatal Screening Division** is the main local service provider in neonatal screening. The screening programme includes Thyroid tests and G6PD tests from cord blood samples. Ⓢ



微生物部  
Microbiology Division



病毒部  
Virology Division



組織病理及細胞部  
Histopathology & Cytology Division



化學病理及血液部  
Chemical Pathology & Haematology Division



初生嬰兒普檢部  
Neonatal Screening Division

# 做好準備 齊抗流感大流行

## Get Prepared for Influenza Pandemic

流感病毒變種，加上亞洲地區再次出現人類感染禽流感個案，國際公共衛生專家一致同意，各國應作好預備，應付隨時出現的流感大流行。有見及此，衛生防護中心製作了「防備流感大流行錦囊」，讓市民了解流感大流行，以及預防流感的方法。

防護中心六月份在全港四個地區舉辦了「防備流感大流行公眾講座及交流會」，由防護中心醫生向市民介紹「流感大流行」三級應變計劃以及派發防備流感大流行錦囊。防護中心總監梁栢賢醫生及醫管局高級行政經理

劉少懷出席了首場講座及交流會，並向公眾介紹有關流感的資訊。

另外，防護中心亦舉辦了多場講座，向各政府部門、醫護界別、傳媒、以及社區組織介紹「流感大流行」三級應變計劃。


市民如欲參閱「防備流感大流行錦囊」或其他有關流感的資料，可瀏覽防護中心網頁，網址為

<http://www.chp.gov.hk> 



Pak Yin, Controller of the CHP, and Dr LIU Shao Haei of the Hospital Authority attended the first session and shared with the public useful information on influenza.

Similar forums were also organised for the government departments, health care workers, media and community organisations.


If you would like to know more about the Kit or any information related to influenza, please visit the CHP website at <http://www.chp.gov.hk> 




Following the intermittent emergence of new influenza subtypes and the recurrence of human cases of avian influenza infections in Asia, public health experts around the globe concur that the nations should be well-prepared for the possible dawn of the influenza pandemic.

In view of this, the CHP produced the 'Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Kit' (Kit) with an aim to enhance public awareness on the influenza pandemic. Four public forums were organised for the public in June. During the forums, CHP staff introduced the three-tier system of the Government's Preparedness Plan for Influenza Pandemic and distributed the Kit. Dr LEUNG

# 人材交流計劃 Attachment to CHP

十名廣東省疾病預防控制中心的公共衛生和醫護專業人員，四月份在香港完成了為期三周的人材交流計劃。該計劃由衛生防護中心及食物環境衛生署推行，旨在促進兩地預防及控制傳染病的交流。 

A team of 10 medical and health care professionals from the Guangdong Centre for Disease Control and Prevention completed a three-week professional attachment in Hong Kong in April.


The programme was organised by the CHP and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department with an aim to strengthen co-operation between Guangdong and Hong Kong in disease prevention and control. 




# 項目巡禮 Programmes in Focus

## 衛生防護 齊回顧 同展望

### Review and Forward Looking

衛生防護中心成立一周年。為了加強與員工的溝通，防護中心於六月二十四日舉行了員工座談會，總監梁栢賢醫生以及各分處主任及代表，對各同事的竭誠工作予以肯定，並回顧過去一年的工作以及展望將來的發展路向。 

CHP celebrated its first anniversary on June 1. With a view to enhancing internal cohesion and team spirit, a staff forum was held on June 24. During the forum, CHP Controller, Dr LEUNG

Pak Yin, together with Branch heads and their representatives, honoured the hard work of the colleagues. It also provided a chance for CHP staff to review the progress of the work and look ahead. 



項目管理及專業發展處大合照  
A group photo of Programme Management and Professional Development Branch



梁栢賢醫生與同事真情對話  
A question-and-answer session hosted by Dr LEUNG Pak Yin



座談會一隅  
A corner of the staff forum

### 員工心聲 Words from the staff



#### 公共衛生服務處主任譚卓明醫生

「這次座談會好讓同事聚首一堂，回顧及檢討過去一年的工作，亦提供了機會，讓不同部門的同事互相認識，加強合作關係。」

#### Dr C MTAM, Head, PHSB

"The staff forum provides a chance for colleagues to meet up and review the work over the past one year. It is also good for colleagues to make known to each other and enhance their working relationship."

#### 護士長梁莉梅

「參與這次座談會的目的，主要是想加深認識各個分處的功能以及過去一年所做的工作。我期望藉著今次活動，可以認識防護中心將來的發展路向。」

#### Ms Lily LEUNG, Nursing Officer

"I join the forum because I want to know more about the functions and work of the CHP branches. I would also like to know the direction of the CHP in the near future."



#### 中央健康教育組總監蔡遠寧博士

「衛生防護中心成立一周年，正好提供機會，讓大家一起回顧與前瞻。我認為是次活動可以加深員工對防護中心工作的認識，亦加強了同事之間的溝通及連繫。」

#### Dr Ray CHOY, Head, CHEU

"The CHP has been established for one year. This forum provides an ideal occasion for us to review and look at the way forward of the CHP. I believe it can provide a clear picture of the work of the CHP. It also helps enhance communication among staff members."

#### 中央健康教育組高級醫生何美蓮

「作為衛生防護中心當中的一份子，我非常支持是次活動。我希望藉此了解各個分處過去一年的工作進展，並了解防護中心的發展方向。」

#### Dr Janet HO, Senior Medical and Health Officer, CHEU

"As a staff member of the CHP, I strongly support the forum. I would like to know more about the working progress of different branches over the past one year and the direction of the CHP."



# 項目巡禮 Programmes in Focus



## 監察及流行病學處高級醫生曾超賢

「這次座談會不單加強員工與高層的溝通，更重要的是可以了解防護中心將來的發展路向，我認為防護中心可多舉辦類似的活動。」

### Dr Chester TSANG, Senior Medical and Health Officer, SEB

"The staff forum not only strengthens communication between the senior and the junior, but also provides a clear picture for the way forward. I suggest the CHP to hold similar forums in the future."

## 標準化細菌指紋有助追查細菌源頭 Standardised DNA fingerprinting of bacteria helps tracing disease outbreak

人類的指紋可以判別個人身份，而細菌的指紋則可以協助追查細菌源頭，有助處理跨境食物中毒的個案。

現時透過一種稱為脈衝電泳的技術 (PFGE)，微生物學家能夠於基因層面分辨出不同種類的細菌，從而譜出不同細菌的獨特DNA分佈圖，亦即「細菌指紋」。衛生防護中心醫務微生物學顧問醫生甘啟文表示，現時多個國家及地區均擁有這種技術。他指出，日本以往曾爆發O157大腸桿菌食物中毒，當地微生物專家進行細菌指紋分析後，發現該指紋在日本甚為少見，後來與美國方面核對指紋，發現是美國一間食品廠生產的食物出現問題，因而成功追查染病的來源。

雖然現時多個國家及地區均擁有細菌指紋分析的技術，不過，由於彼此所用的方法不一致，所以未必能直接將指紋比對。甘醫生表示，香港獲美國疾病控制及預防中心認可，負責統籌亞太區細菌指紋標準化的工作。他表示會先進行沙門氏菌、O157大腸桿菌以及李斯特菌等的指紋標準化工作。

而為了加強亞太地區實驗室的聯繫以及推廣細菌指紋分析標準化的工作，公共衛生檢測中心三月初舉辦了為期四日的「亞太區 PulseNet 工作坊」，旨在提升亞太地區各國實驗室對抗傳染病的能力。 [HP](#)

To identify individuals, we can check one's fingerprints. If we want to trace the origins of bacteria, DNA fingerprinting of the bacteria

can help. Such technique helps a lot in tracing cross-border food poisoning cases.

Today, by means of Pulsed-field Gel Electrophoresis (PFGE), microbiologists are able to distinguish strains of bacteria at the genetic level and map the unique DNA distribution, the so-called "DNA fingerprint" of different bacteria. According to Dr KAM Kai Man, Consultant Medical Microbiologist of Centre for Health Protection (CHP), this technology is currently mastered by a number of countries/areas over the globe. Recently, there was an outbreak of foodborne illness caused by E. coli O157 in Japan. Local microbiologists performed DNA fingerprinting and found that the bacteria had a "fingerprint" unlike any of those found domestically. After searching through the database from the United States, it was determined that the strain of E. coli O157 in question was the same as that found in the food produced by a US manufacturer, and the cause of this outbreak was successfully identified.

Although many countries have the technology of analysing the "fingerprints" of bacteria, they employ different methods and direct matching of these "fingerprints" is not possible unless a standardised protocol is deployed. Dr KAM added that Hong Kong is authorised by the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to take a coordinating role in standardising DNA fingerprinting methods in the Asia Pacific region. Salmonella, E. coli O157 and Listeria monocytogenes are set at the top of the agenda for standardisation.

To promote DNA fingerprinting standardisation as well as strengthen ties among laboratories in the Asia Pacific, a four-day international training workshop, "PulseNet Asia Pacific Workshop", was held in early March by Public Health Laboratory Centre of the CHP. It also aimed to enhance laboratory capacity of Asia Pacific countries in combating infectious diseases. [HP](#)



甘啟文醫生(後排右一)與部門同事統籌「亞太區 PulseNet 工作坊」

Dr KAM Kai Man (last right on the back row) led an energetic team in organising "PulseNet Asia Pacific Workshop"

# 活動快拍 Snapshots of Events

衛生署於全港89間診所/服務單位展示全新製作的反吸煙健康教育展板，喚起市民對“煙之害 禍無窮”的關注。

A new set of anti-smoking exhibition boards were placed at 89 clinics/service units to publicise the theme of anti-smoking.

1.4.2005



1.4.2005



香港甲一組籃球員胡麗芳小姐，在「姚明與魔術手莊遜 - 了解與關懷」宣傳片首播禮中，呼籲公眾接納愛滋病毒感染者。

Miss WU Lai-fong, a top Hong Kong basketball player, called for public acceptance of people living with HIV/AIDS in the premiere of API "Yao Ming and Magic Johnson - To understand and care".

21-22.4.2005

美國感染控制專家(APIC)來港分享醫護經驗。

Experts of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) shared experience with HK counterparts.



16.5.2005

加拿大公共衛生局到訪衛生防護中心。

Official visit by the Public Health Agency of Canada.



16.5.2005

電視劇「醫學神探」啟播儀式，此戲旨在提高市民防疫意識。

Launching ceremony of TV drama "Medical Detective". The programme aims at enhancing people's awareness on disease prevention.



24.5.2005

二十一位來自南韓的公共衛生專家及醫護人員到灣仔胸肺科診所參觀，了解本港結核病情況以及治療方法。

Twenty one health care professionals and workers from the Republic of Korea visited Wanchai Chest Clinic. The visitors were briefed on the local situation of tuberculosis in Hong Kong and how the patients received anti-TB drug treatment.



21.5.2005

「紅絲帶動力」愛滋病教育資助計劃開展典禮暨紅絲帶中心八周年紀念。

"Red Ribbon in Action" Launching Ceremony cum 8th Red Ribbon Centre Anniversary.



31.5.2005

為響應五月三十一日的「世界不吸煙日」，反吸煙宣傳運動在鬧市展開。

Promotional activity on anti-smoking was held on the street in support of the World No Tobacco Day.



社區聯絡部莫昭友醫生(左)出席2005蘇港澳健康城市論壇，分享健康推廣的經驗。

Dr CY MOK (left) of the Community Liaison Division shared experiences with the Mainland counterparts in the Suzhou-Hong Kong-Macao Healthy Cities Forum 2005.

25-26.5.2005



# 活動快拍 Snapshots of Events



13.6.2005

新入職員工出席迎新活動。  
Newly recruited administrative staff were attending induction programme.

27.6.2005



兩位來自佛山疾病預防控制中心的醫護專家到訪中央健康教育組。  
Two health care professionals from the Foshan Centre for Disease Control and Prevention paid a visit to the Central Health Education Unit.



30.6.2005

「每日二加三」運動旨在鼓勵均衡飲食，提倡成年人每天應進食最少兩份水果及三份蔬菜。中央健康教育組為非政府機構員工舉辦簡介會，推廣此活動。

The campaign of "2 Plus 3 A Day" aims to promote balanced diet with daily minimal intake of 2 servings of fruits and 3 servings of vegetables for adults. A briefing session was organised for non-governmental organisations by the Central Health Education Unit to promote the campaign.

1-5.7.2005



衛生署及愛滋病顧問局的代表團出席了在日本舉行的第七屆亞太區愛滋病國際會議，與來自45個國家的專家交流防治愛滋病的經驗。

The delegation from the Department of Health and Advisory Council on AIDS attended the "7th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific" in Japan. They shared experiences in HIV prevention and care with experts from 45 countries.

## 編者的話 Words from the Editor


CHP剛過了一周年，《CHP通訊》正好見證了CHP的成長。我們藉此感謝各界對《CHP通訊》的支持，讓它成為有效的的資訊工具，報導CHP的人和事。

今期的「項目巡禮」報導了CHP員工座談會。當天，百多位同事濟濟一堂，齊回顧、同展望CHP的工作，氣氛熱烈。衛生防護中心總監及分處主任亦分享了他們的感受及工作路向。公共衛生化驗服務處的甘啟文醫生更笑言實驗室是他的家，大部分時間都在工作中渡過。今期「走訪衛生防護中心」的地方就是公共衛生化驗服務處，讓讀者對具備國際水平的實驗室有更深入的認識。

此外，今期很高興能夠訪問沈祖堯教授。編委在訪問前做了充足的資料搜集，除了翻閱剪報及立法會SARS研訊報告外；還閱讀了沈教授的著作《不一樣的天空》。我們的訪問並沒有刻意迴避尖銳的問題，而沈教授亦從容應對。他認為醫護工作是神聖的任務，應憑良心做事，榮譽亦並非他關注的問題。

醫護工作的確是任重道遠。但要做好香港的

公共衛生工作，除了依靠醫護人員的努力外；市民的參與亦不可少。

大家如對「CHP通訊」有任何意見，可傳真或電郵至本刊編輯部。傳真號碼為 2591 6127，電郵地址為rcag@dh.gov.hk。 

A year has gone by since the establishment of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP), and the CHP newsletter has been witnessing the growth of the CHP. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parties who have been contributing to this newsletter, making it an effective communication channel covering news about the people and events of the CHP.

The "Programmes in Focus" of this issue highlights the CHP staff forum. The hearty gathering of over 100 colleagues from different branches featured the review and outlook for the CHP, and the Controller and Branch Heads shared their feelings and plans during the forum. Dr KAM Kai Man of the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch (PHLSB) even said that the laboratory was his home as he spent most of his time working there. Readers can gain a

deeper understanding of the PHLSB, a renowned laboratory of global standard, by reading our feature article in the "Venues in Focus".

Also, we are glad to have an interview with Professor Joseph SUNG. Before the interview, we have sifted through piles of newspaper clippings, taken a look at the SARS report by the Legislative Council, and gone through his book "A Different Sky" for questions to ask. We never tried to shun touchy questions, but Prof SUNG answered frankly and graciously that honour and affront were out of his major concern, and that the medical service was a sacred mission and medical staff should put their hearts into it.

Medical work is of vital importance to carry people through thick and thin. However, only with joint effort of the medical practitioners and the general public can the public health of Hong Kong be safeguarded.

Should there be any suggestion, please fax to our Editorial Board at 2591 6127 or email to rcag@dh.gov.hk 