



To News Editor
For Immediate Release

5 January 2015

CUHK Bioethics Conference to Explore “Double Whammy” of Longevity and Biotechnology Revolutions in Hong Kong

The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) Centre for Bioethics will launch a two-day conference in which experts from around the world, together with some of Hong Kong’s leading specialists in bioethics, biotechnology, and ageing will look at the prospects for managing the twin longevity and genomic revolutions from January 9 to 10, 2015, at the Conference Hall, 2/F, Central Government Offices in Tamar, Central, Hong Kong. Entitled “Building Bioethics Capacity in Hong Kong: Ethical Dimensions of Policy for Ageing and Genetics,” the conference will be the first among a series of annual international meetings on bioethics organized by CUHK’s Centre for Bioethics. Interested members of the public are welcome and admission is free. Please register online at: <https://www.icc-hk.com/bioethics2015/reg.asp> or contact launch2015@icc.com.hk, Tel. 2559 9973. Please refer to the conference website for details: <http://bioethics.med.cuhk.edu.hk/?p=492>.

The world is facing a longevity revolution and Hong Kong is one of its epicenters. By the end of the century, Hong Kong will have the third-oldest population in the world, according to the United Nations, as a result of declining birthrates and longer life expectancy.

Breakthroughs in biotechnology, rocketing ahead since the first sequencing of the human genome in 2001, are reinforcing both the potential and threat of this “longevity revolution”. Will it create an unbearable burden for the younger generation, or new horizons for human productivity and life quality? And how will Hong Kong, as a society?

Dr. Alexandre Kalache, who coined the term “longevity revolution”, will be among keynote speakers, together with Dr. Victor Rodwin, the world’s leading expert on the unique strategies used by global cities to tackle the challenges of the “silver tsunami” – a burst in the demographic segment traditionally considered to be beyond working age.

Dr. Erik Parens, a research scholar from the Hastings Center, will tackle moral, social, and psychological issues arising from the domain of “personalized medicine” made possible by the new science of genetic sequencing, ranging from genetic markers for Alzheimer’s disease to non-invasive prenatal testing to human-enhancement technologies.

Other specialists will bring a wealth of practical experience and creative ideas to managing Hong Kong’s oncoming “silver tsunami” – people like **Dr. Ng Wai Chong**, who developed a mobile health care delivery system to bring health care into the homes of the elderly in Singapore; or **Dr. Robert Klitzman**, of Columbia University, who has written a series of powerful books on medical ethics and the impact of genetic diagnosis on human identity; or **Michael Dunn**, a young bioethicist at the Ethox Center at Oxford University who worked in a nursing home as part of his research on the ethics of community-based and long-term support for vulnerable adults.

The conference will serve to launch the new CUHK Centre for Bioethics, which worked with the leading independent bioethics research institute in the United States, the Hastings Center, to develop the two-day program. Opening the conference will be CUHK Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Joseph J.Y. Sung and Dr. Wing Man Ko, Secretary for Food and Health of the Government of the Hong Kong SAR. A related event, co-organized by CUHK and the Asia Society, features a talk by Dr. Robert Klitzman, “Are We Our Genes: Mixing Species in Science and Art,” at 6:30-8:30 pm on January 8, 2015. The first 50 tickets will be free by registering with the CUHK Centre for Bioethics via email: bioethics@med.cuhk.edu.hk or Tel. 3943 9876.

Press Invitation

Media inquiries are welcome and the launch conference is open to the press, although the organizers would appreciate advance notification.

Professor T.F. Fok, Pro-Vice Chancellor of CUHK and Chairman of the Advisory Board to the Bioethics Centre, will conduct an informal press conference with the media after the opening ceremony, at 9:15 a.m. on January 9, outside the Conference Hall.

Media Enquiries: Ms. Katherine Wong, CUHK Faculty of Medicine (Tel: 3943 9585; Email: slwong@cuhk.edu.hk)



新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

致新聞編輯
請即發布

中大生命倫理學中心開幕研討會 探討香港與長壽與生物科技革命的雙面刃

香港中文大學（中大）生命倫理學中心將一連兩日（1月9至10日）在政府總部二樓政府總部會議廳舉行開幕研討會，為中心首次舉辦的每年一度國際會議，研討會主題為「香港生命倫理學發展與前瞻——人口老化及基因科技與政策的道德思量」，雲集全球及本地著名的生命倫理學、生物醫學、老年學專家，分享長壽與基因革命的對策與經驗。研討會登記費用全免，歡迎有興趣人士參加，請預先登記：<https://www.icc-hk.com/bioethics2015/reg.asp>，或聯絡會議秘書處（查詢電話：2559 9973；電郵：Launch2015@icc.com.hk）。研討會以英語進行，詳情請參閱：<http://bioethics.med.cuhk.edu.hk/?p=492>。

全球正面臨著一場長壽革命，香港身處其中，無法置身事外。據聯合國的預測，香港因出生率下降與生命延長因素影響下，到世紀末，將擁有全球第三大最老化的人口。

自2001年人類基因圖譜獲破解後，儘管生物科技領域上不斷地突破，無可避免加劇了長壽革命的威力和威脅，長者的醫療開支會否為年輕人帶來無法承受的經濟負擔？或為人類的繁衍與生活質素帶來新思維？香港究竟應如何應對？

Alexandre Kalache 博士是「長壽革命」一詞的倡導者，與 Victor Rodwin 博士同為研討會的主題講者，本身是研究全球城市人口老化問題的專家，以統計學上老年人口已突破傳統勞動人口的問題提出精闢獨特的見解和對策。

Hastings Center 高級研究學者 **Erik Parens** 博士，將就基因組序、老人認知障礙症，以至無創性產前診斷與人類優生科技帶來的個人化醫學 (Personalized Medicine) 及其衍生的道德倫理、社會、心理影響提出應對方案。

其他專家將會分享其他城市的實踐經驗和別樹一幟的創意，為應付香港人口老年化的問題帶來重要啟示。例如 **黃衛眾** 醫生在新加坡引入一套流動家居醫療系統，使家中長者都能享用醫護服務。美國哥倫比亞大學 **Robert Klitzman** 博士曾為醫學倫理及基因診斷對人類身份造成的爭議著作了一系列叢書，備受關注。年青生命倫理學家、牛津大學 Ethox Centre 的 **Michael Dunn** 博士以療養院服務的經驗，滋養其研究弱勢成年人在社區及長期需要，以及有關的倫理問題。

中大生命倫理學中心與全球首屈一指的生命倫理研究所——Hastings Center 合辦今次研討會，以誌中心的正式成立。中大校長沈祖堯教授及香港特別行政區政府食物及衛生局局長高永文醫生將蒞臨出席1月9日上午舉行的開幕禮。

此外，由亞洲協會香港與中大生命倫理學中心合辦的公開講座，將於1月8日晚上6時30分至8時30分在亞洲協會香港中心舉行，由哥倫比亞大學精神科學系教授 Robert Klitzman 主講「Are We Our Genes? Mixing Species in Science and Art」。經中大生命倫理學中心登記的首50

名人士將獲豁免登記費用，電郵：bioethics@med.cuhk.edu.hk 或致電：3943 9876。

傳媒採訪邀請

歡迎傳媒出席中大生命倫理學中心開幕研討會(1月9日至10日)及亞洲協會香港中心舉行的公開講座(1月8日)，請預先登記。

中大副校長、生命倫理學中心顧問委員會主席霍泰輝教授將於1月9日開幕禮後上午9時15分於政府總部二樓政府總部會議廳外會見傳媒，歡迎 貴機構派員訪攝。

傳媒查詢： 中大醫學院黃秀麗女士（電話：3943 9585；電郵：slwong@cuhk.edu.hk）

2015年1月5日