

Press Release

Hong Kong Academy of Sciences presents COVID-19 Online Forum Experts gathered to discuss the pandemic

HK, 30 June 2020 – The Hong Kong Academy of Sciences (ASHK) hosted a “COVID-19 Online Forum” (The Forum) this morning that brought together four eminent scientists and medical researchers from Hong Kong, the Mainland and the United States to share their insights on the global pandemic that had already recorded more than 10 million cases across 218 countries and territories, and over 500,000 deaths.

The four speakers were Professor Zhong Nan-Shan, Director of Guangzhou Institute of Respiratory Diseases and the National Clinical Research Center for Respiratory Disease; Professor Kwok-Yung Yuen, Henry Fok Professor in Infectious Diseases, Chair of Infectious Diseases, Department of Microbiology, the University of Hong Kong; Professor David Ho, Director of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center, Clyde and Helen Wu Professor of Medicine, Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons; and Professor Gabriel Leung, Dean of Medicine, the University of Hong Kong.

Dr Lap-Chee Tsui, President of the ASHK opened the Forum by saying that there had been a great deal of knowledge gained and research progress made in the past six months, and the Academy wished to contribute to the world by gathering the international experts to narrate the latest information of the pandemic.

The topics covered at the Forum included the latest development in diagnosis, rapid test, treatment and immunisation for COVID-19 caused by SARS-CoV-2. The speakers shared the findings of their studies on the subject with more than 3,000 online viewers.

The four experts explained their recent research work and exchanged information on the subject collected from various sources. Professor Zhong Nan-Shan updated the Forum on the clinical aspects of COVID-19 and prospects on the treatments of the disease, including the use of Chinese medicine.

Professor Kwok-Yung Yuen elaborated on relevant laboratory tests and antiviral treatments for COVID-19. David Ho, explained the studies on the SARS-CoV-2 antibodies and the global effort in developing vaccines, while Professor Gabriel

Leung, narrated the definition of the COVID-19 epidemiology.

During the discussion session, the world's best scientists on the subject all agreed that a second wave of the pandemic is not unlikely, and that the best way to fight it is for everyone to "own" the problem. "A mask, alcohol wipes or hand sanitizer are the best protection," stressed Prof Yuen.

To watch the Forum, please click the following link :

ASHK Facebook -

https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=588098825452155&ref=watch_permalink

Photo captions:

001A, 001B, 001C: The eminent scientists and medical research experts, Professor Zhong Nan-Shan, Professor Kwok-Yung Yuen, Professor David Ho and Professor Gabriel Leung gathered to support today's COVID-19 Online Forum hosted by The Hong Kong Academy of Sciences.

002: Dr Lap-Chee Tsui (Right), Professor Kwok-Yung Yuen (Middle), Professor Gabriel Leung (Left) discussed the pandemic at the COVID-19 Online Forum.

003A, 003B: Dr Lap-Chee Tsui, the president of The Hong Kong Academy of Sciences moderated at the Forum that aimed to contribute to the world by gathering the international experts to narrate the latest information of the pandemic.

004A, 004B: Professor Kwok-Yung Yuen elaborated the topic on "the laboratory test and antiviral treatment for COVID-19".

005: Professor Gabriel Leung narrated "the definition of the COVID-19 epidemiology".

About Speakers

Professor Zhong Nan-Shan

*Professor of Medicine, Guangzhou Medical University;
Director, Guangzhou Institute of Respiratory Diseases;
Director, National Clinical Research Center for Respiratory
Disease*

Professor Zhong is one of China's leading respiratory clinicians, who has organised and participated in the development of a number of Chinese guidelines for diagnosis and management of bronchial asthma, COPD, chronic cough, SARS, high-pathogenic avian flu and COVID-19.



Professor Kwok-Yung Yuen

*Henry Fok Professor in Infectious Diseases, Chair of Infectious
Diseases, Department of Microbiology, The University of Hong
Kong*

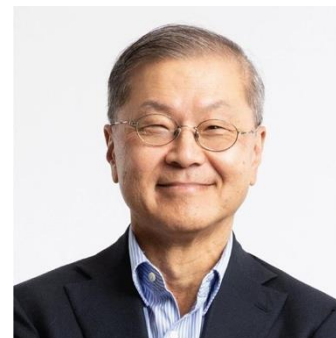
Professor Yuen is a clinical microbiologist, specialised in emerging infections. He is one of the four experts appointed by the Chief Executive of Hong Kong to advise the HKSAR Government on the "Preparedness and Response Plan for Novel Infectious Disease of Public Health Significance".



Professor David Ho

*Director of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center;
Clyde and Helen Wu Professor of Medicine, Columbia University
Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons*

Having spent decades researching HIV/AIDS, Professor Ho is an expert on viral epidemics. He is Time Magazine's Man of the Year in 1996. He has recently received a grant of US\$2.1 million from Jack Ma to discover new drugs against the viral protease and to find new monoclonal antibodies that target SARS-CoV-2. The latter studies will inform vaccine development.



Professor Gabriel Leung

Dean of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong

Professor Leung is the fortieth Dean of Medicine (2013-), the inaugural Helen and Francis Zimmern Professor in Population Health, and the Chair of Public Health Medicine at the University of Hong Kong. He is one of the four experts appointed by the Chief Executive of Hong Kong to advise the HKSAR Government on the "Preparedness and Response Plan for Novel Infectious Disease of Public Health Significance".

**About the Moderator:****Dr Lap-Chee Tsui**

President, The Hong Kong Academy of Sciences;

President, Victor and William Fung Foundation (HK);

Director, Qiushi Academy for Advanced Studies, Zhejiang University, China;

University of Toronto's Emeritus University Professor;

14th Vice Chancellor of The University of Hong Kong

Dr Tsui is world renowned for his research work in human genetics and genomics, notably the identification of the gene for Cystic Fibrosis in 1989 and, later, other human genetic diseases while conducting a comprehensive characterisation of human chromosome 7.

**About The Hong Kong Academy of Sciences**

Established in 2015, The Hong Kong Academy of Sciences (ASHK) is committed to promoting the development and advancement of science and technology in Hong Kong, and fostering Hong Kong as a centre of scientific excellence.

The Academy cooperates with organisations with complementary objective, including those in the industrial and commerce sectors to achieve its objectives. It also conducts independent studies relating to public policy in science and technology.

More information about ASHK is available at <http://www.ashk.org.hk/>

The above information is released by AsiaNet Communications Limited on behalf of ASHK.

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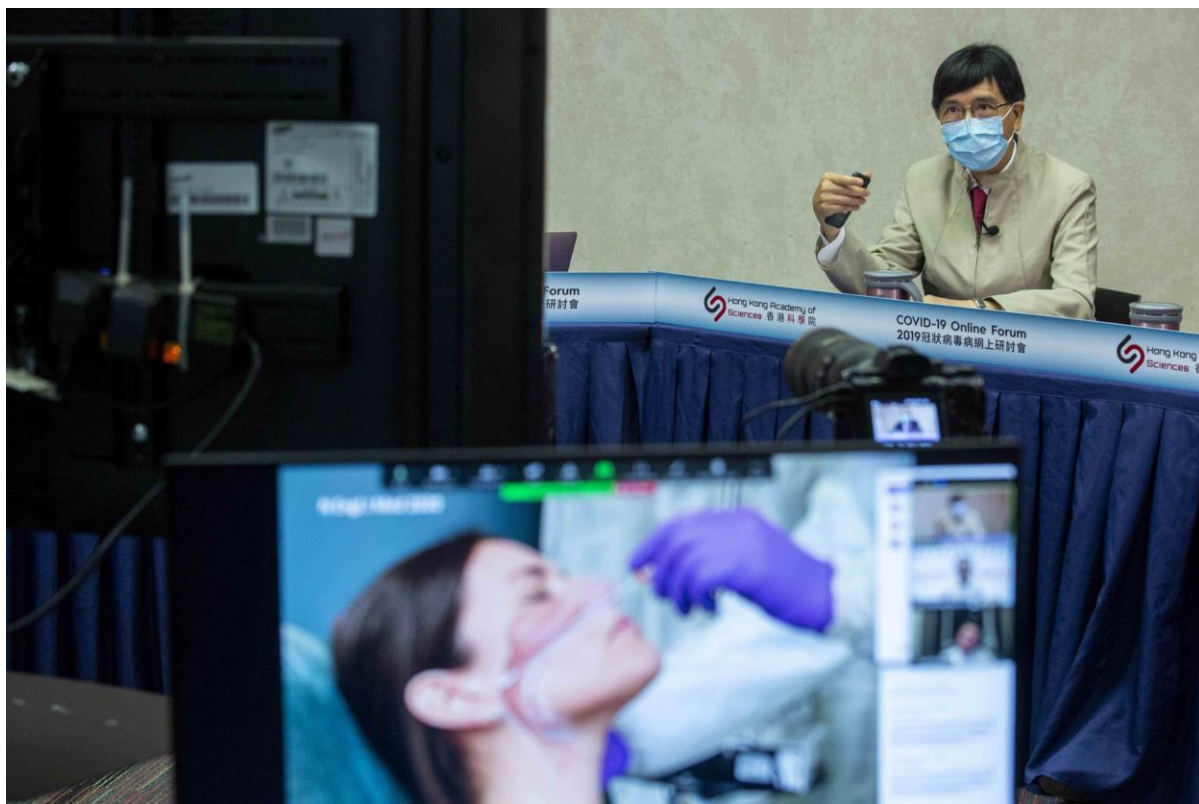
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