



Press Release

**Hong Kong Academy of Medicine
Media Spring Luncheon
Competency-based Medical Education to Improve
the Well-being of Doctors and Patients
“Best Practice Guidelines on Advance Directives” to be Launched
in the First Quarter of 2025**

(Hong Kong – February 11, 2025) The Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (the Academy) held a media spring luncheon today, with the Academy’s new President, Professor Philip Kam-tao Li, and the new term of Officers meeting with the media. Professor Li highlighted that the Academy has been moving with the times to implement Competency-based Medical Education (CBME) in specialist training. CBME is trainee-centered and outcome-oriented, more flexibly responding to the ever-changing medical system, and will improve the well-being of both doctors and patients in the long run. In order to enhance the teaching and learning effectiveness, the Academy will strengthen faculty development for specialist training and train its Fellows to prepare for the fast-changing clinical scenarios. At the same time, in order to strengthen collaboration and promote specialist training in line with international standards in the Greater Bay Area, the Academy continues to support the development of specialist training system in Shenzhen and the region. In addition, the Academy will launch a set of best practice guidelines for advance directives in the first quarter of this year to enable healthcare professionals to better understand and prepare for the implementation of the relevant ordinance which lays an important milestone for Hong Kong's palliative care services.

Full-fledged Implementation of Competency Based Medical Education

In order to implement the "Position Paper on Postgraduate Medical Education 2023", the Academy’s 15 Colleges gradually adopt the approach of CBME. The teaching model will emphasise on trainees’ mastery of specific abilities, and the curriculum will focus on achieving measurable results in knowledge, skills and attitudes, rather than simply completion of a fixed-period training. Different from the traditional examination model, the new approach will also emphasise continuous and formative evaluation and feedback, allowing trainees to receive suggestions for improvement early which will in turn improve their learning performance.

The new model will design training contents based on evidence and increase trainees' practical experience and capabilities through a systematic feedback mechanism and experiential learning. It will also encourage cross-disciplinary collaboration to allow trainers and trainees to continuously improve their skills. The new model emphasises respect, reflection and continuous learning; establishes the professional identity and integrity of doctors, maintains high-quality medical education, enhances the well-being of both doctors and patients in the long-term, with a view to improve the level of overall medical service in Hong Kong.

Professor Philip Li, President of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, said: "With the rapid advancement of technology and the increasing popularity of artificial intelligence (AI), traditional methods are insufficient to meet the challenges of modern medicine. Medical education needs to keep pace with the times. Competency-based medical education will be student-centered and result-oriented, and be more flexible in responding to the ever-changing medical system, and hence can better prepare doctors for complex clinical scenarios."

Shenzhen-Hong Kong Medical Specialist Training Centre covers 7 Medical Specialties

On the other hand, in 2019, the Academy and the Shenzhen Medical Doctors Association jointly established the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Medical Specialist Training Centre with the support of the Shenzhen Municipal Health Commission. It aims to strengthen collaboration to promote professional training in line with international standards in the Greater Bay Area and extend the professional talent pool in the region. The Shenzhen-Hong Kong Medical Specialist Training Centre has covered seven specialties, including clinical oncology, emergency medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, nephrology, neurosurgery, paediatrics and anesthesiology. In the past two years, a total of 126 trainees have been admitted in the seven specialties. Among them, nine hospitals in Shenzhen, including the University of Hong Kong Shenzhen Hospital, Shenzhen People's Hospital and Peking University Shenzhen Hospital, are those accredited training sites recognised by the Centre.

Professor Li remarked, "Since specialist training standard is not yet unified in mainland, the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Medical Specialist Training Centre develops training curriculum for different specialties based on Hong Kong's experience. After trainees undergo resident training in mainland, they are required to take at least four years of specialist training offered by the Centre." As Hong Kong and the Mainland have frequent exchanges, the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Medical Specialist Training Centre can help improve the medical standards of China and Hong Kong and promote the health and well-being of residents wherever they are."

“Best Practice Guidelines on Advance Directives” to be Launched in the First Quarter of 2025

The government gazetted the Advance Decision on Life-sustaining Treatment Ordinance in November 2024, which means that adults with mental capacity can apply advance medical directives (AMDs) under certain conditions such as terminal illness, persistent vegetative state, irreversible coma, and advanced irreversible life-limiting diseases. When condition worsens, patients can refuse life-sustaining treatment and make their own decisions for life according to the AMDs. This is a milestone in Hong Kong's palliative care services. The regulations will officially take effect by May 2026.

In order to help doctors better understand their roles in formulating, rejecting and executing advance directives, the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine will launch a set of relevant best practice guidelines in the first quarter of this year, which will illustrate in detail the application and practical operations of the Ordinance, including the use of standard advance directive forms, statutory "Do Not Resuscitate Order" forms, use of paper and eHealth, death in residence, protection of treatment providers, etc.

Dr. Doris Man-wah Tse, convener of the Task Force on Advance Medical Directive of the Academy's Professionalism and Ethics Committee, said that the Guidelines aims to better equip doctors so that they are familiar with the Ordinance . She pointed out that the Guidelines emphasises the importance of communication between doctors and patients. Establishing a consensus early before patients become unable to make a decision can help avoid possible disputes in the future.

Not only will the Academy launch the practical guidelines in the first quarter of this year, it will also arrange a series of seminars in future, aiming to help healthcare professionals further understand the application of advance medical directives before the Ordinance takes effect in May 2026.

Photos : <https://shorturl.at/LVz2P>



01: From left to right: Editor Prof. Martin Wong, Honorary Treasurer Prof. Eric Tse, President Prof. Philip Li, Vice-President (Education and Examinations) Prof. Clement Tham, and Honorary Secretary Dr. WC Leung, are attending the Media Spring Luncheon of HKAM.



02: Prof. Li, President of HKAM, highlighted that the Academy has been moving with the times to implement Competency-based Medical Education (CBME) in specialist training.



03: Dr. Doris Tse, Convener of the Task Force on Advance Medical Directives of the Academy's Professionalism and Ethics Committee, said that it is a milestone in Hong Kong's palliative care services after the legislation of advance medical directives (AMDs).



04: From left to right, Convener of the Task Force on Advance Medical Directives of the Academy's Professionalism and Ethics Committee Dr. Doris Tse, President of HKAM Prof. Philip Li, and Vice-President (Education and Examinations) of HKAM Prof. Clement Tham, are sharing the latest development of HKAM in the Q&A session.



05: HKAM Council members and representatives are toasting at the stage.

About the Academy's President

Professor Philip Kam-tao Li is the President of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, a consultant physician in the Department of Medicine and Therapeutics at Prince of Wales Hospital, an Honorary Professor of Medicine at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, as well as the Director of the Carol and Richard Yu Peritoneal Dialysis Research Centre.

Professor Li is the President of the International Association of Chinese Nephrologists, and has served as President of the Hong Kong College of Physicians (2016-2022), President of the Asian Pacific Society of Nephrology (2016-2019), and President of the International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis (2014-2016). He has also served as Chairman of the Central Renal Committee of the Hospital Authority, Chairman of the Hong Kong Society of Nephrology, President of the Hong Kong Transplantation Society, Chairman of the "World Kidney Day" International Steering Committee and Executive Member of the International Society of Nephrology, as well as a member of the Scientific Committee of the American Society of Nephrology (ASN).

About Hong Kong Academy of Medicine

Established in 1993, the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine is an independent institution with statutory power to organise, monitor, assess and accredit all medical and dental specialist training, and the responsibility to oversee the continuing medical education and continuous professional development to maintain the standard of specialists practising in Hong Kong. There are now 73 specialties with more than 9,500 Academy Fellows, who are eligible for registration in the Specialist Register of the Medical Council of Hong Kong and Dental Council of Hong Kong on the recommendation of the Academy.

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Intelligent Consulting Company

Allyson Tam M: 9169 3479

seniortamalison@gmail.com