

**An address given by
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First and foremost, I would like to thank The Chinese University of Hong Kong for inviting me to make this acceptance speech on behalf of all five recipients of Honorary Fellowships in 2016. To be nominated to receive an Honorary Fellowship is a delight and honor in itself, but to be asked to deliver this Vote of Thanks is an even greater personal privilege.

We are all deeply touched and would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the University, not only for such a high-profile recognition of our work and values, but also for publicly entrusting us with the duty to continue being bright beacons and shining examples for the University and wider society.

I must say, for myself at least, that this ceremony reminds me of when a prestigious committee has decided on awarding a special Oscar, Emmy, or Grammy for lifetime achievement. The recipients sometimes comment that they are just doing what they love, but their life, career, and work are far from over! The same is true here: we are still very much active and productive in our industries and we have a lot more to give to the world!

Indeed, I hope I can speak on behalf of the other honorees, when I say that we really are just doing what we love, and we really love what we are doing. The Honorary Fellowship is a great encouragement for us to keep contributing to our professions and to keep serving our community. And, of course, we would like to acknowledge the unfailing support of our families, colleagues, and friends for helping us to reach where we are today and for helping us to keep going.

It is especially apt that we are gathered here at this ceremony, held by this great institution of learning. Indeed, all five of us are still learning, too, and we are proud to be associated with The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Having been the President of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine for the past three and a half years, I can attest to the important role that this particular University has had, and will continue to have, for the medical profession in Hong Kong. Being one of only two medical schools in this special administrative region, The Chinese University of Hong Kong helps to nurture the next generation of doctors and specialists, thus bearing a huge responsibility for the future health of our community.

This University is world-renowned for its contributions to medicine. The University Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Joseph Sung, is an eminent

clinical expert who has made significant advances in the aetiology, diagnosis, and treatment in gastroenterology. Professor Dennis Lo, who is the Director of the University's Li Ka Shing Institute of Health Sciences, discovered circulating fetal DNA and pioneered the field of prenatal screening.

To stay at the forefront of medicine, we at the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine remind all our Fellows, no matter what medical specialty they belong to, that doctors deal with people, and not just diseases. We need continuous practice in doctor-patient communication and in reaching out to the community, so as to meet the evolving needs and demands of patients. My own specialty, Family Medicine, is particularly challenging but rewarding, being at the crossroads of individuals and their families and communities, at the interface between general practice and specialist referral to another clinic or to hospital, and at the interface between treatment and long-term prevention. However, I also believe the role of the doctor in general is evolving, to one that includes education of the public to take care of themselves and to control the known and controllable factors, while always being ready for the unknown.

On a wider scale, too, a new aim for health professionals worldwide is being prepared for the unknown—whether terrorism, sickness, or natural disaster—and being prepared to be resilient when such a disaster strikes. We have clearly seen the need for disaster preparedness with bird flu in the late 1990s, SARS in 2003, and, more recently, with transnational threats of Ebola and Zika virus outbreaks. The Asia-Pacific region actually suffers the highest number of disasters on our planet.

The Hong Kong Academy of Medicine established the Hong Kong Jockey Club Disaster Preparedness and Response Institute in 2014. Our aim is to protect life and to prepare Hong Kong, and especially its health, emergency-response, and education professionals, for natural and human-made disasters. This is no mean feat and has required international cooperation to prepare for the future, involving the University of Oxford, Harvard University, The University of Hong Kong, and The Chinese University of Hong Kong. This type of multi-institutional and multinational venture is to be applauded, as we very much aim to adapt international norms and lessons learned to meet the needs of our local community.

I am very happy that The Chinese University of Hong Kong has fully embraced our Academy's vision in disaster preparedness, having included a relevant module in its Master of Public Health curriculum. In addition, the University has established the Collaborating Centre for Oxford University and CUHK for Disaster and Medical Humanitarian Response. This centre has collaborated with us to provide online education in climate change and health, and also to provide a 'Train-the-Trainer

Programme on Disaster Preparedness and Response for Hong Kong Secondary School Teachers'. This participation really illustrates that this University believes in responding to community needs in planning and implementing educational programmes to improve life for the citizens of Hong Kong.

I would like to conclude by saying that altogether, I have been involved in training medical professionals here, abroad, and in mainland China for the past 30 years, and never a day goes by without learning something new myself. I always remind my students that learning takes place everywhere and never stops. University is not only where the basic knowledge and skills in a field are learned, but also where the all-important attitude, curiosity, and capacity for lifelong learning are nurtured. I would urge all of us present here today to use this occasion to vouch to redouble our effort and commitment to lifelong learning and improving the quality of life in our community.

Again, on behalf of all the awardees, I thank you. All five of us are sincerely grateful and proud to be recognised as Honorary Fellows of The Chinese University of Hong Kong.