

The Hong Kong Association of the Pharmaceutical Industry



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LegCo Commerce and Industry Panel Meeting

On 15 May, the Commerce and Industry Panel of the Legislative Council held a meeting to discuss the promotion of innovation and technology in Hong Kong. Various academic institutions and professional associations were invited to attend the meeting and submit their views. The Association submitted a [position paper](#) and Mr. Roee Shahar, HKAPI Vice President, presented the views on behalf of the Association.

We believe that it is important for Hong Kong to further strengthen its competitiveness in medical and clinical research. Based on our research findings and analyses on the capacity and critical success factors to develop Hong Kong into a regional hub for clinical trials, it is suggested that the Government should enhance the infrastructure for clinical trials through the establishment of a dedicated team in the Hospital Authority to handle all issues related to clinical trials in order to speed up the start-up time. In addition, sufficient resources including investigators, research nurses, testing laboratories and medical equipment should be provided.

As Hong Kong has well-trained investigators who are experienced in producing high quality clinical research output, Hong Kong can focus on early phase studies and disease areas such as oncology, hepatology, respiratory and infectious diseases.

To take advantage of its advanced medical infrastructure, research capability and efficient approval time, Hong Kong should help to facilitate clinical research in China through collaborations with research institutions in China and position itself as the principal trials site.

Health Services Panel Meeting on Relaxation of the assessment criteria for Samaritan Fund

In order to sustain the operation of the Samaritan Fund (Fund) in the next ten years, the Government has proposed to inject \$10 billion into the Fund and provide allowances when calculating the total value of disposable assets in the mean tests. The Health Services Panel of Legislative Council held a meeting to discuss the above proposal on 16 April and HKAPI was invited to submit [our views](#) on the relaxation of the assessment criteria for the Samaritan Fund.

The Association very much supports the injection of additional funding which benefits more patients who are in need of full or partial subsidies for self-financed drugs and medical items. We also agree to relax the eligibility criteria of the Fund through the introduction of a deductible allowance from patient's disposable capital and simplifying the tiers of patients' contribution ratio for drug expenses.

More importantly, the clinical applications for new drugs with proven efficacy and fewer side-effects should be widened to let patients use the new drugs in the early stage of their treatment to increase the chance of recovery. As the self-financed items are either paid by patients or subsidized by the Fund, new drugs which are proven to be effective based on scientific evidence should be included in the self-financed items to benefit more patients. At present, application to include any self-financed items in the safety net is only accepted once per year, the flexibility of the system should be enhanced and allows more frequent review by the Hospital Authority.

Joint Seminar with Chief Pharmacist's Office

A joint seminar between the Chief Pharmacist's Office (CPO) of the Hospital Authority (HA) and HKAPI was organized on 19 June. About 200 representatives from member companies and students enrolled into the HKAPI training program attended the seminar.

Dr. Sian Ng, President of HKAPI started the seminar by giving a brief opening remarks and thanking the CPO for organizing this meeting. Ms. Anna Lee, Chief Pharmacist, Hospital Authority gave an overview of HA Pharmaceutical Services. Senior pharmacists from different sections then presented in details the roles and

Editorial Board

Sabrina Chan

Jenny Wan

Contact Us

Tel: 2528-3061

Fax: 2865-6283

<http://www.hkapi.hk/>

info@hkapi.hk

functions of the Chief Pharmacist's Office.

Mr. Anthony Wong, Senior Pharmacist, Corporate Pharmaceutical Management, explained to the audience HA's procurement policy and the selection and management of drug that aim to ensure drug quality and supply continuity.

Mr. Benjamin Kwong, Senior Pharmacist, Pharmacy Professional & Clinical Services talked about the objectives of the Drug Formulary and the drug enlistment process employed. The roles of the Medication Safety Committee and the Medication Incident Reporting System were also discussed.

Mr. Winham Lok, Senior Pharmacist of Professional Development & Practice Management Section presented on the professional training provided to staff of different tiers and illustrated the development strategies with examples of training programmes.

Ms. Teresa Ngan, Senior Pharmacist, Special Services & Chinese Medicines Section gave an overview of the focus of Chinese Medicine services provided by HA, the service model and management of Chinese Medicine. CPO is also responsible for special pharmaceutical services such as poisoning reporting and pharmacovigilance.

Last but not least, Ms. Lee shared with our members the areas HA have been collaborating with the industry which include procurement model, training and medication safety. HKAPI members look forward to the continued partnership with CPO to make these projects a success.



Dr. Sian Ng thanked the Chief Pharmacist's Office for organizing the seminar and providing detailed information on the different functions undertaken by their Office.



Ms. Anna Lee, Chief Pharmacist, Hospital Authority



Mr. Anthony Wong, Senior Pharmacist,
Corporate Pharmaceutical Management



Mr. Benjamin Kwong, Senior Pharmacist,
Pharmacy Professional & Clinical Services



Mr. Winham Lok, Senior Pharmacist of
Professional Development & Practice Management



Ms. Teresa Ngan, Senior Pharmacist, Special
Services & Chinese Medicines Section

HKAPI Training Program for Medical Representatives

80 medical representatives from 18 member companies enrolled in the HKAPI certification training programme for medical representatives. The programme consists of 22 lectures and covers a variety of topics including different human biological systems, principles of pharmacology and pharmacokinetics, pharmaceutical regulations and healthcare services in Hong Kong. During the first lecture, Dr. Sian Ng, President of HKAPI, discussed with students the recent development in the pharmaceutical industry in Hong Kong and the roles of medical representatives. Ms.

Sabrina Chan, Executive Director, then introduce the Association's Code of Marketing Practices and the IFPMA Code with recent updates.



Dr. Sian Ng shared with students her views on the roles and responsibilities of medical representatives.



Ms. Sabrina Chan explained in details the HKAPI Code of Practice and the IFPMA Code of Practice.



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