

To News Editor  
For Immediate Release

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## **New Bioethics Centre at CUHK Will Engage Community on Issues at the Heart of the Biotechnology Revolution**

Around the world, bioethics has become a way to explore the impact of scientific breakthroughs on communities and individuals. Literally the “ethics of life,” bioethics raises problems that are as old as human history, and as new as the latest journal article or development in genomic science.

Now the Chinese University of Hong Kong is raising the bar by establishing the CUHK Centre for Bioethics, to serve as a platform for academic as well as community discussion on these issues. To be launched on January 9 at the Centre’s first international conference, it will serve as a gateway for research collaboration and curriculum development, as well as research and publication by CUHK faculty.

A community dimension will be developed through the new centre’s website, bioethics programs in secondary schools as well as town hall meetings and exhibitions that delve into basic questions about the beginning and end of life as well as new technologies that challenge communities to think more deeply about their values.

“We think of bioethics in terms of the impact of medicine and biomedical science on human wellbeing,” said Professor Tai-fai Fok, Pro-Vice Chancellor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. “It can help us understand cultural differences in the ways we address terminal illness or define when human life begins. Bioethics broadly calls on society to respect the individuals and families who are exposed to difficult medical choices. It has helped to build informed consent into a powerful tool to affect patients’ rights.”

“But the issues being addressed by bioethics today go well beyond the confines of the medical profession. These issues require society as a whole to ask questions about the relationship between human health and the environment, and whether the accessibility of the new technologies of human enhancement and genetic diagnosis should be subjected to ethical tests, and if so, what those tests might be.”

Since November 2013, Professor Fok has been working with Professor Francis Chan, dean of the CUHK Faculty of Medicine, and other senior scholars to develop an institution that can be both a centre of academic excellence and a resource for the community. As chairman of the advisory board of the new centre, Professor Fok will direct a small staff, including Interim Director Hon-Lam Li and Director of Research Huso Yi. Both Professor Li, a philosopher, and Professor Yi, a public health specialist, are currently on the faculty of CUHK and are members of the working group that has developed the concept for the centre under Professor Fok.

Said Fok: “We are only at the beginning of this journey but we are excited about creating something new that will bridge the traditional divide between town and gown. Our first international conference will give us an opportunity to demonstrate the wealth of local scholarship in bioethics as well as welcome some of the world’s leading experts on ageing, public health systems in global cities, and the impact of genomic science. In the next phase, we will be developing a new curriculum on bioethics not only for the medical school but as part of general education, and work through our website and other means to develop a meaningful contribution to the Hong Kong community on bioethics.”

The launch conference, entitled “Building Bioethics Capacity in Hong Kong: Ethical Dimensions of Policy for Ageing and Genetics,” will be held from January 9-10, 2015 at the Conference Hall, 2/F, Central Government Offices, 2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar. 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](mailto:launch2015@icc.com.hk), Tel. 2559 9973. Please refer to the conference website for details: <http://bioethics.med.cuhk.edu.hk/?p=492>.

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](mailto:bioethics@med.cuhk.edu.hk) or Tel. 3943 9876.

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

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## 中大成立生命倫理學中心 推動香港各界 探索生物科技革命核心議題

環顧全球，生命倫理是幫助人們探討生物科技革命對社會以至個人造成的影響。生命倫理所探索的道德倫理議題，包括了傳統上泛指人類的歷史，以至基因科技上突破發展及推陳出新的學術研究和期刊。

香港中文大學（中大）成立生命倫理學中心，為學術界及社會提供了一嶄新平台，協助普羅大眾探討生命倫理的議題，明白其種種挑戰。中心將在1月9日起，一連兩日舉辦首屆國際會議，鼓勵和其他學院進行研究和教育的合作，亦會積極支持中大研究人員進行生命倫理學相關的研究和著述。

中大生命倫理學中心將積極聯繫社群，包括成立資訊網站、向中學生推廣生命倫理、舉辦交流會及展覽活動等，內容圍繞生命源始（Beginning of Life）與生命終結（End of Life），以及新高科技為社會帶來的影響，對生命價值賦予的意義，藉此提高社會各界對生命倫理的關注。

中大副校長霍泰輝教授指出：「大多數人認識的生命倫理，是透過了解危重病患或人類的源起，或所涉及的文化差異，從而深刻認識醫學與生物醫學對人類福祉所造成的影響。社會的共識對病人爭取自身權益十分重要，任何人都應該尊重他人面臨醫療問題時所作的困難抉擇，同時應體諒病患者的家屬。」

霍教授續說：「生命倫理刻下的挑戰不一而足，已經跨越了醫學界的範疇，因此更加需要社會各界更廣泛的參與和討論，譬如人類健康與環境的關係，生物科技和基因檢測診斷對優化人類健康在道德上的考量是否可取？哪些測試可行？」

自從2013年11月，中大霍泰輝教授、醫學院院長陳家亮教授及其他資深學者所組成的工作小組，積極為中大生命倫理學中心制定方向和推動其發展，促進中心發展成為社會的資源平台。隨著中心正式成立，中心將成立諮詢委員會，由霍泰輝教授擔任主席，成員包括資深哲學家李翰林教授擔任暫任總監、公共衛生學專家李湖樹教授擔任研究主任，以及工作小組的其他各成員。

霍教授表示：「中大生命倫理學中心尚在起步階段，我們憧憬著中心的未來發展，在社會上發揮更大作用。中心今次舉辦首屆國際會議，生命倫理學上資深經驗的本地學者在會上分享獨有的經驗，我們十分榮幸是來自全球最優秀的專家，對人口老化問題、基因生命科技與國際城市的公共醫療政策及制度，提出其精闢獨到的見解，為本港經驗提供新思維和借鏡。中心的下一項計劃是推出與生命倫理相關的醫學課程及發展通識科，讓醫學院學生及其他大學生都能受惠。」

中心的開幕研討會將於1月9至10日在政府總部二樓政府總部會議廳舉行，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」。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](mailto: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>。

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](mailto:bioethics@med.cuhk.edu.hk) 或致電：3943 9876。

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。

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