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共融不是夢
Breaking the Silence

建聾健雙向溝通之橋
Bridging the Communication Gap Between the Deaf and the Hearing

▲（左起）Kim、鄧慧蘭教授及施婉萍教授以手語表達「支持手語」
(from left) Kim, Prof. Gladys Tang and Prof. Felix Sze express 'supporting sign language' in sign language

手語並非只是讓聾人交流的一組動作，它本身有語言系統與文化。中大語言學及現代語言系教授、手語及聾人研究中心主任**鄧慧蘭**指出，現時通曉手語的教師、言語治療師、社工等前線人員並不多。香港的聾人及弱聽人士逾十五萬人，但手語傳譯員只有五十多名，她說：「若有更多健聽者學習手語，將有助聾人融入社會。」

中大語言學及現代語言系將於2019年9月開辦亞洲首個以手語及口語「雙渠道雙語」研究為重心的語言學課程，為兩年制的銜接學士課程，首年學額有二十個。除了普通語言學及手語語言學外，課程亦參照《歐洲共同語言參考標準——手語》提供專業香港手語培訓。此標準的基礎水平為A1，即能明白基礎概念及日常表達，而最高級別為C2，意味能即時明白及流暢地表達抽象及複雜的概念。鄧教授冀望畢業生的手語水平將會達B1或以上，以滿足跟聾人溝通的基本需要。

文字溝通不能代替手語

一般人認為紙筆交流或手機文字短訊已可滿足聾健溝通需要，但語言學及現代語言系教授、手語及聾人研究中心聯席主任**施婉萍**不以為然。她認為聾人要掌握書面語不易，因為手語語法與中文語法不同，「中文句子『我沒有書』，手語表達則為『我書沒有』，所以要中文讀寫能力比較弱的聾人用中文語法表達句子，猶如要普通人按英文語法表達中文，把『你去邊度？』講成『邊度你去？』。」

語言學及現代語言系畢業生Kim補充道：「手語是聾人較熟悉的語言，只有手語能讓他們完整接收訊息和表達所思所感。在重要時刻，例如錄口供或看病時，聾人更需要用手語，因為這樣才能準確表達自身處境和需要。」她就讀本科時認識了三位聾人同學，為了與他們溝通，報讀了學系的手語選修課，自此與手語結下不解緣，更完成中心的「手語傳譯專業文憑課程」。她認為要達致聾健共融，先要明白聾人的溝通需要，與之同行。

雙語互動 相得益彰

Kim畢業後加入中心創立的社企「語橋社會資源有限公司」（語橋社資），負責推廣手語及口語雙語教育、提供手語傳譯等服務。人出生後的首三至五年是學習語言的黃金時期，手語亦然，語橋社資的主要服務為「雙語樂—早期手語雙語發展計劃」，培訓零至六歲聾童、健聽學童及有其他有特殊教育需要的兒童，透過視覺和聽覺跨渠道的雙語輸入，幫助他們的整體發展。

幼童同時學習手語和口語會混淆他們的語言表達嗎？鄧教授倒認為兩種語言之間的互動能鞏固語言基礎，「正如香港學生初學英文時，表達英文難免帶有廣東話影子，犯語法錯誤本身是語言學習的過程，當他們繼續沉浸在英文語境，會逐漸了解兩者的不同。很多雙語研究結果顯示，小孩運用雙語時，其實有能力分辨兩者的異同。」

Kim的本科畢業論文研究一位參與「手語雙語共融教育計劃」的聾童，安排他分別與聾人、不懂手語的健聽者和通曉雙語的她玩遊戲，發現他會以手語與聾人溝通，以口語與健聽者對話，但與Kim互動時會隨意打手語或說話。Kim說：「他的父親是健聽者，母親是聾人，自幼在雙語環境長大，有能力選擇以手語或口語表達。」

彌補單渠道溝通之不足

現時聾人教育的主要教學語言為口語，施教授指出此單渠道模式的不足：如果老師只用口語教學，聾童單靠讀唇認字的話，只能看見如m、p、b等嘴唇發音的聲母，但後腔音或捲舌音等便較難看見，所以純口語教學未能讓聾童全面掌握中文表達，他們亦會因而錯過不少課堂內容，影響學習進度。

雙渠道指同時兼顧「聽覺/口語」及「視覺/空間」的表達，後者指手語動作與表情。表情是手語語法的一部分，能使聾人更明白內容；以「開心」和「非常開心」為例，手語的動作一樣，但只要配合較誇張的表情，便能表達「非常開心」。施教授說：「根據手語語言學及聾童學習語言的研究，雙渠道雙語模式能讓聾童學得更好，手語亦能夠促進他們口語及讀寫能力的發展，加強學習動機。」

雙渠道雙語課程的學生亦會選修教育、社工及傳譯三個範疇的科目，並須完成實習或研究論文。鄧教授說：「課程目標是為學生打下扎實的雙語知識基礎，畢業後可以投身各行各業，或者繼續進修某些專業或碩士課程，比如教育文憑、社會工作碩士、言語治療碩士等等。」她希望畢業生能兼善手語和口語，並以專業知識幫助服務對象，共同締造聾健共融的社會。

▲ 雙渠道雙語模式能讓聾童學得更好
Bimodal bilingual pedagogy facilitates deaf children's learning
(Courtesy of the Centre for Sign Linguistics and Deaf Studies)

▲ 嬰兒手語雙語班
Baby Sign Bilingual Class (Courtesy of SLCO Community Resources)

Sign language is more than merely gestures among the deaf communicators. It has its language system and culture. Prof. **Gladys Tang**, Professor of CUHK's Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages and Director of the Centre for Sign Linguistics and Deaf Studies (CSLDS), pointed out that not many teachers, language therapists or social workers could master sign language. There are more than 150,000 deaf and hearing-impaired people in Hong Kong, but local sign interpreters are slightly above 50. 'The more hearing people learning sign language, the better its impact on social inclusion for the deaf.'

The Department will offer a two-year top-up degree programme—B.A. in Bimodal Bilingual Studies—starting September 2019, as the first of its kind in Asia providing bimodal bilingual training which gives equal emphasis to sign and spoken languages. The quota in the first year is 20. Besides general linguistics and sign linguistics, the programme adopts the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages—Sign Languages* in its Hong Kong sign language training. According to the *Framework*, language proficiency is defined on a scale from A1 (beginners level able to understand and use daily expressions) to C2 (able to use abstract and complex expressions). Professor Tang expects the graduates' sign language proficiency could attain B1 or above (fulfilling basic communication needs with the deaf).

The Irreplaceable Sign Language

Some people may think that the deaf are well served by written communication in black and white or via smartphones. But Prof. **Felix Sze** of the Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages and Co-Director of CSLDS begs to differ. She thinks that written communication poses a challenge to the deaf because the Chinese grammar differs from sign language's. 'The Chinese sentence "I have no book" becomes "I book no have" in sign language. To require the deaf who are no native readers and writers of Chinese to follow Chinese grammar is like asking a Chinese-speaking person to express herself in Chinese but following English syntax.'

Kim, a graduate of the Department, added, 'The deaf are more adept at sign language which allows them to receive messages and express themselves in full. Important acts such as giving a police statement or explaining symptoms to a doctor highlight their reliance on sign language to communicate effectively and precisely.' Kim met three deaf classmates in her undergraduate studies. To communicate with them, she took a few sign language electives of the Department and even completed the Professional Diploma Programme in Sign Language Interpretation offered by CSLDS. To cultivate a truly inclusive society, she thinks an understanding of and empathizing with the communication needs of the deaf is a prerequisite.

A Versatile Tool for Expression

After graduation, Kim joined the social enterprise SLCO Community Resources Limited (SLCO-CR) founded by CSLDS. The scope of her job includes facilitating sign bilingualism and offering sign interpretation. The first three to five years since birth are most vital for language acquisition, including sign language. The flagship project of SLCO-CR is the Fun with Sign and Speech—Early Sign Bilingual Development Programme, targeting deaf and hearing children aged 0–6 or children with special education needs. Through the bilingual input in visual and auditory modes, the project could facilitate the children's overall development.

Would acquiring sign and spoken language at the same time hamper the children's language development? Professor Tang thinks that bilingual interaction actually consolidates children's language foundation. 'When Hong Kong students begin to learn English, their mother tongue inevitably interferes. But error-making is part of the language learning process. When they further immerse themselves in the English context, they would be able to differentiate the two. Many bilingual studies indicate that bilingual children are able to differentiate between the two languages.'

Kim chose a deaf child in the Sign Bilingualism and Co-enrolment in Deaf Education Programme to study for her graduation thesis. She arranged the child to play with a deaf person, a hearing person without sign language knowledge, and herself who is competent bilingually. She observed that the child signed fluently with the deaf, spoke to the hearing person, and interacted bilingually with her. She said, 'The child's father can hear and his mother is deaf. He grows up in a bilingual context and therefore is able to switch between sign and spoken language.'

Fixing the Loophole of Unimodal Communication

Nowadays, the medium of instruction in deaf education is mainly spoken language. Professor Sze doubts the effectiveness of such a unimodal communication. She explained: a deaf child can lip-read her teacher and see the labial consonants like m, p and b, but not sounds such as long vowels with a lowered jaw or rolling r. This explains the lower Chinese proficiency of deaf students who learned by only lip-reading their teachers.

Bimodality means giving the auditory/oral and the visual/spatial equal footing. The visual/spatial mode means gestures and facial expressions. The latter is also part of sign language grammar, which helps the deaf better understand the content. For example, the gestures of 'happy' and 'very happy' are the same. But if the signer uses a more exaggerated facial expression, the meaning of 'very happy' is conveyed. Professor Sze said, 'According to the studies of sign linguistics and deaf children language acquisition, bimodal bilingualism improves deaf children's learning. Sign language can stimulate their oral and written language development and enhance their learning motivation.'

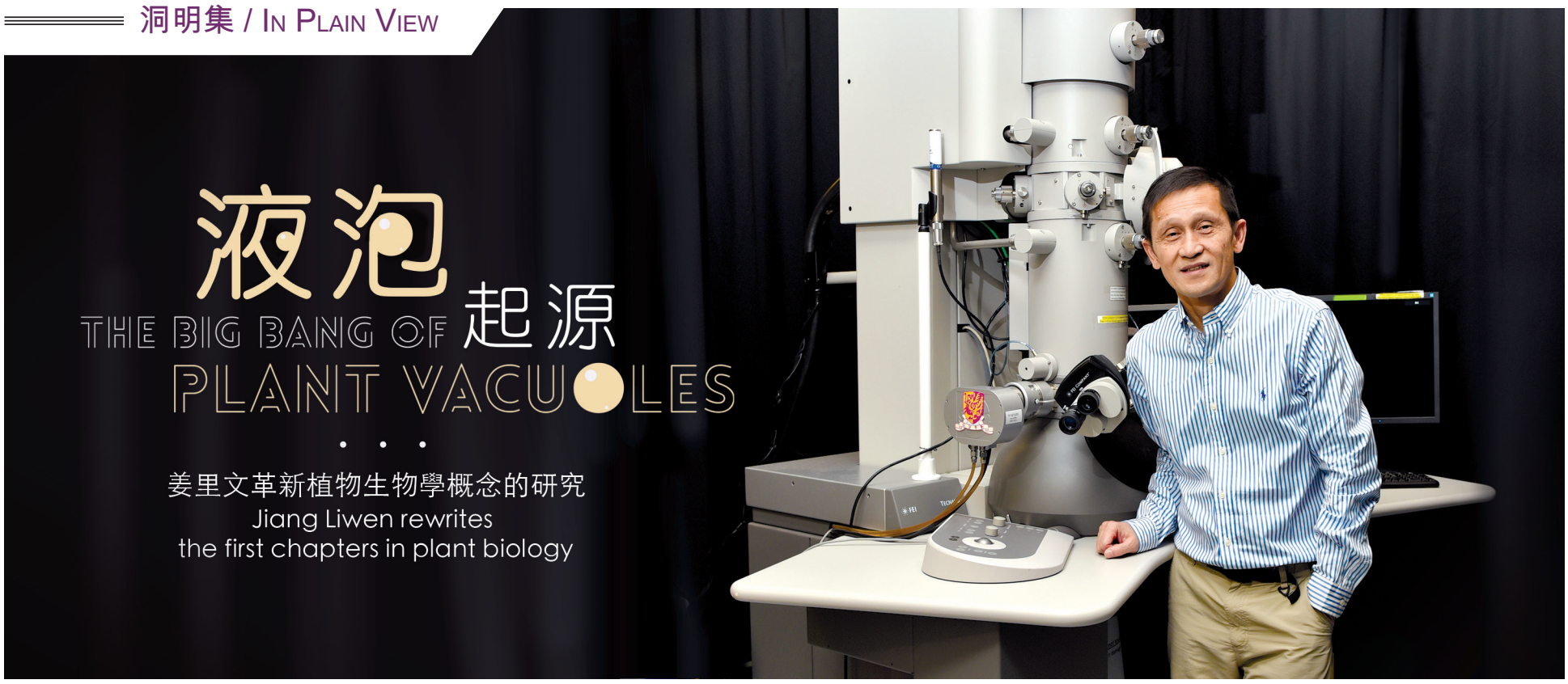
Students of the new programme will take electives in education, social work and interpretation, and need to undertake internship or research. Professor Tang said, 'The curriculum aims at laying a solid bilingual knowledge foundation. Graduates may find jobs in many sectors or further their studies in professions like teaching, social work and language therapy.' She hopes that the graduates can be competent bimodal bilinguals who will serve their clients with professional knowledge and co-build an inclusive society.

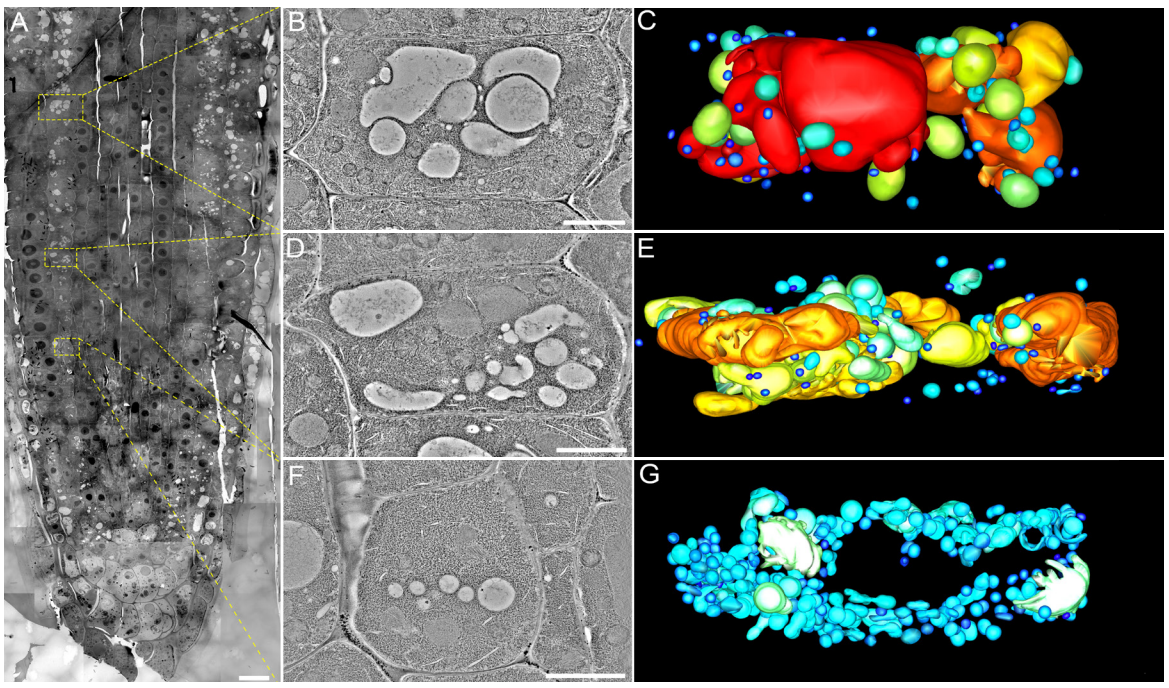
J. Lau

洞明集 / In Plain View

液泡起源
THE BIG BANG OF PLANT VACUOLES

姜里文革新植物生物學概念的研究
Jiang Liwen rewrites
the first chapters in plant biology





▲ 液泡起源模型的全細胞斷層掃描
The whole cell tomography of vacuole biogenesis (Cui Y *al.*, (2018))

▲ 手機程式以呈現植物細胞器的虛擬實境
Mobile App showing plant organelles in virtual reality

物理學家費曼說過：「我看不到一朵花怎會因有人研究而失色，花的美麗只會有增無減而矣。」

姜里文教授對此應該深信不疑，因為他對研究植物細胞也是樂此不疲，而且也每每發現其美麗動人之處。姜里文是中大卓敏生命科學教授，也是中大細胞及發育生物學研究中心主任，他領導的研究團隊在植物細胞器及蛋白質傳輸機理方面取得不少突破性成果，他最新對植物液泡起源的發現更是革新了植物生物學的基礎概念。

植物細胞器有如人體的器官，負責各項生存所需的機能。植物生物學教科書一般把內膜系統中的細胞器分類成內質網、高爾基體、多囊泡體及液泡，其中液泡更是最大最重要的細胞器。

液泡在植物成長及發育方面扮演着決定性的角色，姜教授形容它是總指揮官，掌控衰老排廢的裂解功能、儲存蛋白質及糖分、維持膨壓、平衡細胞體積及防禦功能等。

液泡的角色雖然重要，但科學家對其起源或進化所知甚少。過去四十年來出現過兩派學說，一說是液泡是由內涵體融合而成；另一說是從內質網形成一個單一相連的液泡，而且每個細胞只有一個液泡。近年三維透射電子顯微鏡技術發展一日千里，解析度已精細至以納米計算（一納米（nm）相等十億分之一米）。有見及此，姜教授決定利用此等技術來嘗試解開液泡起源之謎。

姜教授的團隊獲香港研究資助局卓越學科領域計劃的資助，數年前購置了一部尖端的電子斷層掃描儀，用來研究植物細胞不同階段的液泡狀態。他們選用擬南芥作為研究對象，因為擬南芥是第一種做到全基因列序的植物，而且容易快速生長，是植物生物學研究常用的樣本。

在納米解析率之下，細胞器的形態及分布都呈現前所未見的面貌。在細胞成長初段，可以見到很多直徑400至1000nm的小液泡，但其後這些小液泡的數量會逐漸減少，代之而出現的是直徑1000至2000nm，最後更是2000nm以上的液泡，顯示成熟的液泡是由小液泡融合而成，這個結果也直接否定了「單一相連液泡」一說。姜教授打個比喻：「我們現在手裏多了一枝焦距更遠的鏡頭，遠處一間房子本來只看到屋子外牆，現在屋裏有甚麼人，甚麼傢俬，不同時候發生甚麼事，都鉅細靡遺。」

團隊也發現小液泡其實是由直徑只有100至400nm的多囊泡體融合而成。小液泡和多囊泡體外型相似，都是外膜包着多個囊泡，所以很容易令人混淆。但姜教授分析兩者的大小、外膜的成分及不同階段的分布形態，判斷小液泡其實是由多囊泡體融合而成。

透過全細胞斷層掃描，加上以不同基因突變體作調節試驗，團隊提出一個新的液泡起源模型：液泡主要是由多囊泡體的融合衍生而成，而且過程中每一階段均有特定基因物質作出調節。

團隊在日本與美國的研究夥伴，以另一種尖端定型及掃描技術證實上述發現。團隊的研究成果獲*Nature Plants*發表，該著名科學期刊的網站更同時為此作了重點介紹。

姜教授表示：「是次研究成果將重新定義教科書中有關植物液泡的概念，並對應用植物生物學帶來重大影響。」他更指出未來如何改良穀物品種以抗疫除蟲，和怎樣利用種子儲存型液泡來生產藥用蛋白等研究也將受益不少。

姜教授認為研究無論多好，也要應用到教學上。他的團隊和中大資訊科技服務處合作研發了一個流動應用程式，以虛擬現實技術呈現植物細胞的三維世界，使學生親身見證植物液泡的形成。

這個流動應用程式在去年的中大教學創新展上獲得優等海報獎。姜教授說：「這個獎證明了前沿科研可以也應該造福教學。現在生物科學的轉變實在太快，學生不能只跟着書本唸，而是應該從多媒體、多角度不斷學習。」

Richard Feynman once said, 'I don't see how studying a flower ever detracts from its beauty. It only adds.'

The same could have been said by Prof. **Jiang Liwen** who never tires of studying plant cells and keeps finding beauty in them. Professor Jiang, Choh-ming Li Professor of Life Sciences and Director of the Centre for Cell and Developmental Biology at CUHK, and his team have done some exciting and groundbreaking work in plant organelles and protein traffic in plants. His latest findings in the biogenesis of vacuoles add another branch in his laurel.

The various life-sustaining functions of a plant cell are performed by its organelles which act like the human organs. Classic textbooks in plant biology differentiate organelles of the endomembrane system into endoplasmic reticulum (ER), Golgi apparatus, multivesicular bodies and vacuoles. The last is by far the largest and most important organelle.

Vacuoles are essential in regulating a plant's growth and development. According to Professor Jiang, they are the master regulator responsible for the lytic function (degradation and waste storage), the storage of proteins and sugar, maintenance of turgor pressure, the balance of cell volume and defence responses.

Despite their significant roles very little is known about their genesis or evolution. The name was derived from the Latin word *vacuolum* meaning 'little vacuum'. In the past 40 years two models have been proposed to explain their biogenesis. One school claims that vacuoles are formed by the fusion of endosomes. The other school hypothesizes that the vacuole is derived from the ER as a single interconnected organelle and that there is only one vacuole in every cell. With the advent of 3D transmission electron microscope technology with nanometre resolution (one nanometre (nm) is one billionth of a metre), Professor Jiang took on the challenge to engage in the debate on vacuole biogenesis.

With funding from the Areas of Exellence programme sponsored by the Research Grants Council of Hong Kong, Professor Jiang's team acquired a state-of-the-art 3D electron tomography (ET) equipment for the purpose of studying vacuole biogenesis at different developmental stages in the Arabidopsis root cells. *Arabidopsis thaliana*, the first plant to have its genome fully sequenced, is the lab mouse of plant biology because it is easy to grow and it grows fast.

At the nano-level, a new picture of the morphology and distribution of the organelles was revealed. In the early stages of the development of a cell, many small vacuoles (SVs) with sizes ranging from 400 nm to 1,000 nm in diameter are observed. In later stages, however, the number of such SVs decreases and in their place larger vacuoles (1,000–2,000 nm, then over 2,000 nm in diameter) can be found. This suggests that vacuoles are formed by the fusion of smaller vacuoles, a direct refutation of the 'one single interconnected vacuole' model mentioned above. Professor Jiang explained with a metaphor: 'We are given a more powerful zoom lens now. What used to appear as a house in the hazy distance can now be seen in sharper focus. We can see the details inside the house such as the furniture, the persons and their relative positions to each other and at different times. We understand better what's happening inside the house.'

The team also came upon the discovery that the SVs are formed from the fusion of multivesicular bodies (MVBs) measuring 100–400 nm in diameter. Because of their similarity in appearance (both have a number of vesicles or pockets enclosed by a membrane wall), SVs and MVBs can easily be mistaken for each other. But Professor Jiang concludes from their sizes, membrane composition, and distribution at different developmental stages that the latter indeed fuse and mature into the former.

Based on their findings from whole-cell tomography and experimenting with different gene mutants, the team has proposed a new model of vacuole biogenesis: vacuoles are mainly derived from the fusion and maturation of MVBs with each phase of the process regulated by a specific molecular regulator.

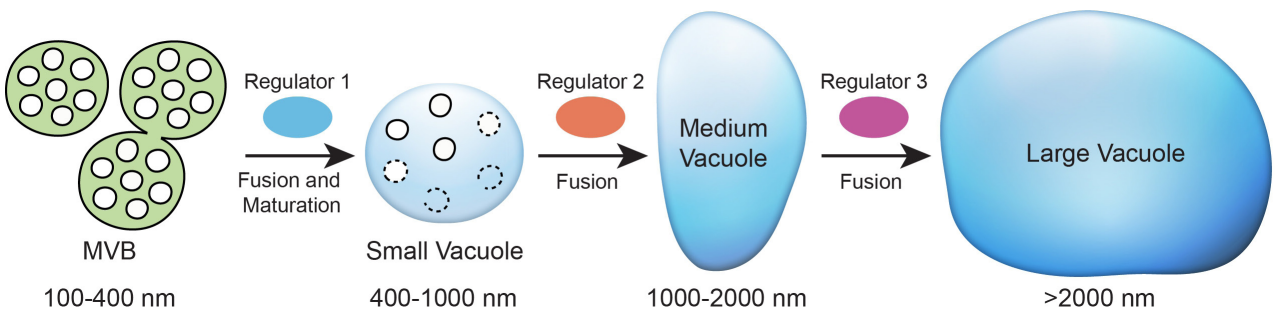
Results from the team's research partners in Japan and the US using a different fixation and imaging technology, namely, field emission scanning electron microscopy (FE-SEM), corroborated the above findings. When these findings were published in *Nature Plants*, they were specifically highlighted in the online platform of the prestigious journal.

Professor Jiang said, 'This work has redefined the concept of vacuole nature and vacuole formation in plants in textbooks which will certainly have a significant impact on applied plant biology.' He further pointed out its implications for further research on how to improve crop quality to overcome an adverse environment or pathogen infection as well as how to use and manipulate seed protein storage vacuoles in plant bioreactors for manufacturing pharmaceutical proteins.

Professor Jiang thinks that research is only as good as the pedagogical purposes it serves. His team has therefore collaborated with the Information Technology Services Centre of CUHK to produce a mobile app containing virtual reality renditions of, among other things, the plant vacuole formation process so as to enable students to explore and interact with the plant cell organelles in a dynamic 3D environment.

The mobile app, '3D Plant Cell Organelles via Virtual Reality (VR) Experience ', was awarded Poster Commendation at CUHK's Teaching and Learning Innovation Expo 2018. Professor Jiang said, 'It is a good example of how cutting-edge research can and should benefit pedagogy. As new discoveries in the biological sciences are rapidly made each day, students should take heed to learn from an evolving and multi-media multi-dimensional textbook.'

T.C.



硝煙中談貿易戰
On Smoke and Mirrors of the Trade War

中美貿易戰是目前最緊迫的全球雙邊關係議題。中大藍饒富暨藍凱麗經濟學講座教授劉遵義教授出版了新作《天塌不下來：中美貿易戰及未來經濟關係》，由中大出版社於1月25日舉行新書發布會暨講座，社會學榮休講座教授金耀基教授蒞臨主禮。劉教授分析中美貿易戰的歷史背景、現狀、影響及未來，認為各界無需過度悲觀，只要雙方改善經濟合作，充分開發對方目前的閑置資源，實現貿易平衡是可能的。

The China–US Trade War is currently the most pressing bilateral relations issue. Prof. Lawrence J. Lau, Ralph and Claire Landau Professor of Economics at CUHK, has published a book *The China–U.S. Trade War and Future Economic Relations*. The book launch-cum-talk was held on 25 January, officiated by Emeritus Professor of Sociology Prof. Ambrose King. Professor Lau analysed the background, present, influence and future of the trade war and concluded that over pessimism is unnecessary. As long as both countries improve their economic cooperation and fully utilise the idle resources bilaterally, economic balance is attainable.

「砌積木」建過渡校舍
Modular Transition School

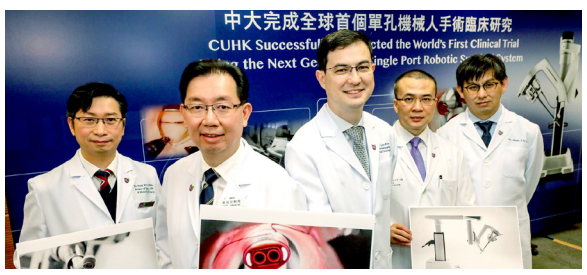
中大建築學院朱競翔教授團隊應前海規劃部門委託，設計了一種輕型預製鋼框架及鋼複合樓板結構圍護系統，建造過程快捷，於五個月內可建近六千平方米、容納三十二個標準班的過渡校舍—梅麗小學騰挪校舍。朱教授指校舍的重量僅為傳統鋼筋混凝土項目的五分一，因而對地基的要求大為減輕，加上系統構件的標準通用，允許多次拆裝，重複使用率高達95%，符合環保、可持續發展的要求。

The team of Prof. Zhu Jingxiang of CUHK's School of Architecture was invited by the Qianhai Planning Department to envision a universal spatial system which can be quickly assembled. The system uses a lightweight pre-fabricated steel frame and steel composite floor slab enclosures to speed up the construction process. It was applied in building the transition school for Meili Primary School which was constructed in just five months, providing a floor area of nearly 6,000 square metres housing 32 classrooms. Professor Zhu said that the weight of the school is only one-fifth of the typical reinforced concrete building, greatly reducing the requirement of site foundation. The modular system components allow multiple assembly and disassembly, with a reuse rate of 95%. This meets the ideal value of environmentally-friendly and sustainable development.

外科醫生的神奇手臂
Surgeons' Magical Arms

醫學院完成了全球首個多專科「單孔微創機械人手術系統」臨床研究，替逾六十位病人進行頭頸外科、泌尿外科及結直腸外科單孔微創手術，此機械臂可深入以往難以到達的病灶位置，例如鼻咽和下咽部。直徑約2.5厘米的手術系統只需經單一切口或天然孔道，即可把三支手術工具及一個三維高清鏡頭放進病人體內。經訓練的外科醫生可遙距操控機械臂上的手術工具，經高清鏡頭顯示的三維影像觀察病灶，於狹窄環境進行複雜而精密的手術。

The Faculty of Medicine conducted the world's first multi-specialty clinical trial using the Single Port Minimally Invasive Robotic Surgical System. More than 60 patients underwent single port robotic-assisted minimally invasive surgery as part of this trial. The novel system allows surgeons to reach deep spaces previously difficult to reach, like the nasopharynx and the hypopharynx. The surgical arm only needs a single entry site for three instruments and a high-definition (HD) 3D camera operated through an incision or a natural orifice which enables the 2.5cm-system cannula to go through. Trained surgeons can control the instruments at the distal tip and view the HD 3D image of the operating field through the endoscope via the console, enabling them to perform complicated procedures with precision in narrow workspaces.

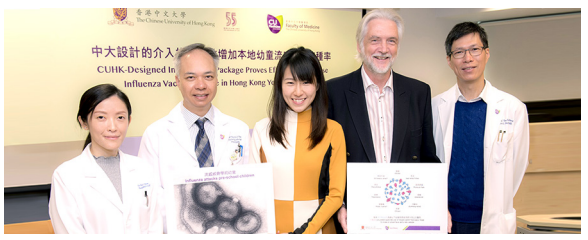


協力推動醫學研究
Synergy in Medical Research

烏特勒支大學校長Anton Pijpers教授（左）率領代表團於1月10至11日到訪中大，參與兩校首度合辦的研討會，雙方逾四十位研究員雲集其間，確立四個領域的未來合作方案，包括矯形外科及再生醫學、兒童衞生、癌症及類器官，以及大腦及神經科學。席間探討多項研究合作，包括骨骼掃描、新生兒科及臨床傳染病、大腸癌，以及光學腦磁激技術等。校長段崇智教授為兩校十五年來的合作成就感到鼓舞，期望繼續攜手締造世界級並具影響力的研究成果。

CUHK hosted the first joint workshop with Utrecht University (UU) on from 10 to 11 January with participation from a delegation led by Prof. Anton Pijpers (left), President of the Executive Board, UU. Over 40 researchers from both universities joined the workshop to identify new joint initiatives in four areas including Orthopaedics and Regenerative Medicine, Child Health, Cancer and Organoid, and Brain and Neuroscience. The event provided impetus for new projects relating to bone imaging, neonatology and clinical infectious diseases, colorectal cancer, and optical imaging informed transcranial magnetic stimulation, among other initiatives. Prof. Rocky S. Tuan, Vice-Chancellor and President, was impressed by the achievements jointly made by the two universities over the past 15 years and was hopeful that the partnership will produce world-class and impactful collaborative research.

提升本地幼童流感疫苗接種率
Increasing Influenza Vaccine Uptake among Local Children



幼童流感疫苗接種率偏低，中大醫學院研究團隊試驗四項介入措施能否提升接種率，以保障更多兒童。經研究後，證明可提升兩歲以下兒童的流感疫苗接種率幾近兩倍，估計助降低相關住院率13%至24%，結果已發表於醫學期刊《疫苗》。介入措施包括簡介流感風險和疫苗益處的單張、申請疫苗資助的半完成表格、接種疫苗不額外收費的診所聯絡方法，以及接種疫苗的提示短訊。

In view of the low rate of influenza vaccination uptake among children, researchers from the Faculty of Medicine conducted a study to investigate whether an intervention package would help boost the uptake to provide them with extra protection. After an intervention trial, the team has proved that it could increase influenza vaccination uptake by nearly two times in children aged below two years, and estimates that 13% to 24% paediatric cases of influenza-associated admissions to hospital could be prevented. The result has been published in the medical journal *Vaccine*. The package includes a concise information sheet about the risks of influenza and the benefits of vaccination, semi-completed forms for subsidy application; list of clinics that did not charge above the subsidy; and text message reminders for vaccination.

中大（深圳）在國際網路傳輸競賽獲獎
CUHK (SZ) Recognized in Global AI Transmission Competition

AI-Trans全球智慧型網路傳輸競賽總決賽於1月12日在北京舉行，中大（深圳）兩支學生隊伍分別奪得「最佳非機器學習獎」與「最佳演示答辯獎」，李鈺鵬老師榮獲「最佳指導教師獎」。現時國內的主流直播平台都以較高位元速率播放影片，讓用戶欣賞高清畫面，但會在串流不順時促使用戶下調為標清、流暢等模式，學界和業界因而積極研究自我調節的位元速率演算法。中大（深圳）隊伍憑藉設計優良的自我調整演算法於比賽勝出。

Two student teams from CUHK (SZ) were bestowed the Best Non-Machine Learning Award and the Best Demonstration Award, respectively, on 12 January in the final of the Global AI Transmission Competition (AI-Trans) held in Beijing. Mr. Li Yupeng, instructor of the teams, won the Teacher Guidance Award. Currently, domestic popular live broadcast platforms provide higher code rates for high-definition viewing experience. When there are frequent lags, the platform will prompt users to downgrade to standard definition or smooth mode. The student teams were awarded for their excellent adaptive adjustment rate algorithm design.

四大學府合研醫學機械人技術
Quadripartite Collaboration on Medical Robotics Research

中大與蘇黎世聯邦理工學院、倫敦帝國學院及約翰·霍普金斯大學於1月31日簽署合作協議，加強彼此跨學科的醫療機械人研究合作。是次簽署儀式標誌着中大與這三所國際頂尖學府透過計劃成立「醫療機械人創新技術中心」，合作發展有效及能廣泛應用的影像和機械人科技，重塑多個醫學專科未來在診斷和治療技術方面的發展，提升病人生活質素。香港特區行政長官林鄭月娥女士（後排中）、校長段崇智教授（後排左）和創新及科技局局長楊偉雄先生（後排右）等親臨見證簽署儀式。

CUHK established partnerships with ETH Zurich, Imperial College London and Johns Hopkins University on 31 January to deepen ties on transdisciplinary medical robotics research. The three top-notch overseas institutions will collaborate with CUHK through the planned Multi-Scale Medical Robotics Centre which aims to develop effective and accessible imaging and robotic technologies that will reshape the future of medical diagnosis and treatment of diseases in multiple specialties, in a bid to improve patients' quality of life. The event was witnessed by The Hon Mrs. Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor (centre, back row), Chief Executive of HKSAR; Prof. Rocky S. Tuan (left, back row), Vice-Chancellor and President; and Mr. Nicholas W. Yang (right, back row), Secretary for Innovation and Technology.

無障礙網頁再獲嘉許
Accolades in the Web Accessibility Recognition Scheme

「無障礙網頁嘉許計劃」頒獎典禮於1月16日再度舉行，中大共有十四個網站獲得金獎及銀獎，符合的評審準則包括內容編排有序、標題詳盡、連結實用、與輔助軟件兼容配合、運作便捷等。連同去年獲頒的五個「三連金獎」，中大一共在「2018無障礙網頁嘉許計劃」獲頒十九個獎項。

Fourteen websites of CUHK were presented Gold Awards and Silver Awards at the award presentation ceremony of the Web Accessibility Recognition Scheme held on 16 January. The criteria they have fulfilled include meaningfully sequenced and structured contents, clear headings and informative links, and high compatibility with assistive technologies to facilitate smooth navigation. Together with the five Triple Gold Awards received last year, CUHK has garnered 19 awards in the Web Accessibility Recognition Scheme 2018.

全球華文文壇盛事
Global Chinese Literary Feast

文學院舉辦第七屆「全球華文青年文學獎」，開展儀式於1月28日舉行，主禮嘉賓包括常務副校長華雲生教授、前校長沈祖堯教授、文學院暫任院長賴品超教授、華文獎榮譽顧問兼決審評判金聖華教授、中文系系主任鄧思穎教授和華文獎籌備委員會主席何杏楓教授，並邀得歷屆得獎人對談，分享華文獎對培養作家的意義。

The Faculty of Arts has launched the 7th Global Youth Chinese Literary Award. The launching ceremony was held on 28 January, officiated by Prof. Benjamin W. Wah, Provost; Prof. Joseph J.Y. Sung, former Vice-Chancellor and President; Prof. Lai Pan-chiu, Interim Dean of Arts; Prof. Serena Jin, Honorary Advisor and adjudicator of the Award; Prof. Tang Sze-wing, chairman of the Department of Chinese Language and Literature; Prof. Carole Hoyan, chairperson of the Organizing Committee of the Award. Past awardees shared how the Award provided them with a global platform to pursue Chinese literary writing.

陳英凝教授獲國家級教學成果獎
Prof. Emily Chan Receives National Teaching Achievement Award

陳英凝教授 Prof. Emily Chan

賽馬會公共衞生及基層醫療學院陳英凝教授領導的「循證科學為本的跨學科全球實地體驗式教與學」教學項目，獲國家教育部頒發2018年高等教育國家級教學成果獎二等獎，為香港院校首次獲得此項全國傑出教學殊榮。該獎每四年評審一次，是國家在教學研究和實踐領域中頒授的最高獎項。

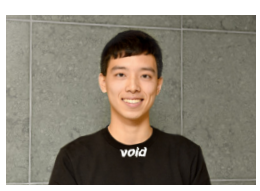
陳教授挾自身參與國際醫療人道救援工作的經驗，創立少數民族農村健康計劃，透過實地教研助學生建構知識，並為他們開拓更多在全球學習的機會。對於獲獎，陳教授深感榮幸：「這代表我們在中國高等教育引入實地災害健康風險管理教育的努力獲得肯定，我期望獎項有助向內地介紹中大的教育工作。我們在內地已建立了十七個培訓和研究基地，為逾七百名學生提供實地訓練。」

醫科四年級生商書維是其中一位參與計劃的學生，曾隨陳教授到尼泊爾、吉林、四川及雲南等地，「我不但掌握了籌辦和推廣健康教育的要訣，更大大提升應付突發事件的應變力及溝通能力。陳教授鼓勵我們跳出固有思維，發揮創意解決問題，令我獲益良多。」

Prof. Emily Chan of the Jockey Club School of Public Health and Primary Care was honoured with a second prize in the 2018 National Teaching Achievement Award (High Education) by the Ministry of Education for leading the 'Evidence-based Interdisciplinary Global Field Experiential Teaching and Learning' project. The quadrennial award is the highest national accolade in teaching and education granted by the Chinese government. This is the first time a Hong Kong institution received the honour of excellence in education at the national level.

With her experience in humanitarian intervention, Professor Chan initiated the field-based Ethnic Minority Health Project in CUHK which emphasizes the importance of constructing knowledge for students in the field and maximizes their global learning opportunities. Professor Chan is deeply honoured for the award. 'It recognizes the importance of teaching health emergency and disaster risk management in the field in the national higher education sector. I hope this award will also facilitate CUHK's education effort in China. Currently, we have established 17 training and research sites on the mainland, offering field-based training to over 700 students.'

One of the participating students is Evan Shang, Year 4 medical student, who joined the trips to Nepal, Jilin Province, Sichuan Province and Yunnan Province. 'I learnt not only the logistics of running health interventions, but also the communication skill and adaptability in the face of unexpected problems. Professor Chan inspires and encourages us to think out of the box. It will be beneficial to my future development.'



商書維 Evan Shang

到任同仁 / Newly Onboard

Information in this section can only be accessed with CWEM password.

若要瀏覽本部分的資料，
請須輸入中大校園電子郵件密碼。

宣布事項 / ANNOUNCEMENTS

校董會人事任命 Council Appointments

續任 Re-appointment	姓名 Name	任期 Appointment Period
校董會副主席 Vice-Chairman of the Council	利乾博士 Dr. Chien Lee	2.3.2019–1.3.2021
大學校董 Council Member	李國星先生 Mr. Aubrey K.S. Li	11.2.2019–10.2.2022

新任 New Appointment	姓名 Name	任期 Appointment Period
大學校董 Council Member	馮通教授 Prof. Fung Tung	至 Until 31.7.2021

續任醫學院院長 Reappointed Dean of Medicine

陳家亮教授獲續任醫學院院長，任期五年，由2019年2月1日起生效。

Prof. Francis K.L. Chan has been reappointed as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine for a further period of five years with effect from 1 February 2019.

榮休教授 Emeritus Professors

生命科學學院關海山教授及梁國南教授獲頒榮休教授名銜，由2019年1月15日起生效。

Prof. Kwan Hoi-shan and Prof. Leung Kwok-nam of the School of Life Sciences have been awarded the title of Emeritus Professor, with effect from 15 January 2019.

關海山教授
Prof. Kwan Hoi-shan

梁國南教授
Prof. Leung Kwok-nam

劍橋大學卡萊爾堂訪問學人計劃
Clare Hall Visiting Fellowship Programme

2020年至2021年度卡萊爾堂訪問學人計劃現接受申請，獲批者可前往劍橋大學卡萊爾堂從事研究，為期半年或一年，可由2020年1月或8月開始。所有助理教授級別或以上、在中大服務不少於一年的全職教員，不論研究範疇，均可申請。

請把申請表格（HRO/SR3）及有關文件於2019年3月8日或以前，經有關學系系主任及學院院長送交培訓事務經理周偉榮先生，以轉呈大學考慮。詳情可瀏覽人事處網頁（員工資訊 > 正向工作間與員工發展 > 學習與發展 > External Development Opportunities），或致電人事處（3943 7876）查詢。

Applications/nominations are now invited for the Clare Hall Visiting Fellowship Programme tenable in 2020–2021. The programme offers a visiting fellow the opportunity to carry out research at Clare Hall of the University of Cambridge. The visiting period could be six or 12 months from January or August 2020. All full-time teaching appointees of Assistant Professor rank or above, in any discipline, who have served at the University for not less than one year are eligible for application.

Nominees should submit a Summary of Submission (HRO/SR3), together with the completed application forms and requisite supporting documents, with the endorsement of the Department chairman/unit head and the Faculty dean as appropriate, to Mr. Daniel Chow, training manager, on or before 8 March 2019 for the University's consideration. For enquiries, please contact the Human Resources Office (Tel: 3943 7876) or visit its website (Staff Area > Positive Workplace and Staff Development > Learning and Development > External Training Opportunities).

展覽 Exhibitions

- 己亥說豬　A Fat Year to Come: Celebrating the Year of the Pig
- 「皇朝禮器」　For Blessings and Guidance: the Qianlong Emperor's Design for State Sacrificial Vessels

日期 Date	26.1–5.5.2019
開放時間 Opening Hours	星期一至三、五、六 Mondays to Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 10:00am–5:00pm 星期日及公眾假期 Sundays and Public Holidays 1:00pm–5:00pm
地點 Venue	文物館展廳 I Gallery I, Art Museum
入場 Admission	免費 Free
查詢 Enquiries	3943 7416

* 逢星期四（公眾假期除外）及復活節休館
Closed on Thursdays (except public holidays) and Easter holiday

選擇轉換大學強積金計劃安排
Election for Change of MPF Scheme

現時大學提供兩個強積金集成信託計劃（即「富達退休集成信託計劃」及「安聯強積金計劃」）予強積金計劃成員選擇。根據大學現有安排，強積金計劃成員可於每曆年選擇轉換強積金計劃一次，生效日期指定為4月1日或10月1日。成員可瀏覽大學強積金網頁、富達網頁或安聯網頁了解兩個強積金計劃的基金資料及投資表現。成員如欲選擇從2019年4月1日轉換計劃，須填妥轉換強積金計劃申請表格及新選擇的強積金計劃成員登記表格，於2019年2月26日（星期二）或之前郵寄或遞交至薪津及公積金組。查詢詳情及下載表格可瀏覽大學強積金網頁*www.cuhk.edu.hk/fno/chi/public/payroll_benefits/mpf/change_of_mpf_scheme.html*或親臨財務處薪津及公積金組索取資料。（查詢：3943 7252或3943 9586）。

The University has subscribed two MPF master trusts, viz Fidelity Retirement Master Trust and Allianz Global Investors MPF Plan, for choice of our MPF members. Under the existing arrangement, members may switch between the two MPF schemes once every calendar year, on either 1 April or 1 October. Members may visit the University's MPF website or the respective MPF service providers' websites for information about the investment funds and performance of the two MPF service providers. Members who want to switch MPF scheme in the coming 1 April 2019 exercise should complete the relevant forms (Election Form for Change of MPF Scheme and Membership Enrolment Form for the new scheme) and submit to Payroll & Superannuation Unit, Finance Office on or before 26 February 2019 (Tuesday). Forms are downloadable from the University's MPF website at *www.cuhk.edu.hk/fno/eng/public/payroll_benefits/mpf/change_of_mpf_scheme.html* or obtainable from the Payroll and Superannuation Unit of Finance Office. (Enquiries: 3943 7252 or 3943 9586).

公積金計劃投資回報成績
Investment Returns of Staff Superannuation Scheme

基金 Fund	11.2018		1.12.2017–30.11.2018	
	未經審核數據 Unaudited	指標回報 Benchmark Return	未經審核數據 Unaudited	指標回報 Benchmark Return
增長 Growth	2.72%	2.88%	–2.07%	–2.67%
平衡 Balanced	2.26%	2.12%	–3.83%	–2.35%
穩定 Stable	0.80%	1.16%	–4.23%	–2.63%
香港股票 HK Equity	6.50%	6.82%	–7.03%	–7.56%
香港指數 HK Index-linked	6.39%	6.23%	–6.20%	–5.92%
A50中國指數 A50 China Tracker	–0.97%	–0.74%	–18.77%	–17.72%
港元銀行存款 HKD Bank Deposit	0.13%	0.07%	1.49%	0.58%
美元銀行存款* USD Bank Deposit*	0.04%	–0.08%	2.19%	1.12%
澳元銀行存款* AUD Bank Deposit*	3.01%	2.92%	–1.44%	–2.87%
歐元銀行存款* EUR Bank Deposit*	–0.25%	–0.24%	–5.19%	–4.84%
人民幣銀行存款* RMB Bank Deposit*	0.44%	0.39%	–1.80%	–2.91%

強積金數據請參閱：
www.cuhk.edu.hk/fno/chi/public/payroll_benefits/mpf.html

For MPF Scheme performance, please refer to:
www.cuhk.edu.hk/fno/eng/public/payroll_benefits/mpf.html

* 實際與指標回報已包括有關期間內之匯率變動
Both actual and benchmark returns include foreign currency exchange difference for the month

雅 共 賞 / ARTICULATION

向Johnny叔叔致敬
Salute to Uncle Johnny

孔子字仲尼，網民因而為他改了一個親切的英文名字：Johnny。雖然Johnny本人很有幽默感，但後世人除了偶爾說說這樣無傷大雅的頑皮話之外，一般都不敢亂開至聖先師的玩笑。尊崇孔子的其中一個表現，就是設廟祭祀。世上第一座孔廟位於孔子的故鄉曲阜闕里，建於孔子過世後第二年（公元前478年），可見祭孔已有近二千五百年歷史。

大家都知道孔子對「禮」十分重視，可想而知，祭孔（尤其是皇家祭孔的禮儀）定是相當講究。清代的皇家祭孔儀式每年春秋二季於京城國子監文廟舉行，有時皇帝會親自主持，有時會命其他皇室成員代祀。無論主祭者是誰，儀式都比我們拜黃大仙繁複得多，就連盛載祭品的器皿也有特殊形制，附圖的孔廟銅質祭器可見一斑。

在皇家祭典中，祭器和食物供品的配搭非常嚴格。有着兩條菇形柱的「爵」是酒杯，相信大家在古裝劇都有看過。至於蓋頂有水波形突棱、身作方斗形的有耳祭器叫「簋」，是用來盛穀物的。身體圓圓、蓋上有三塊葉形裝飾的叫「鉶」，既用於孔廟，也用於太廟，用於盛放未經調味的肉羹。

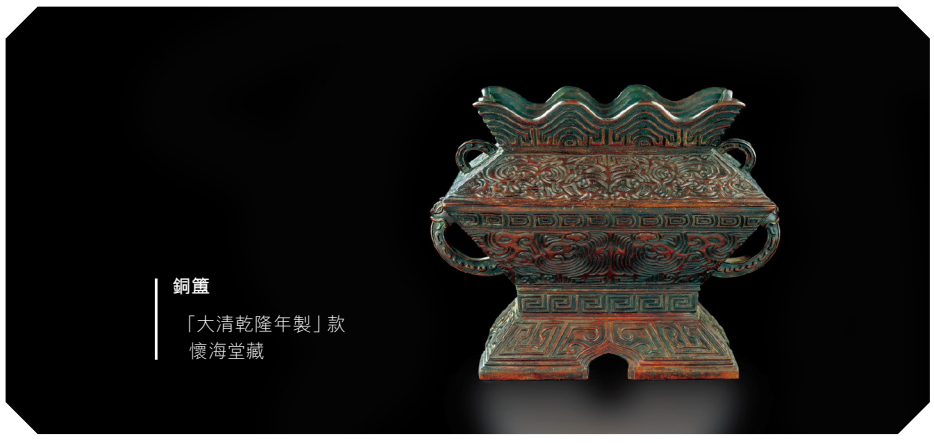
在提倡一切從簡的現代社會，或難理解皇家祭禮、祭器各種複雜繁瑣的名目與規定，以至孔子對復興周禮的執着。其實繁複的另一面便是嚴謹慎重。在反思「敬」和儀式之間的關係、盛大的典禮會否流於形式之時，我們實難以否定，從遠古至今，嚴謹的程序和用器都是營造莊嚴神聖氛圍的重要途徑。在緩慢的吟唱與舞蹈伴隨下，唯我獨尊的天子俯首跪拜，燃香的青煙裊裊升起，數十件裝着各式供饌的祭器與全豬、全牛、全羊整齊陳列……如果我們試着想像一下，其實不難理解這樣盛大肅穆的儀式對參祭者來說會是多麼難忘而有感染力的共同體驗，又如何着力地宣示受祭者以至主祭者不可動搖的重要地位。

除了這批孔廟祭器之外，文物館現時的展覽「皇朝禮器」亦展出了清代皇家祭典於天壇、地壇、太廟、太歲壇、朝日壇和夕月壇所用的祭器。歡迎大家走近清帝祈求神明指引、福佑天下的祭祀現場，一窺祭器在營造典禮肅穆隆重氣氛上扮演的重要角色。

Heidi Wong

銅爵

「大清乾隆年製」款
郭家彥博士惠贈



銅簋

「大清乾隆年製」款
懷海堂藏

銅鉶

「大清乾隆年製」款
懷海堂藏

醫 醫 筆 寫 / DOCTORS' NOTES

護肝於兒時
From a Young Liver to a Healthy Liver

根據中大肝臟護理中心於2008年至2010年的普查，香港每一百名成人中，有二十七人患上脂肪肝。脂肪肝是指肝臟積聚過量脂肪，若脂肪重量的比例佔肝臟百分之五以上，即患上脂肪肝。輕微脂肪肝對身體健康沒有明顯影響，既然如此，我們為何要對付這種慢性肝臟疾病？

一切，為了我們的下一代。

中大肝臟護理中心主任**陳力元**教授說：「在上世紀六七十年代，人們三餐不繼，中年生活環境改善才發福、患上脂肪肝，再過二三十年，到六十歲才演變為肝硬化。但現在不少肥胖兒童已有脂肪肝，按此推算，四十歲左右肝臟便會出現問題。」無疑現在香港大多數兒童已接種乙型肝炎疫苗，但如果他們患有脂肪肝，當他們踏入人生黃金時期，便可能患上脂肪性肝炎，甚至肝纖維化、肝硬化。

脂肪肝分為酒精性脂肪肝和非酒精性脂肪肝。後者是胰島素對抗，身體容易積聚脂肪，而胰島素對抗又是糖尿病的成因，因此脂肪肝與糖尿病有密切關係。中大醫學院於2013至2014年間為1,918名糖尿病人進行的研究發現，高達七成三病人同時患有脂肪肝，一成八病人更有嚴重肝纖維化。

腰圍是偵測脂肪肝的敏感指標。陳教授說：「亞洲人的脂肪分布集中在身體中央和內臟，所以中央肥胖的人大多伴隨脂肪肝。我們的研究顯示，若脂肪肝病人能減腰圍兩吋，脂肪肝便幾近消失。」脂肪肝與糖尿病不同，前者可以逆轉，甚至完全康復。若想更準確知道肝臟的健康情況，可進行肝纖維化掃描。

肝臟在人體內發揮五百項功能，健肝則健康。護肝沒有捷徑，勤運動和節制飲食，當從兒時做起。

According to a study conducted by CUHK's Center for Liver Health between 2008 and 2010, 27 out of 100 adults in Hong Kong were afflicted with fatty liver disease. Fatty liver disease refers to the accumulation of too much fat in the liver cells (more than 5% of the weight of the organ). A mildly fatty liver is often harmless, so why don't we turn a blind eye to it?

It's all for our children.

'People who grew up in the less affluent 1960–70s were often not adequately fed or nourished. They gained weight in their middle years when they became better off and some of them developed fatty liver disease. Another 20 or 30 years, these people advanced to old age and so did the disease to cirrhosis. Today, many obese children already have fatty liver disease. In 20 or 30 years' time, they would suffer liver disorders,' said Prof. **Henry Chan**, Director of the Center for Liver Health. Despite Hepatitis B vaccination in their infancy, if these children have fatty liver disease they may fall easy prey to steatohepatitis or even fibrosis and cirrhosis when they enter their prime of life.

There are two types of fatty liver: alcoholic and nonalcoholic. The latter is caused by insulin resistance which causes fat to accumulate in the body. As insulin resistance is a cause of diabetes, fatty liver and diabetes are intimately related. The Faculty of Medicine of CUHK conducted a study on 1,918 diabetic patients between 2013 and 2014 and found that 73% of them were afflicted with fatty liver disease and 18% even had severe fibrosis.

One's girth is symptomatic of the fatty liver within. 'The fat of Asians is concentrated in their middle section and internal organs. People with a prominent waistline tend to have fatty liver as well. Our study shows that if patients could have reduced their waistlines by two inches, the fatty liver would be gone,' said Professor Chan. Unlike diabetes, fatty liver disease is reversible. If one wants to have an accurate assessment of his liver condition, fibroscan is a choice.

The human liver performs 500 functions. A healthy liver is essential to good health. There is no short cut. Nurture a healthy liver from a young age with exercise and a balanced diet.

M. Mak

口談實錄 / VIVA VOCE

阮德添先生
Mr. Anthony Yuen

資深校友**阮德添**先生（1977/ 新亞/人事管理）在商界做出一番輝煌成績之外，亦長期擔任多項公職，1992年獲選香港十大傑青。阮先生近年出任校友評議會及大學校董會成員服務母校。今期他和《中大通訊》分享對凝聚校友新策略的看法。

Mr. **Anthony Yuen** (1977 / NA / Personnel Management), one of the Ten Outstanding Young Persons in 1992, had a distinguished career in business and various public services before returning to CUHK to serve as member of Convocation and the University Council. He talks to the *CUHK Newsletter* about, among other things, his view on a new strategy for alumni engagement.


Photo by ISO Staff

這樣積極參與大學事務的緣起是怎樣的？

2007年我在杭州收到一位新亞書院師兄來電，說是時候我應做些東西回饋母校，我一口答應，自此便一直以不同身分投入大學、書院及學院的事務。

你怎麼解釋校友對母校的感情？

校友關心母校是很自然的事。不論畢業多久，他們總有興趣知道母校當下的發展，對母校的成就感到與有榮焉，或者仍能從母校的知識寶庫中吸取養分。他們當然也想知道昔日同窗的近況，找機會跟他們重聚。

凝聚校友為甚麼重要？

中大校友超過二十萬，遍布全球每個角落。加強大學與他們的溝通，加強他們相互之間的聯繫，加深校友對母校的認識和感情，對提升大學地位，達致策略發展目標都很重要。

凝聚中大校友的挑戰有哪些？

我們面對的挑戰是如何運用手上有限資源去凝聚及服務最多校友，要盡量照顧各方校友，包括落戶在偏遠國家及地區的。

你倡議的新策略是怎樣的？

大學一直以來出訪各地校友，可謂不遺餘力，馬不停蹄。我想如果把範式倒轉過來，相信成本效益會更高。一面繼續外訪，一面構思締造海外校友重臨母校的條件。譬如說舉辦國際校友日，節目包括著名教授話題演講、校友分享、聯誼活動等。這樣子所耗資源有限，但所造成的凝聚效應卻會很大。

你如何看中大的內地校友？

中大多年來在內地辦了很多課程，加上中大（深圳）陸續有學生畢業，內地校友的人數將會增加得很快，而且大部分都是精英，對任何大學來說都是夢寐以求的寶貴資源。我非常有信心，這批校友將來必會對中大的發展帶來不少正面的作用。

對比較年輕的校友層覺得有甚麼要做？

經濟環境及就業市場的變化，令到近年畢業的一些校友在事業路途上遇到不少挑戰。校友評議會正討論應否把這批校友也納入事業發展服務的範圍之內，大學的學生服務單位或校友會也可考慮向近年畢業的校友發放職場資訊，甚至鼓勵本身是校友的僱主，把招聘目標首先界定在母校範圍之內。

中大需要一幢校友大樓嗎？

那將會是很理想的一件事，但香港寸金尺土，談何容易。去年8月開幕，位於富爾敦樓地下，供開會或聯誼用的校友會會議中心是朝着這方向走的第一步。校友會終於在校園一角生根了。

When and how did your active involvement in University affairs begin?

It all began with a long-distance call, when I was in Hangzhou in 2007, from a fellow alumnus of New Asia College who told me it's time for me to render service for our alma mater. I have since been involved in various roles and capacities in the University, the Colleges and the Faculties.

How do you explain the tie between a university and its alumni?

Alumni naturally take an interest in the current development of their alma mater. No matter how long ago they graduated, they would be curious to know how the university is doing, take pride in its achievements and maybe continue to draw nourishment and inspiration from its trove of cutting-edge knowledge. They would also be interested in learning how their schoolmates are doing and reuniting with some of them.

Why is alumni relations important?

CUHK has over 200,000 alumni, scattered throughout the globe. Keeping them in touch with the University and with each other will help strengthen their ties to the University and raise the profile of the University which would in turn impact on our standing and further development.

What's the challenge of engaging CUHK alumni?

The challenge is how to engage all sectors of the alumni population with available resources. The goal should be to serve and network the greatest number of alumni on existing resources without sacrificing service to any sub-populations, particularly those in far-off places.

What is the new strategy you're championing?

We have been relying on overseas visits to reach out to the alumni in the four corners of the world. It would be more cost-effective to do the reverse. While we will keep our reaching-out efforts, we may also consider organizing an international homecoming day on campus at regular intervals and invite the overseas alumni to come back. The day programme may consist of a lecture on a topic of interest by a reputable professor, followed by some sharing by alumni members and a networking activity. That would generate tremendous momentum for alumni engagement.

How do you see our alumni in mainland China?

CUHK has been offering academic programmes in the mainland for many years. With the recent graduates from our Shenzhen campus, the mainland alumni body will grow fast. And this is a young and distinguished alumni body, too. Such promising talent would be the dream of many universities. I'm very hopeful our mainland graduates will contribute to CUHK as a whole in many positive ways.

Any thought on the younger alumni strata?

Changing economic times and employment market have made it difficult for some alumni who graduated in the last decade or so. There has been discussion by the Convocation whether career development services can be extended to graduates in recent years. Maybe our student service units and the alumni associations can also lend a hand by disseminating career information to them or encouraging employers who are our alumni to look just inside the University gates.

Do we need an alumni house?

It would be ideal but land is always a scarce resource in Hong Kong. The Alumni Associations Centre opened last August in the John Fulton Centre on campus is the first step. Now we have a place we can call our own to hold meetings or simply meet up.

T.C.