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The Chinese University of Hong Kong



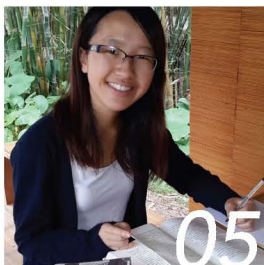
香港中文大學醫學院
Faculty of Medicine
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

CUHK MEDICAL ALUMNI newsletter

OUR FUTURE ALUMNI



ISSUE 1 • VOL 1 • 2015



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DEAN'S MESSAGE

"A culture is no accident.
It is built by our shared experiences."

- *Professor Francis Chan*
Dean, Faculty of Medicine



As the first medical alumnus taking up the Deanship position, I am very excited to see the publication of the first issue of *CUHK Medical Alumni Newsletter*.

Time flies. I still remember vividly the first day of my study of the MBChB programme at CUHK. Like a child, full of boundless curiosity, my classmates and I were itching to explore all the new things and to meet as many new people as possible at CUHK. We were greeted by our Founding Dean, Professor Gerald Choa, a solemn and warm-hearted gentleman. We quickly made friends with fellow classmates and arranged to venture into every known and every unknown place at CUHK and at our teaching hospital, the Prince of Wales Hospital.

Like a tree, we alumni of the MBChB programme are the roots which we have continued to draw nutrients from the ground, a foundation laid so well by all our dedicated and beloved teachers. The alumni have been branching out supporting the leaves - cohorts of medical students. A healthy tree requires all parts to function complementarily, making strengths more effective and weaknesses more irrelevant. This tree has been growing stronger and stronger.

Over the past 34 years, we see our alumni making remarkable achievements in their respective fields. They earn trust and respect of local, national and international communities. A forward-looking and strong organisation is shaped by a culture which is continuously rejuvenated by the addition of new blood with fresher perspectives. A culture is no accident. It is built by our shared experiences. Our shared memories that inspire each and every one of us to strive for excellence in whatever endeavours we choose to pursue.

As a child, I heard a story that a mother asked her son to break one arrow and then asked him to break a bundle of five arrows. The moral of the story is the strength of unity. I believe that through the many inspiring and heart-warming stories in this and future issues of the alumni newsletter, plus the use of the latest online social media technology, we can remain in close touch with one another. We can continue to draw upon this invaluable resource of present and future alumni for strength and support to write life stories that are worthy of sharing amongst ourselves, our children and societies.

MAKE US PROUD

“Oh, you are a doctor who graduated from CUHK...Wow!”

- *Dr Byron Chu (MBChB 2004)*
Chairman of the Editorial Board

“**W**ho are you? What is your identity?” Think, for a moment, how a new acquaintance would respond when you simply said: “My career started after obtaining an MBChB degree in Hong Kong.” Would he or she immediately know that you graduated from CUHK’s Faculty of Medicine? How about ten years from now? Our Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery programme, or MBChB (and naturally the Global Physician-Leadership Stream) is unique in Hong Kong. There is no other programme offered by any other university in Hong Kong that awards such a degree. Wouldn’t you like to hear a response from your new acquaintance: “Oh, you are a doctor who graduated from CUHK...Wow!”

But how do we get there? It takes more than just smart individuals, dedicated teachers, great educational programmes, altruistic volunteers and outstanding researchers, all of whom, undoubtedly, already exist among us. Any successful enterprise needs a robust network - a network that connects existing learners, potential newcomers, essential workforces, those who have moved to another establishment and those who have retired.

This newsletter is aimed at cultivating existing relationships among our graduates, strengthening bonds among different generations of Hong Kong’s MBChB’s, reaching out to potential new brothers and sisters, and

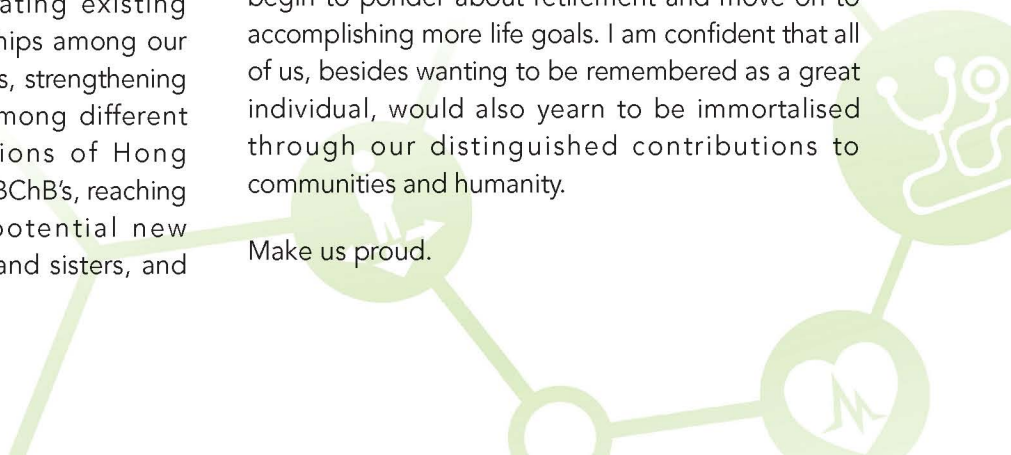
expanding our footprints, both locally and globally, while making new friends from all walks of life.

I know the newsletter is in good hands. Our editorial board members and many volunteer advisors are leaders, aspiring doctors, academics, intellectuals, private entrepreneurs and excellent communicators. On top of that, our behind-the-scenes support team is providing the ever-present toughest backbone.

What makes Hong Kong’s MBChB special? It is the long-lasting relationships that have developed over time among students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the Faculty which make this place feel like home. 2015 marks the 34th year since the admission of the first batch of Hong Kong’s MBChB’s.

Currently, our Faculty is well-positioned to embark on the next stage of exponential growth and development. Apart from achieving new heights in research and in academic reputation, we have and will continue to witness the affirmation and recognition of our outstanding alumni by local, national and global communities. Our growing influence in medical and healthcare sciences and services has been creating new opportunities for building closer bonds with prestigious international institutions. As of today, Hong Kong still does not have a retired MBChB (projected by age) alumnus or alumna. In the near future, some of us will begin to ponder about retirement and move on to accomplishing more life goals. I am confident that all of us, besides wanting to be remembered as a great individual, would also yearn to be immortalised through our distinguished contributions to communities and humanity.

Make us proud.



OUR FUTURE ALUMNI

They may hail from different backgrounds but their dreams are the same - they are looking at The Chinese University of Hong Kong to help kick-start their professions in the medical field. They are CUHK's future alumni - Angus Fong, Judy Chan, Landon Chan and Owen Ko. They are just students now but they have since excelled in their own way - some winning prestigious awards, some joining programmes such as the Global Physician-Leadership Stream, and some shadowing top-notch doctors at CUHK. We delve into their backgrounds, to find out more about their dreams, their aspirations and what has driven them to take up medicine at CUHK.



FROM CELLIST TO PHYSICIAN: CHALLENGING RIDE FOR A YOUNG MEDIC

"Being a physician or surgeon and directly interacting with patients would bring me great satisfaction."

醫生最大滿足感源自與病人直接溝通。

- Angus Fong (Med 2)

"Ambitious, energetic, hopeful" - that's how Angus Fong (方皓晴, Med 2) describes himself. The 17-year-old medical student was fast-tracked into the second year because he wanted to learn everything as fast as possible. "I want to be able to get exposure more quickly, and I want to engage and collaborate with professors sooner."

Angus's mother, Dr Fanny Lam (MBChB 1993) - a developmental paediatrician - is a Chinese University of Hong Kong's alumna. Angus says his mother's profession might have "some subconscious influence" on his taking up medicine. "I really respect the way my mother works and deals with her patients." Angus says she derives great satisfaction from her work.

"As a doctor, I also want to give patients a sense of comfort and help when they are at their most vulnerable," he says.

He adds, "I'm very interested in the ever-evolving healthcare industry and feel I can commit to it and make a difference to the world."

But medicine is not his only passion. The young cellist is an accomplished

musician in his own right - having performed a concerto in Vienna this past summer and more recently, in Curaçao in the Caribbean Islands. "Performing is like an outlet for me... and sharing music with other people is a way of expressing myself, and I find a lot of joy from it."

He is also a serious table tennis player, a representative of the CUHK team.

Angus decided to launch his medical career in CUHK because he says it has a "good culture and good energy" and has a very close-knit community.

Angus has nothing but praise for CUHK's Global Physician-Leadership Stream, or GPS, which he says offers many opportunities and challenges. Angus went to Yunnan province earlier this month, under a project for GPS students, organised by the Collaborating Centre for Oxford University and CUHK for Disaster and Medical Humanitarian Response (CCOUC).

"Being a physician or surgeon and directly interacting with patients would bring me great satisfaction," Angus says. But for now, he adds, he just enjoys studying and playing his beloved cello.



EARLY HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER WORK PAVES WAY FOR MEDICAL DREAM



"I wanted to help patients – not by just giving them medication – but also helping them psychologically and emotionally."

我不只想單單幫病人診症，也希望能照顧他們的心理及情緒需要。

- Judy Chan (Med 2)

For 19-year-old medical student Judy Chan (陳珈慧, Med 2), the decision of wanting to become a doctor was made when she was in secondary school. "When I was in Form Four or Form Five, I became a volunteer at a hospital. I helped out in a rehabilitation ward for geriatric patients and at the psychiatric department. I intermingled with these patients and felt quite sympathetic towards them after listening to their problems. It was then that I realised I wanted to become a doctor. I wanted to help patients - not by just giving them medication - but also helping them psychologically and emotionally."

And, her desire to help people was further reinforced when she joined The Chinese University of Hong Kong's social service team as a committee member in her first year. There, the team planned and organised long-term services for the mentally ill, the elderly and orphans, to name a few.

Judy, who celebrated her birthday just last month, says she is happy she chose CUHK to study medicine. "The campus environment is very friendly and authentic and the spirit of bonding is very strong among students. And, the lecturers are intent on laying strong foundations for students and teaching everything in a very systematic way."

She says the teachers are also very passionate about bringing up students as future leaders. For instance, she pointed out, under the Global Physician-Leadership Stream, which she fondly refers to as GPS, undergraduates in the top ten percent from each year will be given the opportunity to shadow a mentor on a one-to-one basis. Judy was lucky enough to be chosen for GPS in her first year where she accompanied a surgeon, observing him at his clinic and in the operating theatre.

But it's not all work and no play for Judy. She joined CUHK's MedDance because she likes dancing to jazz and funky music and goes hiking with classmates. She plays the piano and the oboe and was a member of her school band before. But now she only sets aside one or two hours each week for music. "Just for relaxation", she laughs.

Currently, Judy is leaning towards becoming a paediatrician. "There's always a lot of fun interacting with children and I think it's more lively to face children every day."

"I don't regret choosing CUHK", Judy stresses. "I am grateful for the opportunities the University has given, and is giving me."

UPCOMING GENETICIST SEES CUHK AS SPRINGBOARD TO REALISING GOALS



“Everything in genetics seemed very logical and...very mathematically satisfying.”
遺傳學裡的任何東西都有很強的邏輯性 ... 這滿足了曾學習數學的我。

- Landon Chan (Med 3)

Third year medical student Landon Chan (陳瓏, Med 3), has three goals. “I want to be a clinician, a professor and a researcher.” And for him, The Chinese University of Hong Kong is the near perfect place to help him realise these goals. “It has very prestigious researchers, very good people who are very open minded and very willing to help students. I am pleasantly surprised at the amount of helpfulness from the teachers”.

Landon - who did his undergraduate studies in Mathematics at Carleton College in Minnesota, USA - says he had always been interested in statistics. During the summer break of 2009, he became fascinated with genetics during a research opportunity at The University of Hong Kong for a study involving tuberculosis. “The work was a combination of biology, statistics and genetics. Everything in genetics at that time seemed very logical and, that to me, was very mathematically satisfying.”

Two years later, while waiting to sort out “some issues” with his US work visa, he took up a summer lab job at CUHK under Professor Kevin Yip in the Computer Science and Engineering Department and Professor Chan Ting-fung in the School of Life Sciences.

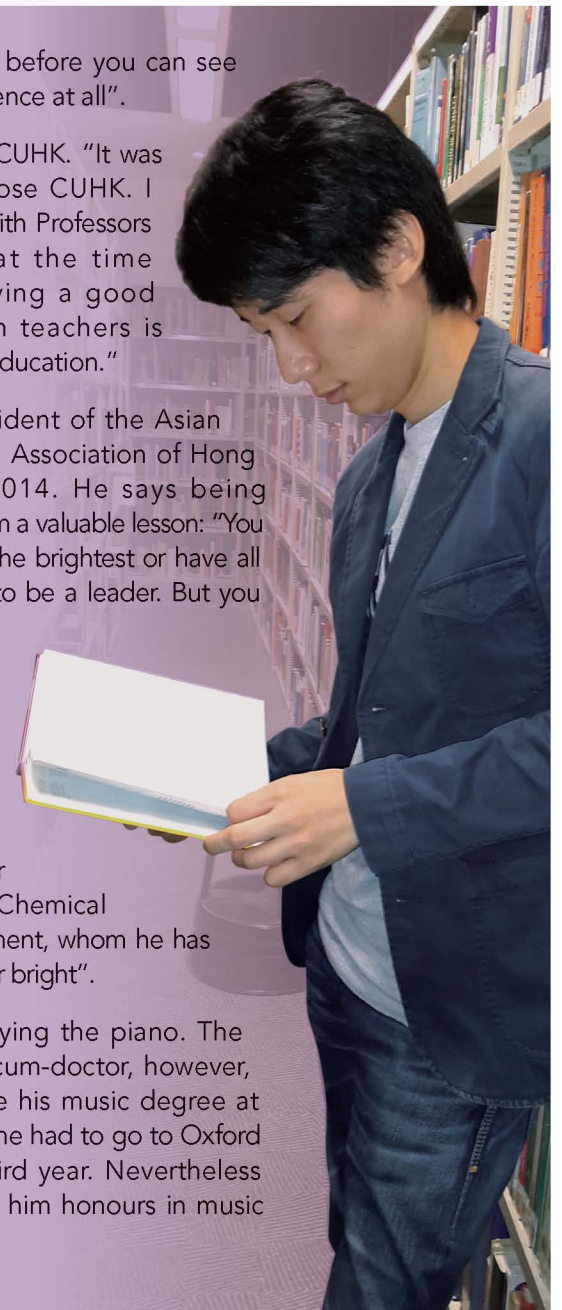
After his studies at Carleton in 2011, he worked at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota as a statistical programming analyst. While working there he had an epiphany - he wanted to be a doctor. “I realised that by being a clinician, I would see results more quickly. In research, it would take

quite a long time before you can see any results of influence at all”.

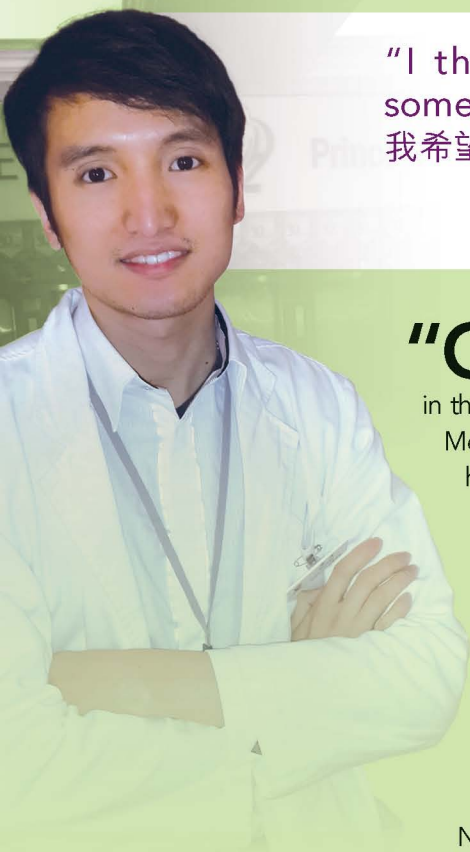
So he applied to CUHK. “It was only natural I chose CUHK. I liked interacting with Professors Yip and Chan at the time and for me, having a good relationship with teachers is important for my education.”

Landon was president of the Asian Medical Students’ Association of Hong Kong in 2013/2014. He says being president taught him a valuable lesson: “You don’t need to be the brightest or have all the best qualities to be a leader. But you must know how to mobilise people to work for you.” Now, besides doing his MBChB, Landon also does research work under Professor Dennis Lo in the Chemical Pathology Department, whom he has described as “super bright”.

Landon loves playing the piano. The future geneticist-cum-doctor, however, couldn't complete his music degree at Carleton because he had to go to Oxford to study in his third year. Nevertheless Carleton awarded him honours in music performance.



CURIOSITY SPURS MEDICAL STUDENT TO DIZZY HEIGHTS



"I thought David Ho was really cool because he did something really useful...I felt I wanted to be like him."

我希望成為像何大一那樣的科學家，為人類作出貢獻。

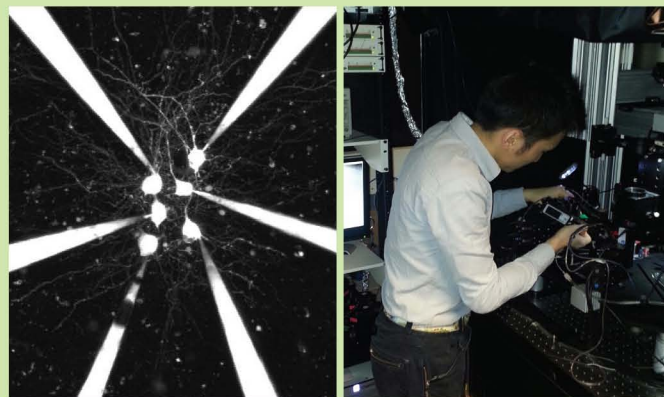
- Owen Ko (Med 5)

"Curiosity killed the cat"... so the saying goes. But in the case of Owen Ko (高浩, Med 5), curiosity has spurred him to dizzy heights. Just 29 years old and Owen has already had two publications in the authoritative scientific journal, *Nature*. In November last year, he was a runner-up of the prestigious Eppendorf & Science Prize for Neurobiology - the first junior scientist in Hong Kong to be awarded the honour.

The fifth year medical student revealed that ever since he was young, he had always been curious about how things worked. That propelled him to read books on Science, Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry.

But it was David Ho - the Taiwanese American scientist renowned for his research on AIDS, who inspired Owen to take up medicine. "He's my idol", Owen says. "I thought he was really cool because he did something really useful and I felt I wanted to be like him. I was pretty determined then that I wanted to go into biomedical research."

But it has not always been smooth sailing for Owen. When he first came to Hong Kong from Fujian province to join his parents and younger sister in 1996, he was ten years old. He hardly spoke English. "My scores for Science and Maths were good but for English, I just got 16." But a month later, he scored 54 marks and the following month, 94.



Choosing The Chinese University of Hong Kong was no brainer for Owen: "I had been taking a mathematics course at CUHK when I was in my last year of secondary school. So it was natural that I would choose this university. I also really like the fact the campus is occupying a whole mountain of its own and so, it's like having our own little community here."

After joining the University in 2005, he turned to neuroscience. Owen says he was greatly influenced by the Hodgkin and Huxley mathematical model that describes how action potentials in neurons are initiated and propagated.

Two years later, he took time off to spend a year in the lab under the tutelage of Professor Yung Wing-ho of the School of Biomedical Sciences. A year later, he joined the University College London for a PhD in neuroscience under Professor Thomas Mrsic-Flogel, a well-known neuroscientist. Owen is back in Hong Kong, continuing with his MBChB, conducting research...and looking after his two pet hamsters.



GERALD CHOA MEMORIAL LECTURE CUM DINNER 2014

The Gerald Choa Memorial Lecture cum Dinner was held on December 1 at the Happy Valley Clubhouse of the Jockey Club. The honourable speaker for this significant annual event was Professor Richard Yu - a respected and towering figure in Hong Kong's medical community.

In his lecture entitled, "Professor Gerald H. Choa - the Visionaire", Professor Yu recounted his memory of Professor Choa - the Founding Dean of The Chinese University of Hong Kong's Faculty of Medicine.

The memorial fund - set up in 2013 - has been supporting a wide range of Faculty and student developments, including the setting up of scholarships.

The event was kicked off with a cocktail reception followed by a welcome address by Professor Joseph Sung, Vice-Chancellor and an introduction of Professor Yu by Professor Francis Chan, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

A vote of thanks to Professor Yu for his lecture was given by two medical students of the Global Physician-Leadership Stream, Paul Lee (Med 2) and Anson Chan (Med 1).

About 170 people attended the event which included distinguished and prominent members from the healthcare and business sectors and the community at large.



FIRST WHITE COAT CEREMONY FOR MEDICAL FRESHMEN

The Chinese University of Hong Kong hosted a White Coat Inauguration Ceremony on September 6 in which over 200 new medical students pledged to uphold the highest professional ethics. The oath-taking was led by Professor Francis Chan, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, who urged the students to practise with integrity and honesty. Witnessed by parents, friends and teachers, each medical student of class 2014 was donned a white coat. Professor Joseph Sung, Vice-Chancellor, reminded the undergraduates that once they don their white coat, they are no longer students but future doctors having joined the ranks of a noble profession.

Also attending the ceremony were Professor Fok Tai-fai, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Professor Lau Wan-ye, Joseph, Chairman of the Hong Kong Medical Council.

The White Coat Inauguration Ceremony is to be held annually.



CUHK MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014

The Annual General Meeting of The Chinese University of Hong Kong Medical Alumni Association (CUHK MAA) for the last financial year was held on September 20 at the Shatin Clubhouse of the Jockey Club. In addition to the usual annual reports and transactions, Professor Fok Tai-fai, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of CUHK spoke in his capacity as Deputy Chairman of the Hong Kong Medical Council's Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC). He gave a lively presentation to update alumni the workings of the PIC. At the meeting, Professor Enders Ng, Associate Dean (Alumni Affairs) of the Faculty of Medicine, was pleased to announce that the Faculty will further strengthen its support and collaboration with the Alumni Association.



Since 1981...

Let's relive the memories of our good old days...

Share with us your old photos here!

OLD PHOTO COLLECTION

It's time to dust off old photo albums and walk down your memory lane. Share with alumni precious memories of your alma mater captured in photos at the "Photo Collection Corner." Please send photos to us on or before Monday, 16 March, 2015.

Submit online:

** Photos posted online must be about 3M in size in JPG or TIF format.**

 www.med.cuhk.edu.hk/oldphoto 



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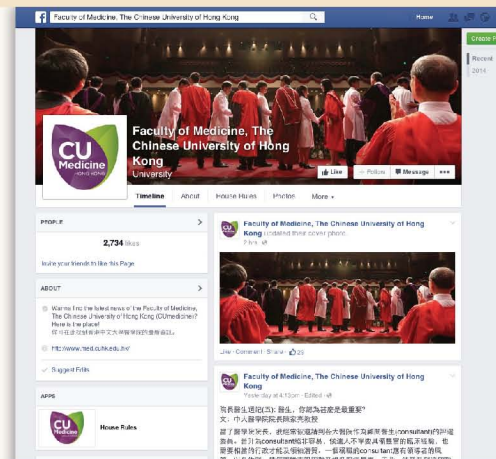
** Please ensure that you provide 1) your name; 2) graduation year; 3) email; 4) contact numbers; 5) a caption of no more than 30 words for each photo.**

FACEBOOK 



Why not keep in touch with old friends and make new ones? And what better way to do that than via Facebook. We are inviting the alumni to follow us on our newly created Facebook and LIKE our page.

 [CUHKMedicine](https://www.facebook.com/CUHKMedicine) 

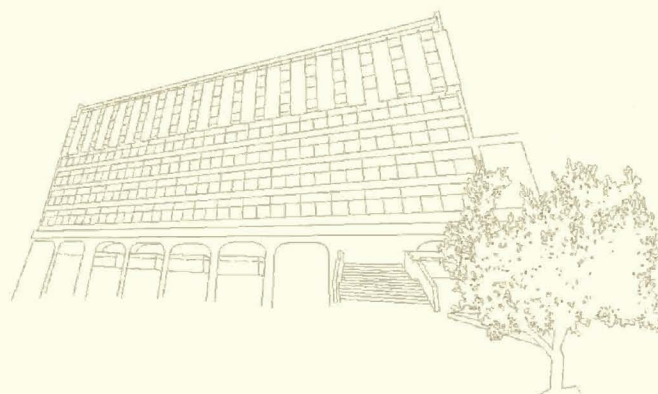


REUNION GATHERING

The MBChB Class of 1999 recently held their 15th Reunion Anniversary at Chung Chi College and all had had a good time. If you are planning to organise a get-together of alumni friends on CUHK campus, or need advice on the type of events or venues, email us at

 medical_alum@med.cuhk.edu.hk





Medical Alumni Contact Update Form

Surname *	:	
Given Name *	:	
Year of Graduation *	:	
Specialty *	:	
Mobile *	:	
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* Mandatory

Providing the following personal information is Optional.

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