



香港醫學遺傳學會
Hong Kong Society of Medical Genetics

HKSMG

Newsletter

Issue no. 1; Sep 2008

c/o 3/F Cheung Sha Wan Jockey Club Clinic, 2 Kwong Lee Rd., Shamshuipo, KLN., HKSAR
Official website: <http://www.fmshk.com.hk/hksmg/index.htm>, Email: hksmg.com@gmail.com

Message from the Editor

It is my pleasure to say hello to you in this first issue of the HKSMG Newsletter, wearing hats of both Editor of this Newsletter and Chairman of HKSMG. I feel honored to be elected as the new Chairman in the last AGM, which was held on 9 Jun in the midst of the ACGA-HGSMG International Conference on Genetic and Genomic Medicine. Dr. Stephen Lam, our former Chairman, would give a report on this conference in this Newsletter. I must also take this opportunity to thank Dr. Lam for having laid a strong foundation for the Society over the last two decades and to congratulate him for the great success of the conference.

In the 10th Board of Directors Meeting, we agreed that the Society should have its official publication, hence the idea of a Newsletter. It serves as platform where two-way communication can take place between the Council and the members. On one hand, the Council can publicize our activities, and remind members to pay annual subscription, etc. On the other hand, members can also share their views and experiences, both on genetic or social topics. Therefore, you are most welcome to submit articles. We are aiming at four issues per year and council members will take turn to be the Editor. I do hope that the Newsletter can strengthen the bonding among our members. It is also my dream that this Newsletter can evolve, after some years, into a scientific journal on genetics.

Ivan Lo

Chairman & Editor

Reminder of Annual Subscription

Please be reminded to pay your overdue subscriptions as soon as possible. All new or re-joining members of the Society will be waived for the joining fee of HKD200 just for this year. In the past, society members who have discontinued their subscriptions will have to pay the joining fee again. As the Society is now planning a whole series of scientific seminars in the coming months and the 9th Asia-Pacific Conference on Human Genetics in 2010, there might be exemptions or discounts on registration fees exclusively for society members. Please make use of this golden opportunity to join or re-join the Society. Please refer to pages 6-8 of this newsletter for payment method and membership application.

Priscilla Poon

Hon. Secretary

Report on the ACGA-HKSMG International Conference on Genetic and Genomic Medicine

The ACGA-HKSMG International Conference on Genetic and Genomic Medicine was held on 8-11 June 2008 at Cheung Kung Hai Conference Centre of The University of Hong Kong. It was the first joint conference between Association of Chinese Geneticists in America and Hong Kong Society of Medical Genetics. Other co-organizers also included The University of Hong Kong and Chinese Society of Medical Genetics.

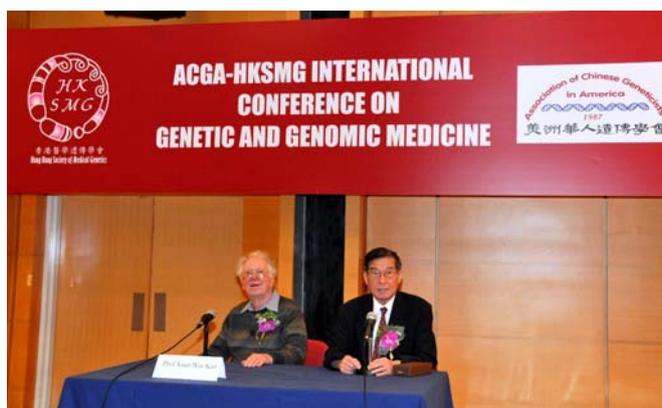
There were a total of 315 participants from mainland, overseas and Hong Kong. Six keynote speeches were delivered by Oliver Smithies (Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine, 2007) and five other world-renowned scientists including Huanming Yang, Owen Rennert, Eric Sampson, Aravinda Chakravarti and David Rimoim. Eighteen scientific symposia and two lunch seminars were organized, covering various disciplines of genetic and genomic medicine. Over a hundred posters were presented and ten “Best Poster Awards” were given away. Last but not least, a conference banquet was held on the evening of June 10, 2008 in honor of Prof. Yuet-Wai Kan. It was generally agreed among guests and participants that the 3-day conference was a great success. I must take this opportunity to thank once again all our sponsors, all the organizing committee and local organizing committee members, without their generous contribution and hard work the success would not have been achieved.



A piper band led the procession of distinguished guests into the lecture hall at the opening ceremony.

Ms. Sandra Lee, Permanent Secretary for Health, gave her opening remarks. Sitting on my right was Dr. Wai-Yee Chan, Co-Chair of the conference, and on my left, Dr. Min-Xin Guan, President of ACGA.





The first keynote lecture “From Gels to Genes” was delivered by Dr. Oliver Smithies (Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine, 2007) and chaired by Prof. Yuet-Wai Kan, who was a personal friend of Dr. Smithies and was also our guest of honor.

A conference banquet was held at the Jumbo Seafood Restaurant on the evening of June 10, 2008, in honor of Prof. Yuet-Wai Kan. Most participants attended and had a memorable evening.



Stephen Lam

Immediate Past Chairman

2008-2010 Office Bearers & Scientific Subcommittee

Office Bearers

Chairman:	Dr. Ivan FM Lo
Hon. Secretary:	Dr. Priscilla MK Poon
Hon. Treasurer:	Mr. Chan Wing Kwong
Directors:	Dr. Stephen TS Lam
	Dr. Calvin CP Pang
	Dr. Mary HY Tang
	Dr. Nelson LS Tang
	Mr. Tony MF Tong
	Dr. Yip Shea Ping

Scientific Subcommittee

Chairman:	Dr. Richard KW Choy
Members:	Dr. Ronald CC Wang
	Dr. Brian HY Chung
Webmaster:	Dr. Larry Baum

Scientific Seminar

**THE IMPACT OF HUMAN STRUCTURAL GENOMIC VARIATION ON A
NEW ERA OF PRENATAL GENETIC TESTING**

by

Dr. Charles Lee, Ph.D., FACMG

**Director of Cytogenetics,
Harvard Cancer Center
Harvard Medical School**

Organized by

**Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Chinese University of Hong Kong
Hong Kong Society of Cytogenetics
Hong Kong Society of Medical Genetics**

“All HKSMG members are welcome (dinner will be served after seminar)”

Date: Thursday, 2 October, 2008

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**Venue: Centenary Room III, G/F, Marco Polo Hong Kong Hotel,
Harbour City, Kowloon**

One CME point for attendance pre-approved by both HKCOG and HKAM

One CPD point for attendance pre-approved by HKMLT Board

Genetic variation—differences in both the coding and noncoding portions of our DNA—is what makes each human being a unique individual. It also can determine our unique susceptibility to disease. Copy number variations (CNVs)—gain or loss of segments of genomic DNA relative to a reference— have also been shown to be associated with several complex and common disorders. We are honored to have Dr. Charles Lee, the leader in genome copy number variations to deliver a lecture entitled **“The impact of human structural genomic variation on a new era of prenatal genetic testing”**. During this lecture Dr. Lee will give a general introduction of CNV technologies and discuss how these technologies can be applied in disease research as well as sharing his latest data on recent CNV studies using array CGH techniques.

Dr. Lee received his doctoral degree from the University of Alberta, Canada in 1996 and was subsequently an NSERC research fellow at Cambridge University, UK from 1996-8. He then completed his Clinical Cytogenetics fellowship at Harvard Medical School, USA from

1998-2001.

Dr. Charles Lee is the Director of Cytogenetics for the Harvard Cancer Center, Associate Professor of Pathology at Harvard Medical School, and an Associate Faculty Member of the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT. He is also a board-certified clinical cytogeneticist at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

The Cytogenetic Research Laboratory of Dr. Charles Lee at Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School develops and applies state-of-the-art, molecular cytogenetic technologies to study the structure and organization of vertebrate genomes to understand human diseases and disorders.

Dr. Lee's laboratory initially reported widespread structural variation (in the form of copy number variants - CNVs) in the human genome in 2004 (*Nat Genet* 36:949, 2004). This discovery led to the establishment of an International Consortium aimed at comprehensively identifying human structural genomic variation. In 2006, this consortium produced a first generation copy number variant (CNV) map for the human genome (*Nature* 444:444, 2006). The study of human structural genomic variation is now having a major impact on many areas of medicine and research, including cancer biomarker studies, medical genetic diagnostics, disease-association studies and personalized medicine. In 2007, *Science* magazine announced human genetic variation as the breakthrough of the year, largely due to the newfound appreciation of common human structural genomic variation. This year, at the age of 39, Dr. Lee became the youngest recipient of the Ho-Am Prize in Medicine (also referred to as the "Korean Nobel Prize") for his pioneering work in this new field of human genetics.

Website: <http://www.chromosome.bwh.harvard.edu>

Hellman Foundation Seminar

Date: Tuesday, 21st Oct 2008
Venue: HA Headquarters, Argyle Street, KLN
Time: 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Speakers:

Christina Hellmann (on the setting up of the Foundation)
Stephen Lam (on Orphan Diseases and Rare Diseases)
Koga (on treatment of Mitochondrial Diseases)
Fung Cheuk Wing (some local related diseases)

Supporting Societies: HKSMG, HKSC, HKSIEM

Details will be announced

Richard Choy

Chairman, Scientific Subcommittee



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1 September 2008

Notice For 2008 Membership Subscription

The renewal of 2008 membership is now due. Members are reminded to renew their membership as soon as possible. The joining fee of HKD200 is now waived just for this year for all rejoining members who have discontinued their subscriptions in the previous years. Please return this form with a cheque of appropriate fee to:

Hong Kong Society of Medical Genetics
c/o Mr Chan Wing Kwong
Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Shatin, NT

Membership renewal:

Membership	Membership Fees	2008
Ordinary	\$200	
Associate	\$150	

Cheque No.: _____ (payable to *Hong Kong Society of Medical Genetics*) Receipt required

Personal data (for internal registration and communication use only):

*must be completed

Name: *English _____ (*Chinese _____)

*Hospital/University/Institution: _____ *Email: _____

Please update your information below:

Contact/Office Telephone: _____ Mobile phone/Home phone: _____

New Title: _____

New Office: _____

Other information update (if any):

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Hong Kong Society of Medical Genetics

Membership Application Form

I wish to apply for Ordinary, Associate, Associate (Overseas) Membership.

Name: *English _____ (*Chinese _____)

*Title: _____ Sex: ___ Age: _____ *Post: _____

*Department: _____ *Hospital/University/Institution/Office: _____

Address: _____

District: _____ City: _____ Country: _____

Corresponding address if different from above: _____

*Telephone: (Office) _____ Ext.: _____ Fax: _____ Mobile: _____

Home Tel.: _____ Home Fax: _____ *E-mail: _____

**must be completed*

Academic/Professional Qualifications

Institution /University

Degree

Date

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Areas of special interest

Proposer Name: _____ Signature: _____

Seconder Name: _____ Signature: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return the completed form with a cheque of the appropriate fees (see next page) to the Honorary Treasurer, Hong Kong Society of Medical Genetics at the following address:

Hong Kong Society of Medical Genetics
c/o Mr Chan Wing Kwong
Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Shatin, NT

For official use only

Recommendation: _____ Membership No.: _____ Date: _____

Remarks: _____

Chairman: _____ Secretary: _____ Treasurer: _____ (J.Fee: _____ M.Fee: _____)

Information on Membership Application

1. The members of the Society are divided into:

a) **Honorary Life Member**

Any distinguished person who has rendered notable service to the Society or the advancement of medical genetics in Hong Kong. On the recommendation of the Council, they shall be elected by the majority vote at a general meeting. Honorary Life Members shall enjoy all the privileges of ordinary members.

b) **Ordinary Member**

Any medical practitioner, scientist, or technologist who has shown a continuous interest in clinical genetics for at least three years as evidenced by publications, teaching or attendance at conferences discussing medical genetic subjects, and is engaged in work related to medical genetics. The applicant shall be proposed and seconded by two Ordinary Members with final approval by the council. Ordinary Members are eligible for holding office and casting votes at meetings.

c) **Associate and Associate (Overseas) Members**

Any medical practitioner, scientist or technologist who is interested in medical genetics but is not otherwise qualified to be an Ordinary Member. Each Associate Member is required to take an active part in the affairs of the Society by regular attendance to its scientific meetings and by assisting to promote the objectives of the Society. The applicant shall be recommended by two ordinary members of the Society. Such members shall enjoy all the privileges of the Society except the power of holding office and voting.

2. **Membership fees** (with effect from 21 September 1998)

Joining fee	HK\$200
Ordinary Member	HK\$200/ year
Associate Member	HK\$150/ year
Associate (Overseas) Member	HK\$100/ year

3. **Information & Enquiry**

For more information of the HKSMG, please browse the Society homepage at:

<http://www.fmshk.com.hk/hksmg/index.htm>

For enquiry, please email to HKSMG.com@gmail.com