

THE SECOND PROFESSOR CHAR-NIE CHEN DISTINGUISHED LECTURE



SPEAKER

**Professor
RONALD C. KESSLER** Ph.D.
McNeil Family Professor
of Health Care Policy
Harvard Medical School

Pragmatic Precision Psychiatry

Webinar
2 December 2022, Friday
18:00 – 19:00 (HK Time)
Followed by Q&A Session

All are welcome!

For more information,
please visit the following webpage.



Free Registration
CME / CPD in application



Department of Psychiatry
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Pragmatic Precision Psychiatry



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Abstract:

The precision medicine revolution has progressed more slowly in psychiatry than other areas of medicine. In this presentation, I argue that this is because the focus of precision psychiatry up to now has been on under-powered studies of biomarkers predicting differential response across psychotropic medications. Such studies have a very low likelihood of yielding useful information, especially given the lack of substantial variation in mechanisms of action of comparator interventions. However, there are other great unexplored opportunities for precision treatment planning in psychiatry. An overview of these opportunities is presented here along with discussion of some illustrative ongoing studies.

Biography:

Ronald Kessler, Ph.D. is the McNeil Family Professor of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School. He is a psychiatric epidemiologist whose work involves carrying out mental health needs assessment surveys, advising governments around the world on unmet need for treatment of mental disorders, and collaborating in the design and evaluation of preventive and treatment interventions for these disorders. His intervention work focuses on heterogeneity of treatment effects and developing precision treatment rules. Kessler is the most widely cited mental health researcher in the world. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He earned his PhD in sociology from New York University, completed a postdoctoral fellowship in psychiatric epidemiology at the University of Wisconsin, and was on the faculty at the University of Michigan before taking his current position at Harvard Medical School in 1996.

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Professor Char-Nie CHEN

OBE, JP, MB, MSc, FHKAM(Psychiatry),
FHKCPsych (Hon.) FHKCPsych,
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Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

As the Foundation Chairman and Professor of Psychiatry, Professor Char-Nie CHEN built up the Department of Psychiatry in CUHK from scratch in 1981. He laid down the solid foundation for undergraduate teaching in behavioural science and bio-psycho-social medicine and believed that psychiatry should be taught as a universal subject similar to other medical disciplines for undergraduate medical students and non-psychiatrists. He was instrumental in developing a postgraduate training course in psychiatry in CUHK, which was later adopted by the Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists as the Central Training Course in Hong Kong. He insisted on a training career in psychiatric subspecialty and was influential in building up child and adolescent psychiatry and old age psychiatry. In research development, he has built up the monumental research in psychiatric epidemiology with the landmark Shatin Psychiatric Epidemiology Survey and a new cross-disciplinary research in sleep medicine. In 1986–1994 he was also appointed by the University as the Foundation Head of the Shaw College, he again built up the new college from scratch with the help of many university and college staff. After his retirement in 1998, he worked as a private specialist in psychiatry but continued to help promote addiction psychiatry and liaison psychiatry for HIV/AIDS patients. He was awarded O.B.E. in 1997. With his foresight, wisdom and passion, he has helped to transform psychiatric education for both undergraduate and postgraduate education and research landscape in Hong Kong.

Department has established a research and education fund and is honoured to name the fund (Professor Char-Nie Chen education and research fund) after Professor CHEN. The fund will be used in enhancing the education and research aspects of the Department. In particular, there will be an annual Char-Nie Chen Distinguished Lecture that will invite eminent psychiatrists and scientists around the world to come to Hong Kong to deliver the lecture. The 2nd Professor Char-Nie Chen Distinguished Lecture on December 2, 2022 will be delivered by Professor Ronald KESSLER, the McNeil Family Professor of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School.

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