

**Press Release**

## **Strategic Collaboration between Hong Kong Integrated Oncology Centre (HKIOC) and Hong Kong Adventist Oncology Center (HKAOC) to develop seamless multi-disciplinary cancer services in Hong Kong**

[Hong Kong, August 25, 2016] Cancer remains the leading cause of death in Hong Kong. According to 2015 registered deaths released by the Center for Health Protection, 34.7% of Hong Kong people died of cancer, which exceeded the second (pneumonia, 13.9%) or third (heart diseases, 12.6%) leading cause of death by over twofold<sup>1</sup>. Within a decade, the number of newly diagnosed cancer patients has increased by almost 30% from 22,523 in 2004, to 28,936 in 2013<sup>2</sup>. In addition to the changing demand for better cancer services, the urge for integrated cancer diagnostic and treatment services is overwhelming.

### **The Changing Trends on the Demand for Cancer Services in Hong Kong**

Despite of the fact that Hong Kong's cancer diagnostic and treatment services is comparable to other developed regions, patients are constantly looking for more comprehensive and holistic cancer care which can offer seamless solutions with simplified patient flow, and one that can cater both physical and psychological needs of cancer sufferers.

The changing demand of cancer services in Hong Kong can be summarized as follows:

#### ***(i) From “scattered” to “seamless & multi-disciplinary” cancer services***

The cancer patient journey is usually long with a number of procedures involved, including (1) diagnosis (such as blood test, PET / MRI and biopsy etc); (2) treatment plan (including surgery,

<sup>1</sup> Center for Health Protection. Age-standardized Death Rates by Leading Causes of Death, 2001-2015. Available at: [www.chp.gov.hk/tc/data/4/10/27/339.html](http://www.chp.gov.hk/tc/data/4/10/27/339.html). Accessed on July 13, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Hospital Authority: Hong Kong Cancer Registry web site. Available at: [www3.ha.org.hk/cancereg/statistics.html](http://www3.ha.org.hk/cancereg/statistics.html). Accessed on July 13, 2016.

radiotherapy, chemotherapy and medications); (3) regular consultation and rehabilitation etc. All these procedures can involve a variety of medical specialties and therefore the need for a seamless and multi-disciplinary cancer service has become an irresistible trend in the delivery of cancer services.

***(ii) Public private partnership to streamline cancer patient flow***

The capacity to cater the escalating demand on cancer services due to aging population has already come to a saturation point at public hospitals. The Public Private Partnership program (PPP) initiated by the Hospital Authority allows public hospitals in Hong Kong to divert some of their cancer patients to receive cancer diagnostic services, such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), at private medical organizations. By the same token, the HKSAR Government has also invited a number of private medical organizations to collaborate in the recent Colorectal Cancer Screening Pilot Program. It is estimated that the need for “out-sourcing” more cancer services will be increased in order to cope with the growing cancer population.

***(iii) Collaboration among medical organizations to strengthen competitive advantages on talent and technological capabilities***

Not many organizations in Hong Kong provide seamless and multi-disciplinary cancer services, resulting in a scattered distribution of cancer care professionals serving in different organizations. The key trend in development of future cancer services is to combine human expertise and technological advancements in an integrated setting through strategic collaboration among medical organizations.

**Strategic collaboration to develop seamless, multi-disciplinary cancer service in Hong Kong**

HKIOC pioneers the offering of cancer services by introducing a seamless, multi-disciplinary day cancer center service model to Hong Kong. On the other hand, Hong Kong Adventist Hospital – Stubbs Road has been serving the Hong Kong community for decades with its extensive in-patient service experience and state-of-the-art radiotherapy facilities. Its Hong Kong Adventist Oncology Center, established in 2013, strives to offer every patient comprehensive treatment. From diagnosis to customized treatment solutions and rehabilitation, its professional medical team works closely with patients to take care of all their physical, psychological and emotional needs.

The strategic collaboration will fully maximize the synergistic effect of the two oncology centers in the following aspects:

***i) A team of highly skilled multi-disciplinary medical professionals:***

Bringing together a team of multi-disciplinary medical experts to ensure patients get the best and seamless care available:

- **Oncologists:** with extensive experiences in treating different types of cancer, the team can provide patients with professional examination, diagnosis, treatment and post-treatment services;
- **Surgeons:** to provide tailor-made surgical treatment options for cancer patients;
- **Radiologists:** to make use of medical imaging technology to provide diagnosis and interventional therapy to patients;
- **Therapeutic Radiographers:** to assist in planning works for radiotherapy and operate radiotherapy equipment to perform radiotherapy treatment;
- **Diagnostic Radiographers:** to assist medical specialists and medical physicists to diagnose, monitor and tailor cancer treatment plan for patients by deploying different diagnostic technologies;
- **Medical Physicists:** to carry out precise calculation of the radiation dosage, therapeutic range and treatment area according to the requirements of oncologists;
- **Oncology Nurses:** to provide holistic patient care during cancer treatment, in particular during radiotherapy and chemotherapy, as well as providing necessary counselling and emotional support to patients and their caregivers;
- **Oncology Pharmacists / Clinical Pharmacists :** to improve patient care through medication use and management of possible drug side effects ;
- **Dietitians :** to provide professional advice on the diet of cancer patients with regard to their nutritional status;
- **Clinical Psychologists :** to provide necessary psychological counseling and support to cancer patients and their caregivers;
- **Case Coordinators:** to work closely with patients and their families, physicians, and other members of the healthcare team to assist patients to move from one phase of care to the next with support on administration and co-ordination work.

#### ***ii) Providing seamless cancer treatment services to simplify patient flow***

From cancer examination to treatment (including surgery, radiotherapy and medication), the integrated practice of the two oncology centers provides seamless cancer services in a thoughtfully designed environment.

Conveniently located in the heart of Central, HKIOC provides day cancer center service, including chemotherapy in an out-patient setting. On the other hand, HKAOC, housed at Hong Kong

Adventist Hospital – Stubbs Road (HKAH – SR) and equipped with advanced facilities and state-of-the-art radiotherapy, provides a comfortable environment for patient treatment and comprehensive inpatient services.

Moreover, referrals will be arranged for HKIOC patients who require radiotherapy, cancer-related inpatient or emergency hospital services at HKAOC.

***iii) Maximization of Synergistic Effect***

This collaboration will best combine the exceptional pool of talent, advanced and innovative cancer technologies at both centers to deliver a full array of diagnostic and treatment services to achieve optimal clinical outcomes for cancer patients.

**Ms Phoebe Ho, Chief Executive Officer of Hong Kong Integrated Oncology Centre** said, “Cancer is a race against time. The concept of integrated cancer services has been prevalent in western countries for nearly a decade. The strategic collaboration of the two oncology centers signifies a new chapter in Hong Kong’s cancer services by bringing together top-notch multi-disciplinary expertise to provide seamless and comprehensive solutions to our local patients. “

**Mr Alex Lan, President and Chief Executive Officer of Hong Kong Adventist Hospital – Stubbs Road & Tsuen Wan** added, “With extensive experience in providing quality cancer services to the local community for over decades, HKAOC, housed in the Hong Kong Adventist Hospital – Stubbs Road, strives to provide the best possible and compassionate care to cancer patients. We believe this collaboration will further enhance the service offerings of HKIOC by supporting inpatient and radiotherapy services.”

## **Supplementary Information**

### **About Hong Kong Integrated Oncology Centre (HKIOC)**

Established in 2015, HKIOC is a multi-disciplinary private cancer care center with the mission to provide integrated cancer care in order to improve clinical outcomes and quality of care to Hong Kong patients. The Centre is strategically located in the heart of Central with a breadth of advanced facilities and healthcare expertise to provide cancer screening, endoscopy, cancer diagnostic and treatment services. For more information, please visit HKIOC's website: [www.hkioc.com.hk](http://www.hkioc.com.hk).

### **About Hong Kong Adventist Oncology Center (HKAOC)**

Housed in the Hong Kong Adventist Hospital – Stubbs Road, HKAOC strives to offer every patient comprehensive treatment. From prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, monitoring to rehabilitation, HKAOC works closely with patients to take care of all their physical, psychological and emotional needs. A team of medical professionals with an extensive range of expertise offers customized solutions for individual patients. Each patient is assigned a case coordinator to provide “one-on-one” support by taking care of all administrative work during the treatment period. HKAOC is equipped with advanced radiotherapy equipments such as CyberKnife and Tomotherapy treatment. For more information, please visit HKAOC's website: [www.hkah.org.hk](http://www.hkah.org.hk).

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