



Lighting the Way to A Cure

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Message from the Network

The HKU Spinal Cord Injury Fund has been established to fund research and treatment for spinal cord injury, and to support our partnership with the China SCI Network.

It has been nearly a year since the inception of the HKU SCI Fund. Over the past year, with the generous support from our donors, dedication and efforts of our Committee members, friends and colleagues, we have made significant achievements in a number of areas.

Thank you all for your kind support and encouragement to help us move towards our goal. I hope this Newsletter will further facilitate the exchange of information within the China SCI Network.



Professor Paul Tam
Pro-Vice-Chancellor
The University of Hong Kong

Training Workshops

Three training courses were held in March and July, 2005 respectively at The University of Hong Kong with the participation of 16 different hospitals with over 30 fellows from eight network nodes in Mainland China and Hong Kong.

Training Course on Neurological Assessment of Spinal Cord Dysfunction March 14-15, 2005



The aim of the course was to provide training in the examination of the spinal cord by using American Spinal Injury Association (ASIA) examination method, a standard neurological examination method for spinal cord injuries, and to introduce the Functional Independence Measure (FIM). In addition, a review of the documentation that would be used to record data when examining patients was also presented and discussed. The course was conducted by Ms. Ruby Ho, MacLehose Medical Rehabilitation Centre; Prof. Johan Karlberg, The University of Hong Kong; Dr. Ralph J. Marino, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and Prof. Wise Young, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

Training Course on Good Clinical Practice (GCP) March 16, 2005

The aim of the course was to introduce Good Clinical Practice (GCP) Training Programme to participants and delegates. Throughout the training programme, they learnt about the essential elements of GCP and how they apply to the conduct of quality clinical trials. The programme was conducted by Professor Johan Karlberg, Director of the Clinical Trials Centre, The University of Hong Kong and staff from the Centre. In addition, around 40 delegates from the Queen Mary Hospital and the Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong, participated in the course.



Training Course on Spinal Cord Injury Animal Model July 10-13, 2005

The course provided an opportunity for doctors in the China Spinal Cord Injury Network (ChinaSCINet) to learn how to carry out spinal cord injury experiments in the laboratory. Participants learnt on a standardized rat spinal cord injury model and were able to carry out experiments in their hospitals to test and develop new therapies for regenerating and restoring function in spinal cord injury. The course was conducted by speakers from the Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. They are: Professor Wise Young, Mr. Hock Gain Ng, Mrs. Bor Tom Ng, Mr. Pui Tom and Mr. Kai Liu.



Fundraising Activities

“Kung Fu Hustle” Charity Film Gala

The “Kung Fu Hustle” Charity Film Gala was held on December 16, 2004 at the UA Pacific Place Cinema. Renowned actor Mr Stephen Chow, Ambassador for the “HKU Spinal Cord Injury Fund (HKU-SCI Fund)” and other members of the Fundraising Committee including Ms. Pansy Ho, Mrs. Nina Lam and Mrs. Suzanne Poon, all enjoyed the evening. The film gala raised over HK\$9 million in support of the HKU-SCI Fund.



“Perfume” Drama Premiere

HKU-SCI Fund organized the second fundraising activity on May 5, 2005 at The Hong Kong Cultural Centre. The cast of the charity drama performance included Ms. Josie Ho, Ms. Lau Nga-lai, Mr. Gregory Charles Rivers and Mr. Gary Tam. The performance raised over HK\$1 million for the Fund in supporting research and treatment of spinal cord injuries, as well as the operation of the ChinaSCINet.



Cure & Care Corner

Message from Siu-pun Tang

“I’ve found new hope in HKU’s collaboration with experts from the US and Mainland China to develop effective therapies for people living with spinal cord injury. The news strengthens the faith of patients like me.”

Siu-pun suffers from paralysis and breathing difficulties as a result of first and second cervical spinal cord injuries in a gymnastic accident in 1991.

Upcoming Fundraising Event

The Fundraising Committee is organizing one of the biggest fundraising activities this year on December 19. The main theme of the Gala Dinner is to arouse public awareness on recent Spinal Cord Injury research. The dinner will be held at the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine. Spinal Cord Injury expertises around the world are welcomed to join this memorable event and to enjoy a good evening in Hong Kong. More important, the committee aims to raise funds in support works of the ChinaSCINet.

HKU-SCI Fund Ambassadors



I am sure there will be a new drug for the treatment of spinal cord injury.

Sang Lan

Host of a Sport Programme “Sang Lan 2008”

It is a mission of bringing hope to millions of patients suffering from spinal cord injury.

Stephen Chow

Famous Actor & Director



I don't want to just sit here. One day I will stand up, and speak to you standing tall!

Christine Leung

Ph.D. Candidate, Hong Kong Baptist University

Forthcoming Events

First Investigator Meeting

Date: October 15-16, 2005

Place: Beijing

For more information, please contact hkuscif@hkusua.hku.hk

Next Issue of Newsletter

Interview with the Ambassadors

First International Spinal Cord Injury Treatments and Trials Symposium

Date: December 17-20, 2005

Venue: The University of Hong Kong

Website: <http://www.iscitt.org>

Contact: meeting.hk@asia.cmpmedica.com

On-line
Registration
is Available!